



FAO Emergency Response to Pakistan floods

Situation overview

The 2010 monsoon season brought the heaviest rains ever recorded in Pakistan, triggering flash and riverine floods that have devastated large parts of the country. The floods left widespread destruction in northern Pakistan and are currently heading south causing severe losses in Punjab and Sindh provinces. Assessments of losses and damages are underway. According to Government estimates, the number of affected people stands at 13.8 million. At least 1 600 people have died and 290 000 homes have been damaged or destroyed. A total of 10 680 villages have been affected. Over 700 000 hectares of standing crops are under water or destroyed, affecting among the most fertile and productive lands of the country.



In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) the intense rains during the last week of July caused landslides, with major rivers bursting their banks due to rainwater surging from the highlands. According to the Pakistan Meteorological Department, within a four-day period in late July, KPK experienced ten times as much rain as would normally fall during the entire year. The devastation left by flood waters in the north and center of the country may worsen as they continue to head southward. Punjab is presently experiencing extensive flooding as a result, which will likely affect vast areas of Sindh in the incoming days.

The flood waters have devastated towns and villages, destroyed crops, killed livestock, downed power and communications lines, and inflicted major damage to public and private buildings. Hundreds of thousands of people remain without electricity, piped water and communications. Many key roads and bridges are damaged and access to affected areas is extremely problematic. Needs are enormous and still rising.

Another spell of monsoon rains in KPK, Punjab and northern areas has hampered relief and rescue efforts. Kohistan, Shangla and upper Swat districts are currently not accessible by road.

Impact on food security and agriculture

According to data from the Federal Flood Commission, the Punjab Revenue Department and initial assessments in Rajanpur by the Agriculture Cluster and line departments, standing crops on over 700 000 hectares have been washed away or damaged. Furthermore, over 8 000 heads of livestock has perished in KPK province alone, and 800 000 small and large animals are without feed in Rajanpur. The affected districts in KPK and Punjab are the food baskets of the country, producing a variety of cereal and industrial crops, vegetables and fruits. Preliminary reports indicate severe damage to standing crops of sugar cane, cotton, maize, rice, sorghum, millet and pulses, as well as to orchards and vegetable plots. Stocks of stored grains, seeds, fodder and straw have been washed away. Large numbers of livestock kept for milk and meat have died in the floods and those that have survived lack feed and fodder.

People who managed to save their livestock are in dire need of feed, de-wormers, vaccines and antibiotics to ensure survival of their animals, as the standing maize, sorghum and millet crops grown for fodder have either been washed away or are now not suitable for livestock consumption.

The loss of harvested stored grains of Rabi 2010 wheat – the major staple food crop – and other seeds that are crucial to ensure household food security, has rendered affected farming households extremely vulnerable. Well targeted and time-critical strategic interventions must be carried out rapidly in support of surviving livestock and the upcoming Rabi planting season in order to avert further losses and ensure the rapid restoration and recovery of agricultural-based livelihoods in KPK and other affected provinces. Delays in such assistance will likely lead to long-term dependence on food aid.

Pakistan Cropping Calendar for Major Staple Crops												
Crops	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Wheat												
Maize												
Rice*												
* this involves nursery raising time												
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="width: 100px; height: 15px; background-color: #2e8b57; border: 1px solid black;"></div> - Planting <div style="width: 100px; height: 15px; background-color: #ffcc00; border: 1px solid black;"></div> - Harvesting </div>												

UPDATE ON AGRICULTURE SECTOR PAKISTAN FLOODS

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FAO response

On 4 August 2010, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan requested the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to facilitate humanitarian assistance and coordination support in response to the floods in KPK. The damages to public and private infrastructure, communication and private properties are extensive and have caused severe disruption to local livelihoods.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is the lead agency for the Agriculture Cluster, in close collaboration with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), the Provincial Reconstruction, Rehabilitation and Settlement Authority (PaRRSA) and the Department of Agriculture. Agriculture Cluster members include international and national NGOs. FAO is also coordinating closely with the Food and Community Restoration Cluster, other United Nations agencies and the Red Cross/Red Crescent movement.



Immediately following the disaster, FAO enhanced its planning and collaboration with the NDMA, Provincial Disaster Management Authority/PaRRSA, provincial line departments and other local and international partners in the emergency response. The initial multi-cluster and provincial government assessment highlighted the scale of crop and livestock losses and emphasized the need for a more detailed assessment of the damage to agriculture-based livelihoods. Subsequently Agriculture Cluster assessment teams have been deployed to the most affected districts of KPK, Baluchistan, Sindh and Punjab, and more detailed analysis of damages to the agriculture sector is underway.

Over USD 5 million is being requested through the Pakistan Initial Floods Emergency Response Plan to kick-start the agriculture response and to support livestock through delivery of feed, veterinary services, de-worming tablets and mineral blocks. At the time of writing, USD 1.6 million is also being mobilized by FAO under an existing project funded by the European Union Food Facility to address immediate needs in anticipation of the upcoming planting season, reaching 25 000 households through the distribution of seeds and fertilizers.

Ongoing needs assessments confirm the unprecedented scale of the disaster and its severe consequences on agriculture. FAO and its partners are currently working to scale up response plans and funding requirements to ensure that the urgent needs of Pakistani farmers are met on time.

Agriculture Cluster Response Plan

FAO has recently strengthened its emergency coordination capacity within the FAO Representation in Pakistan, with an international Emergency and Rehabilitation Coordinator and technical and operations staff fielded to provide support to emergency operations and Cluster coordination. FAO participated in the formulation of the United Nations Pakistan Humanitarian Response Plan launched in February 2010 and has contributed to the Pakistan Initial Floods Emergency Response Plan.

The Agriculture Cluster Response Plan was prepared in close consultation with Cluster members and provincial line departments. The proposed activities will allow for the provision of essential agricultural and livestock inputs, as well as the rehabilitation of critical irrigation infrastructure.

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