



An estimated 1.8 million children were vaccinated in Pakistan's flood-affected areas as measles outbreaks continue to threaten communities after the flooding

23 November 2022 – This summer, the devastating floods throughout Pakistan forced a large population to move into temporary settlements or camps. The unexpectedly high levels of flooding have had a significant adverse effect on health, particularly for children. Moreover, overcrowded and rudimentary shelters, broken health infrastructure and inadequate safe water and sanitation have compounded the risk of measles and rubella.

Poor access to vaccination services and population displacement have contributed to measles outbreaks in 31 districts in the country since the floods started. Data from the National Disaster Management Authority show that 12 out of 13 (92%) districts with recent outbreaks are flood-affected.

To mitigate the risk of measles outbreaks in flood-affected populations, the Expanded Programme on Immunization has carried out a measles-rubella vaccination campaign, focusing on displaced populations living in temporary shelters, often beside main roads, motorways and the banks of the canals. This was an immediate flood response intervention to prevent outbreaks in the most vulnerable displaced populations.



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