



The World Health Organization ensures delivery of life-saving drugs to health facilities and partners in Pakistan's conflict-affected areas.

"Many IDPs (internally displaced people) are returning to areas destroyed during the recent conflict in Swat Valley," said Ms Alia Zafar, WHO Emergency Humanitarian Action pharmacist. "We are responding to urgent requests from the District Health Officer to provide life-saving medicines. It takes half a day to deliver emergency medical supplies to Swat's capital, Mingora," Zafar added while assisting the logistics team prepare to transport the supplies.

The displacement of more than two million people in the North West Frontier Province during the past four months of violence has increased health needs and the vulnerability of affected people. This is especially so for children aged under five years. The risk of infectious diseases has also risen dramatically for the displaced.

# Pakistan health in photos

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Now with hundreds of thousands of IDPs returning home, there is a critical need to replenish supplies of life-saving drugs at still functioning health facilities that were not damaged or looted during the conflict.

One of WHO's key roles in emergencies is to assist health authorities and other health providers by supplying essential life-saving medicines. These medicines often come in the form of Inter-Agency Health Kits (IEHK), which cover the emergency health needs of 10 000 people for three months, and Mini Emergency Health Kits (MEHKs) which assist 2 000 people for three months.

The procurement, storage and delivery of these medicines is handled by WHO Emergency Humanitarian Action logistics teams. The process involves using a supply chain that maintains high standards and efficiencies to safely deliver life-saving drugs to hospitals, basic health units, "Health Corners" at IDP camps, rural health centres and mobile health clinics.



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