



## EXECUTIVE BRIEF

# PAKISTAN FLOODING

17 August 2010

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Flood-affected population rises to 15.4 million (OCHA, 16 August).
- FAO was and is present in many of the flood-affected districts, and is assessing damages/needs, formulating response, implementing activities and leading Agriculture Cluster efforts.
- FAO is still planning to reach over 178 000 families in flood-affected areas as part of its ongoing programme.

### PRIORITY AGRICULTURAL NEEDS

- Immediate action to ensure survival of remaining livestock (emergency feed, veterinary supplies).
- Enabling farmers to plant in time for September/October wheat planting season (Rabi season). If missed, the impact will be catastrophic on food security and agricultural livelihoods and may last up to two years.

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

Heavy monsoon rains struck Pakistan between late July and August 2010, triggering the most catastrophic flooding in living history. The floods have affected 15.4 million people, leaving at least 1 600 people dead and 893 000 homes damaged or destroyed across four provinces.

The damage thus far appears most severe in the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK), which received many times the province's average annual rainfall within a four-day period. Other provinces also experienced heavy downpour and flooding, including the provinces of Baluchistan, Punjab, Sindh and to a lesser extent Pakistan-administered Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan. In early August, flood waters began to recede in the northern provinces. At the time of writing, the Indus River continues to rise, travelling south, and causing extensive flooding in Punjab and Sindh. The situation is still unfolding.

Buildings, infrastructure and communication facilities have been severely damaged. Further complicating relief efforts, access to many disaster-affected areas remains restricted, as some districts can be reached only by water or air. Millions of people lack potable water, food and medical treatment, and flood waters have destroyed crops, irrigation infrastructure, livestock, orchards, fish ponds and productive assets.

The UN Pakistan Initial Floods Emergency Response Plan (PIFERP) was launched on 11 August and seeks USD 460 million to support Government-led efforts to respond to the critical needs of flood-affected families. Within 30 days of its issue, the PIFERP will be revised to reflect an updated account of needs and funding requirements, and include strategies to address early recovery needs, including key agriculture interventions.

### KEY DATA ON FLOODING CONTEXT

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Total population of Pakistan              | 168 million  |
| Combined population in affected districts | 43 million   |
| Affected population                       | 15.4 million (latest UN figures)   |
| Affected areas                            | Baluchistan<br>Federally Administered Tribal Areas<br>Gilgit-Baltistan<br>Khyber Pakhtunkhwa<br>Pakistan-Administered Kashmir<br>Punjab<br>Sindh |
| Affected population requiring assistance  | 6 million (latest UN figures)  |

## DAMAGE TO AGRICULTURE

Ongoing agricultural damage and needs assessments across the country confirm the **unprecedented scale of the disaster and its severe consequences on the sector**. Agriculture – inclusive of crops, forestry, fisheries and livestock production – provides a livelihood to approximately 80 percent of the flood-affected population, of which the majority are smallholder landowners. For many, agriculture is the primary or sole means to meet household food requirements and secure income.

Food insecurity, which was already severe in many of the flooded areas, is expected to become more acute as the floods affected major food production areas, including the country's breadbasket province, Punjab.

## LIVESTOCK

### PRIORITY: KEEPING SURVIVING LIVESTOCK ALIVE

- Preventing livestock losses is a time-sensitive challenge. Without emergency feed and veterinary support, tens of thousands more will perish.
- Keeping surviving livestock alive will enable herds to be rebuilt through a programme of natural herd increase during the next calving season. The additional young animals are necessary to rebuild livestock numbers, while milk production will contribute as an indispensable source of food security for vulnerable families.
- **Time-critical needs: (i) distribution of emergency feed and essential veterinary supplies; (ii) provision of emergency animal shelter material.**

More than 200 000 livestock have died throughout the country, in addition to 100 percent poultry losses in many districts. Green and dry fodder was either washed away while drying in the fields or in storage, or damaged due to dirt and silt deposits and therefore no longer suitable for consumption.

Reports from Balochistan indicate that 15 percent of all livestock, potentially over a million small and large animals, have been affected. Over 725 000 medium and large animals in KPK alone require emergency feed and veterinary support. Field reports from Sindh highlight that people are arriving at concentration points with large numbers of animals. There is high risk of disease spreading among weakened animals. Thousands of poultry farms and aquaculture businesses have also been destroyed.

The loss of livestock not only represents a loss of immediate income, food (milk and meat) and draught power, but also family savings and investment over many years (sometimes generations).

#### KEY AGRICULTURE DATA (15/8/10)

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Population dependent on agriculture | 80%   |
| Affected subsectors                 | Crops, livestock, fisheries, forestry             |
| Upcoming planting season            | Rabi wheat planting (beginning September/October) |
| Total crop losses                   | 3.2 million ha                                    |
| Household seed stocks destroyed     | 500 000-600 000 tonnes                            |
| Total livestock losses              | Over 200 000                                      |

## CROPS

### PRIORITY: MEETING THE RABI (SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER) PLANTING SEASON

- Wheat accounts for two-thirds of national cereal production.
- Loss of draught power, seeds and savings and damage to agricultural land has crippled farmers' production capacity for the next planting seasons.
- If farmers are not provided with farming inputs in time for the Rabi wheat planting season, the impact on agricultural livelihoods and household food security could be catastrophic, last up to two years, and entail a longer requirement for food assistance.
- **Time-critical needs: (i) provision of quality wheat, fodder and vegetable seeds and fertilizer (where appropriate); (ii) clearing flood debris in preparation for planting; (iii) provision of farm implements.**

Estimates indicate that over 3.2 million hectares of standing crops – including maize, cotton, rice, sugar cane, fruit orchards and vegetables – were damaged or destroyed across Balochistan, KPK, Punjab and Sindh, representing 16 percent of the cultivatable area.

