

UNICEF Pakistan Flood Emergency Situation Report - EXTERNAL
23 August – 6 September 2007

Highlights

- UNICEF has formed new partnerships with five NGOs, two in Sindh and three in Balochistan and the District Social Welfare Department of district Jhal Magsi for the establishment of 80 mobile child protection teams and 40 child and women friendly spaces.
- In Sindh, a UNICEF-supported nutrition project implemented by the Hospital Preparedness for Emergencies (HOPE) in the flood-affected areas in district Dadu is now fully operational. During the reporting period, a total of 1,061 children and pregnant and lactating women were screened for supplementary feeding in five therapeutic feeding centres.
- In Balochistan, 3,020 children were screened during the reporting period for malnutrition in the five flood-affected districts, Khuzdar, Sibi, Naseerabad, Jaffarabad, Kech. Of the total number of children screened, 1,620 children were given Unimix (fortified blended food).
- The measles vaccination campaign has completed successfully covering 98 per cent children in seven affected districts of Balochistan and 94 per cent children in two affected districts of Sindh.

Key Information

- According to the situation report issued by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Government of Pakistan on 20 August, following are the updated figures for damage caused by the floods:

	Balochistan	Sindh	Total
Population affected	2,000,000	500,000	2,500,000
No of Deaths	205	215	420
Persons missing	195	29	224
Villages Affected	5,000	1,449	6,449
Houses destroyed	55,000	33,344	88,344
Population without shelter	1,50,000	2,21,092	3,71,092
Population in relief camps	4,083	3,222	7,305

Water, Environment and Sanitation (WES)

Lack of safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene continue to be major issues for the affected people in Balochistan and Sindh.

- A total of 278,146 people are being provided safe drinking water by the WASH cluster out of which UNICEF-supported interventions are covering 227,240 people.
- Total number of persons being provided safe water through water tankering is 128,383 out of which UNICEF is providing safe water to 95,838 persons.

- Total number of people being provided safe water through restoration of water supply systems is 128,402 out of which 127,402 people are being covered through water schemes restored by UNICEF.
- Number of persons provided safe drinking water through provision of Nerox filters, Aquatabs and PUR sachets by UNICEF is 21,361.
- The total number of latrines constructed so far in the flood-affected areas of Sindh and Balochistan are 1,963 benefiting 39,260 people. Out of these, 1,687 latrines have been constructed with UNICEF support which is benefiting 33,740 people.
- A total of 194, 592 people have been reached so far with appropriate hygiene messages (hygiene sessions and distribution of leaflets). Out of these, 178, 047 persons have been reached through UNICEF interventions.
- A total of 30, 840 families have been provided with utensils for water collection and storage. UNICEF distributions have supported 27,140 families.
- Hygiene kits have been provided to a total of 7,700 families out of which UNICEF has provided to 4,500 families.

Nutrition

Child malnutrition is a particular concern in the flood-affected districts in Balochistan since about 43 per cent of children are underweight (MICS 2004). The figure for Sindh is 40 per cent. About 18 per cent of children in Sindh are acutely malnourished, 14 per cent in Balochistan (National Nutrition Survey 2001-2002, latest official data). These figures are high according to WHO criteria. Reluctance by families to take their severely malnourished children to the Therapeutic Feeding Centres attached with the district hospitals for treatment is also a major concern. UNICEF is therefore, supporting the community-based therapeutic services so that the severely malnourished children can be treated within their villages/communities.

