



## **Situation Report No. 3: Floods in Pakistan – 1 August 2010**

This situation report is based on information received from UN Agencies, humanitarian partners and government sources.

### **SITUATION OVERVIEW**

The worst floods to hit Pakistan since 1929 have left more than one million people in need of emergency assistance.

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK), the worst-affected province, the Provincial Government now puts the death toll at nearly 800 people, with more than 100 people still missing. The actual figures could be higher as communication networks in many areas are still disrupted. Initial assessments indicate that Charsadda, Nowshera and Swat are amongst the worst-affected districts. Other badly hit areas, including Lower and Upper Dir, remain largely inaccessible to humanitarian actors.

In the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), 28 deaths have been reported. Gilgit Baltistan region has been cut off from the rest of the country, as parts of Karakoram highway have been swept away. In Jammu and Kashmir, landslides and floods have reportedly killed some 39 people in Muzaffarabad and Neelum districts. In Baluchistan and Punjab, around 10,000 families remain affected by an earlier incidence of flooding that started on 22 July.

Rains have currently stopped but Pakistan's Meteorological department has forecast a fresh spell of rains starting 2 August.

These new rains are mainly expected to affect Sindh and Punjab. At the same time, these areas expect to see a surge in river levels, as rainfall received in KPK is now flowing towards the south. Evacuation of people from low lying areas has already started.

### **NEEDS**

Rescue remains a key priority in KPK for 27,000 people who are still waiting to be evacuated from flooded areas.

An estimated 150,000 families require emergency assistance, such as food, clean drinking water, tents, and medical services. As the water level recedes, measures to prevent water-borne diseases will also become a priority.

Access remains the main obstacle in terms of providing assistance to the affected areas of KPK. The floods have significantly damaged roads and bridges - for example, all major bridges crossing the Swat River have been

swept away. Roads, including the Islamabad-Peshawar motorway, have been seriously damaged. Communication has been made difficult due to damaged telephone lines, electricity, and gas pipelines. Mobile phone networks are still not functioning in many of the worst-affected districts.

### **RESPONSE**

The Government is leading the rescue and relief activities. Dozens of boats and helicopters have been deployed and have managed to evacuate more than 20,000 people who were trapped in areas without access to food or services. Dewatering pumps are being used at several places to drain out the flood waters. In KPK, affected families have taken shelter in more than 500 schools and other public buildings.

A multi-cluster mission carried out a rapid assessment in Charsadda and Nowshera districts on Sunday, which has confirmed initial report of significant losses and humanitarian need. There has been widespread destruction to infrastructure, including houses, roads, bridges, crops and orchards. In Charsadda, 60,000 people are receiving cooked food from the district authorities. Clean drinking water is also being provided through water trucking.

WFP started food distributions for 35,000 families in Charsadda, Nowshera and Peshawar on Sunday, and expects to reach 3,000 families by the end of today. WFP plans to cover 150,000 families in the next two to three months. UNHCR has provided tents to the KPK provincial authorities, while WHO and UNICEF are providing support and medical supplies to provincial and district health authorities. UNICEF has also provided funds to Municipal Administrations in KPK for provision of drinking water through water trucking.

The Pakistan Emergency Response Fund (ERF), which currently contains US \$8 million, has been activated as one of the main funding mechanisms to support assistance activities. Initial assessments indicate that additional funds will be required for the ERF, as well as the New York-based Central Emergency Response Fund.