Household-level losses of stored seed, such as wheat – the major staple food crop – and other planting seeds have rendered affected farming households extremely vulnerable. An estimated 500 000 to 600 000 tonnes of wheat seed stored at household level have been destroyed. The level and nature of damage to land due to be planted with Rabi wheat is of particular concern. If support does not reach farmers in time for the Rabi season, which runs from mid-September to November, they will be unable to plant wheat for 12 months, signifying the loss of two staple harvests. In areas which rely on the wheat crop alone (e.g. Balochistan and KPK), the impact will be felt until the Rabi 2011 harvest, in spring 2012. For other areas that also plant rice or maize in April/May 2011 (Kharif season), the first harvest will be in the autumn of next year.

Extensive damage to agriculture infrastructure, especially irrigation, is reported, as well as the heavy loss of agricultural tools and machinery, including water mills. Approximately 90 percent (20 million hectares) of cultivated land in the country is under irrigation.

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## AGRICULTURE SECTOR RESPONSE

### AGRICULTURE CLUSTER

The Agriculture Cluster is conducting agriculture damage and needs assessments across the country.

Rapid support to prevent further livestock losses has been prioritized under the PIFERP, with initial funding requirements of USD 5.7 million. Given the extensive damage to the means of agricultural production – land, inputs, infrastructure and livestock – funding requirements are expected to be significant in the revised PIFERP, which will cover a six-month period and be issued 30 days following the initial launch. An Agriculture Cluster Response Plan is being formulated, based on the assessment findings, and will be the foundation for planning the agriculture sector response of the revised PIFERP.

### FAO

FAO is leading agriculture damage and needs assessments in five priority districts of KPK, formulating response, implementing activities and leading Agriculture Cluster efforts. FAO will be participating in concurrent multisectoral needs assessments in Punjab, Sindh and Baluchistan from 20-27 August 2010.

Prior to the floods, FAO had ongoing projects in many of the remote flood-affected areas, working in close cooperation with district/provincial authorities and line ministries/departments. Under previously-funded projects, FAO is supporting 16 350 households through livestock-related assistance and 161 955 families with Rabi 2010 agricultural inputs, primarily in the flood-affected districts of KPK and Baluchistan.

The European Union Delegation has supported FAO's reallocation of USD 1.6 million from an existing European Union Food Facility project to distribute agricultural inputs for the upcoming Rabi season to 25 000 most vulnerable households in KPK and Baluchistan. Two grants totaling USD 1 400 000 from the Central Emergency Response Fund are enabling FAO to provide rapid support to livestock interventions and to prepare for Rabi 2010.

FAO has a well-established team made up of international and national staff in five provinces of the country, with a strong presence in KPK. Across Pakistan, FAO has over 100 national staff and five international staff working in the five flood-affected provinces in 14 locations. Deployment of additional personnel is continuing as the crisis unfolds.

FAO field offices in Sukkar (Sindh) and Multan (Punjab) are providing logistical support for ongoing joint assessments and hosting humanitarian partners involved in the flood response (WFP, OCHA, UNDSS, UNICEF, among others).

| <b>INITIAL FUNDING REQUIREMENTS<br/>PIFERP (11/08/10):<br/>URGENT LIVESTOCK SUPPORT</b> |   |
|---|---|
| Funding requested   | USD 5.7 million   |
| Activities  | Provision of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- emergency feed</li><li>- veterinary supplies</li><li>- animal shelter</li></ul> |
| Funding received  | USD 1 400 000   |
| Funding gap   | USD 4.3 million   |
| Donors  | CERF  |

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### LINKS

FAO GIEWS WEBSITE: <http://www.fao.org/giews/english/index.htm>

FAO PAKISTAN FLOODS WEBPAGE: [http://www.fao.org/emergencies/country\\_information/list/asia/pakistanfloods/en/](http://www.fao.org/emergencies/country_information/list/asia/pakistanfloods/en/)

OCHA: <http://ochaonline.un.org/humanitarianappeal/webpage.asp?MenuID=14046&Page=1842>

RELIEFWEB: <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/dbc.nsf/doc108?OpenForm&emid=FL-2010-000141-PAK&rc=3>

ONERESPONSE: <http://www.pakresponse.info/>

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## Annex 1: Floods Impact Profile (9 August 2010)

### Pakistan - Floods Impact Profile 9 August 2010



| Province                      | Number of people affected |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Baluchistan                   | 272,589                   |
| Gilgit Baltistan              | 7,735                     |
| Khyber Pakthunkhwa            | 4,725,695                 |
| Pakistan-Administered Kashmir | 24,178                    |
| Punjab                        | 8,000,000                 |
| Sindh                         | 824,666                   |
| <b>Total</b>                  | <b>13,854,843</b>         |

