



**AN APPEAL FOR EXTRAORDINARY ASSISTANCE
TO PROVIDE CLEAN WATER AND SANITARY CONDITIONS
TO THOSE AT RISK OF WATER BORNE DISEASES IN FLOOD AFFECTED PAKISTAN**

The international community has already provided huge assistance through bilateral, multilateral and non-governmental channels to support the people of Pakistan seriously affected by the ongoing floods. Many lives have already been saved through prompt search and rescue action or by evacuating whole villages and towns. But millions remain displaced in the midst of the Pakistan summer – often without sufficient shelter, food or clean water.

The result is that millions are now at imminent risk in the coming days of waterborne diseases such as dysentery, acute diarrhoea, gastroenteritis – or even cholera. These diseases may spread rapidly in the unhygienic and cramped conditions of the relief centres and people are all the more susceptible since their immunity is compromised through malnutrition and lack of adequate food.

The organizations and UN Agencies working collectively to support the government in actions on Health – through the Health Cluster - and on Water and Sanitation and Hygiene – through the WASH Cluster – are concerned that their efforts are not going to close the gap of critical unmet needs for clean water and sanitary conditions to prevent waterborne diseases and that consequently health care facilities may be overwhelmed.

While at least 8 million people are in need of immediate assistance, including over 3.5 million children, the current efforts of the international community are reaching only 2.55 million people per day - 1.3 million through repaired water systems and 1.25 million through expensive water tankering. At the same time, in the last 3 weeks, over 0.5 million water purification tablets – each good for 10 litres of safe water – have been distributed. The government has bought and distributed thousands of bottles of mineral water as a stop-gap measure to prevent disease. More essential supplies are on the way to Pakistan: 0.6 million buckets; 0.8 million jerry cans; 20 water purification plants; 21 million water purification tablets, since local suppliers have completely exhausted their production. Other water purification products and soap are available in adequate quantities locally and are being procured and distributed on a continuous basis.

But what has been distributed and what is on the way is simply NOT enough if we are to prevent the rapid spread of waterborne diseases and to prevent the potential deaths of thousands, especially young children.

Therefore, the Health and WASH Clusters are making an extraordinary joint appeal – to any organization, to any government or to any humanitarian person, anywhere in the world:

Please help to prevent unnecessary deaths of the vulnerable flood affected population by providing and transporting the following urgently required items to Pakistan (please see specifications attached as Annex A):

Another 1,390 water purification units with 16,000 to 20,000 litres per day capacity (including operators and spares)

Another 700,000 water bladders of 500 litres capacity

Another 210,000 water bladders of 1500 litres capacity

Another 210,000 water bladders of 3000 litres capacity

Another 1.7 million 10 litre collapsible buckets

Another 1.7 million 10 litre collapsible jerry cans

Another 1.4 million shovel heads (to cover open defecation and later dig latrines)

Another 970,000 family hygiene kits (adapted to Pakistani context)

Speed is of the essence – these products can be distributed through reliable and accountable Implementing Partners to the beneficiaries within 48 hours of arrival in Pakistan. The contact point for these supplies is the National Disaster Management Authority of the Government of Pakistan.

On behalf of the flood affected victims, we thank you in advance for your assistance and – most of all - for your spirit of humanity.


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