

Floods in Pakistan

Pakistan Health Cluster

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(A flood affected man rests to catch his breath in order to secure what is left behind, the dead animals scattered pose a health threat all over the country-Photograph by Syed Haider Ali-WHO-EHA)

Highlights:

- Infrastructure damage is hampering public access to health facilities in multiple locations.
- Diarrheal diseases are among the most reported health conditions in multiple locations. **13,000 consultations, including for acute diarrhea, reported in Peshawar, Mardan, and Charsadda and Nowshera districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and 596 consultations in Baluchistan Province on 4 July.**
- In Sindh, evacuations of people from low-lying areas are taking place with 1 million cubic liters per second of water are expected to pass through Guddu Barrage.
- WHO, government and Health Cluster partners are continuing the health response, particularly through mobile medical teams.
- Rapid Health assessments all over the country to identify needs and gaps of health sector



Situation Overview and Current Scope of Disaster

Heavy rains continued in southern Sindh, upper Sindh, Sukkur division, Bannu, Dera Ismail Khan and Kohlu, Barkhan and Naseerabad in eastern Balochistan.

Light rains slowed relief activities in flood-affected areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) Province, but flood waters continue to recede across most of the province, though the southern districts of D.I. Khan and Tank are on alert for flash floods.

In Punjab, flooding of the Indus River and rains over the Suleman Mountain Range have resulted in loss of life and property in Bhakkar, Dera Ghazi Khan, Kot Addu, Layyah Muzaffargarh and Rajan P districts. According to Punjab's Relief and Crisis Management Department, an early 1.4 million people in Punjab province have been affected by flooding with 25,000 houses destroyed and more than 48,000 damaged. Authorities are evacuating people in Mithan Kot city due to the breaking of a dam.

In Sindh, more than 350,000 people have been evacuated from low-lying areas due to intense floodwaters. The Meteorological Department of Pakistan reports the exceptionally high flood level, coupled with monsoon rains, could create significant further flooding over the coming 24 hours.

In Muzaffarabad, Leepa Valley, Moji Hajjian area, six people were killed and six injured when a house collapsed due to rain. Landslides closed primary and secondary roads in Neelum and Jehlum valleys.

Health impact

- Increasing cases of diarrheal diseases reported in affected areas, but no large-scale outbreaks confirmed.
- **Almost 13,000 consultations, including for cases of acute diarrhea, were reported in Peshawar, Mardan, and Charsadda and Nowshera districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and 596 consultations in Baluchistan Province on 4 July. See further details below.**
- An **acute watery diarrhea** alert was immediately responded to by the diseases early warning system in Pir Baba, Buner district. 11 cases and one death were reported. Stool samples were collected and sent for laboratory confirmation in Islamabad. Details to be shared soon
- Health partners are conducting rapid health assessments in affected areas (Findings from an assessment in Swat district of KPK and Sibi district of Baluchistan are attached)
- **Health Cluster partners have sped up emergency health support activities in the country.**
- The Ministry of Health and EPI Programme of WHO have provided the first tranche of 340,000 Oral Rehydration Salts to Punjab. It is the part of approximately 1.2 million ORS distribution ready for Sindh, KPK, Baluchistan, AJK and Gilgit Baltistan
- Rain and insecurity has restricted in Karachi and Hyderabad (Sindh) field activities of humanitarian partners and UN teams.

Health sector response

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, Seventeen (17) mobile health teams have been providing health services in different flood-affected areas of Peshawar district. These include seven (7) teams from the executive district health office (EDO-H), one (1) from the Population Welfare Department, one from Hayatabad Medical Complex, three from the Khyber Teaching Hospital, one from the Lady Reading Hospital and four from the People's Primary Healthcare Initiative (PPHI), Peshawar. Two of these 17 teams were sent to Charsadda district and two to Pabbi, Nowshera. Two static teams are providing

health services to internally displaced people in Government High Schools No. 1 & 2 in Peshawar district. Pabbi Hospital has been made operational on the directives of Secretary Health Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with the support of Medicines Sans Frontiers.