- In Sindh, a UNICEF-supported nutrition project implemented by the Hospital Preparedness for Emergencies (HOPE) in the flood-affected areas in district Dadu is fully operational. During the reporting period, a total of 1,061 children and pregnant and lactating women were screened for supplementary feeding in five Therapeutic Feeding Centres. Fortified food (Unimix) was provided to 573 children and women. In addition, sessions were conducted about the importance of appropriate feeding, including exclusive breastfeeding during the first six month, and continued breastfeeding for two years, and re-lactation. No case of a child dying has been reported while four severely malnourished children were admitted at the therapeutic feeding centers.
- In Balochistan, 3,020 children were screened during the reporting period for malnutrition in the five flood affected districts, Khuzdar, Sibi, Naseerabad, Jaffarabad, Kech. Of the total number of children screened, 1,620 children were given Unimix (fortified blended food). In districts Bolan and Khuzdar, screening has started through the Lady Health Workers and the Community-based Therapeutic Care (CTC) facilities for the severely malnourished children. Save the Children (US) is the implementing partner in district Bolan while the Balochistan Rural Support Programme (BRSP) is working in district Khuzdar. So far, 33 malnourished children from these five districts have been admitted in the Therapeutic Feeding Centres.

Health

Child mortality in rural Balochistan and Sindh is high, with about 16 out of 100 children dying before their fifth birthday. About 500,000 of the children affected by the floods are under five and are particularly at risk of infectious diseases and epidemics. Outbreak of diarrhoea and other waterborne diseases is feared.

- Dissemination of health education messages through the Lady Health Workers (LHWs) is ongoing in districts Dadu and Kambar.
- Health education messages are being broadcast through various FM channels.
- The measles vaccination campaign has completed successfully covering 98 per cent children in seven affected districts of Balochistan and 94 per cent children in two affected districts of Sindh.

Education

The start of the school year scheduled for mid-August has been delayed in some areas since schools have been either destroyed, damaged or are being used as shelter for the IDPs. School enrolment rates are the lowest in the country, particularly for girls (only one out of five girls goes to primary school in Balochistan). Lack of funding for UNICEF and other members of the Education cluster is a source of concern since it can limit the ability to support local education authorities at the start of the school year.

- In Sindh, UNICEF has developed a Floods Response Strategy for Education and shared with the Special Secretary, Education department.
- A Project Cooperation Agreement is under process with the Indus Resource Centre for conducting a damage assessment survey in Sindh. Training and emulation sessions are being conducted for Head Teachers and School Management Committees with the objective to increase enrolment and manage appropriate distribution of supplies in the affected districts.

Child Protection

Vulnerable women and children are not being prioritised during distribution of relief items. Women have reported lack of privacy, especially those who were residing in improvised camps on the roads. Children also face the issue of separation from their families as fathers stayed near their communities and sent their children to safer places or to live with relatives in nearby towns. There is concern that early marriages could become an issue when the families return to their communities and need money to reconstruct their homes and buy seeds and fertilizers. Young girls risk being given away in marriages in exchange for money. Major protection issues also include the loss of personal documents including National Identity Cards.

- In Balochistan, the Provincial Social Welfare Department has finalized the UNICEF supported Rapid Assessment Report focusing on protection. The Provincial Minister for Social Welfare is expected to share the findings of the report in a press conference to be held over the next few days.

- The vulnerable women and children registered during the assessment in 726 flood-affected villages in 9 Districts of Balochistan are being made available to NGOs, CSOs and other relief organizations upon signing an undertaking for ethical and responsible use of information in order to ensure and verify that the protective issues of vulnerable women and children are being addressed.
- To date, no unaccompanied children have been identified in the flood-affected districts of Balochistan. Of the 1,411 registered vulnerable children in Balochistan: 67 per cent are orphaned by their father; 17 per cent are orphaned by mother; 13 per cent have lost both their mother and father; and three per cent are separated from their parents and are staying with other family members.
- UNICEF has formed new partnerships with five NGOs, two in Sindh and three in Balochistan and the District Social Welfare Department of district Jhal Magsi for the establishment of 80 mobile child protection teams and 40 child and women friendly spaces.
- Training sessions on “Humanitarian Responses to Vulnerable Groups in Emergencies”, including sessions on gender-based violence, were organized by the District Government of Larkana, Sindh and the Pakistan Disaster Management Authority with support from UNICEF on 28-29 August for NGOs, civil society, and civil authorities. These sessions were attended by 45 officials from various departments of the districts governments of Kambar, Dadu and Larkana.