- **Mobile teams and static clinics have conducted 4200 consultations, of which acute diarrhoea (AD) accounted for 737 patients (14%) with no dehydration.**
- **Pakistan People's Health Initiatives (PPHI) has treated 8778 people in Peshawar, Nowshera, Charsadda, Mardan, Swabi districts through 15 mobile teams and 21 static posts.**
- **In Jalojai IDP camp, health staff conducted 1096 consultations in Jalojai IDP camp, Nowshera district, on 3 August. Of these, 93 were for acute diarrhea without dehydration.**
- **Save the Children conducted 900 consultations at five health facilities in Swat, DI Khan and Buner on 1 August, 2010. Two ambulances have been deployed from Buner to Swat, district to assist in the relief and rescue efforts.**
- **Pakistan Red Cross Society (PRCS) in District Shangla, examined 237 patients in 7 facilities.**
- **Johanniter International is supporting Charsadda district through 2 mobile units. The organization treated 391 patients on 3 August.**
- **International Medical Corps Mobile Medical Unit at Government Higher Secondary School No. 1 in Peshawar City, where 2100 flood affectees are residing, has treated 195 patients. Referral service is supported through ambulances.**
- **American Refuge Committee is supporting 7 health facilities in Swat district, where 400 people have been treated 3 August. In Baluchistan district the organization is supporting 5 health facilities and treated 500 patients.**
- **Church World Service conducted an average of 600 daily consultations in the last three days in Tehsil kabal, Charbagh and Matta in Swat district. In Mansehra, the organization has conducted 155 consultations in Tehsil Headquarter Hospital Balakaot and treated 155 patients through a mobile clinic.**
- **UNFPA is continuing its health support including maternal-neonatal child health services through 10 health facilities in Swat, Kohat Hangu, Lower Dir, DI Khan and Tank. UNFPA conducted 4011 (updated since 3 August) consultations since the disaster started in the above mentioned districts. It is also responding to the humanitarian needs of IDPs in the same districts with supplies of Primary Health Care and reproductive health medicines, 1300 women hygiene kits, 1300 newborn kits and clean delivery kits. UNFPA has provided 5 essential medicines to Nowsehra, Charssada, Tank districts for primary and reproductive health services sufficient for one month case load in a facility). Also UNFPA has provided 1300 clean delivery kit to department of Health KPK.**
- **CERD gave 205 consultations in Nowshera district through a mobile team and distributed 300 face wash soaps and 200 laundry soaps and ORS.**
- **Merlin continued its health activities for the flood affected as well, where 2871 patients were treated through 11 mobile teams in Nowshera, Buner and Swat district of KPK.**
- **UNICEF delivered 1000 family hygiene kits through their implementing partner in Swat district for distribution at Upper Swat in Madayan, Behrain and Kalam established camps. The hygiene kits transported to Khuwazakhaila and further air lifted by Pakistan Army and**

distributed at the desired locations. UNICEF has also provided 2 Inter-agency emergency Health Kits (IEHK) to Charsadda and Nowshera health departments.

- **Care International** is supporting flood affected people through 4 health facilities in Upper Swat district. Care has treated 3000 people from 30 July to 3 August.
- In Naseerabad **district of Baluchistan**, three (3) mobile health teams visited affected areas and provided health care services to the communities. The affected areas are Manjishore baroon, Rabi canal baroon, Balakot, New Mirwah, Ghot Palyan, Allahabad, Qambola and RD 40 Magsi Shah. In Naseerabad and Sibi district of Baluchistan province, 596 patient consultations were reported 3 August with 113 cases of acute diarrhea. The sudden change in the security conditions forced disease early warning teams to perform duties in the field.

WHO Response

- In Peshwar district, WHO provided one mini-emergency health kit (MEHK) to the Lady Reading Hospital.
- In Kohat district, WHO provided one MEHK, to Kohatian Association NGO.
- WHO is also supporting the disease early warning and response system throughout the flood-affected areas.
- WHO provided 30 emergency water treatment books to Abbasin Foundation in Swat district.
- WHO coordinated provision of hygiene kits and WASH items with UNICEF's implementing partner to the displaced population of Marghuzar Govt High School and Gullbandai School hosting 30 families.
- Hygiene sessions were conducted with HRDS hygiene promotion teams at Marghuzar.

WHO is extending its surveillance services in flood-affected provinces of Pakistan with Emergency Humanitarian Action (EHA) and Expanded Programme of Immunization (EPI) teams. Surveillance officers in addition to their original duties are also conducting acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) surveillance. Similarly the EPI and AFP surveillance teams will conduct EHA disease surveillance. The EPI -Coordinator is responsible for the overall diseases surveillance in the district. The surveillance sites are divided between the 3 surveillance officers without duplication.

Annex A

Medicine legend

Items/Kit Name	Coverage
MEHK (Mini Emergency Health Kits)	(6,000 population for one month)
IEHK (Interagency Emergency Health Kits)	(30,000 population for one month)
Diarrhoeal treatment Kits	(400-500 interventions)
Trauma Kits	(100 severe interventions)

For further information please contact

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