



EXECUTIVE BRIEF

PAKISTAN FLOODING

10 September 2010

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Agricultural calendar:** farmers urgently require seeds, tools and support to clear damaged fields for the ongoing wheat planting season (September-November). If missed, 1.5 years will pass before the next wheat harvest.
- **Well over half of surveyed households had their main source of income reduced by 75-100%** due to the floods (Multi-cluster Rapid Assessment Mechanism [McRAM] assessment, initial findings).
- **FAO is assisting around 200 000 flood-affected families:** 150 000 households with agricultural inputs and 50 000 households with emergency livestock support in flood-affected districts.
- **Revised Pakistan Floods Emergency Response Plan:** launch date 17 September.

AGRICULTURE SITUATION OVERVIEW

The scale of losses to the agriculture sector caused by the Pakistan floods is unprecedented and further unfolding.

- Approximately 80 percent of people in the flood-affected areas depend on agriculture for their livelihood.
- One of the greatest challenges on the ground is assisting farmers to recover their land in time for wheat planting beginning in September/October and preventing further livestock losses.
- Across the country, millions of people have lost the means to sustain themselves, due to the destruction/damage of standing crops and means of agricultural production (seed stocks, irrigation, livestock, farmland).
- Initial findings from the McRAM assessment reveal that nearly 57 percent of surveyed households had their main source of income reduced by 75-100 percent due to the floods. The most frequently cited need was cash for agricultural inputs and land reclamation.
- The latest cumulative estimates are as follows:
 - the Agriculture Cluster rapid damage assessments, completed in half of all flood-affected districts¹, found that 1.3 million hectares of standing crops have been damaged
 - countrywide damage to at least 2 million hectares of cultivatable land, including standing crops (rice, maize, cotton, sugar cane, orchards, vegetables) according to the Ministry of Food and Agriculture
 - loss of 0.5-0.6 million tonnes of wheat stock needed for the wheat planting season
 - death of 1.2 million large and small animals, and 6 million poultry (Department of Livestock)
- While the full extent of the damage cannot be yet quantified and assessments are ongoing, the direct and future losses are likely to impact national production of staple crops, such as wheat and rice, and affect millions of people.

KEY DATA ON FLOODING CONTEXT

Population of Pakistan:	168 million
Area of Pakistan:	800 000 km ²
Flood-affected area:	160 000 km ²
Persons affected:	> 20.5 million
Persons in need of humanitarian aid:	12.4 million
Homes destroyed/damaged:	1.8 million

FAO IN ACTION

FAO team

- FAO has established a response management team at headquarters and the field, using the Incident Command System principles. The team is supported by a technical advisory group made up of experts from over ten FAO technical services, covering areas such as livestock production, animal health, plant production, irrigation, gender, fisheries and forestry.
- Across Pakistan, FAO has a well-established team with over 100 national staff and eight international staff working in the five flood-affected provinces in 17 locations. Deployment of additional technical experts is continuing as the crisis unfolds.

¹ Thirty-nine districts were assessed, out of a total of 79 flood-affected districts across the country as of 2 September.

FAO is currently focusing on two time-sensitive challenges: (i) meeting the upcoming wheat planting season and (ii) saving livestock.

(i) Wheat planting season

- FAO will be reaching approximately 150 000 households with agricultural inputs for the coming planting season with existing funds.
- If wheat seeds, fertilizers and farming tools are not provided rapidly, many farmers will miss this year's wheat planting season, beginning in September/October, and may not be able to harvest wheat again until spring 2012.
- Extensive water-logging, silt deposits and damage to irrigation structures mean that work must start now to clear and prepare the soil for planting and to repair water systems for upcoming planting seasons.

WHEAT FACTS	
•	Main staple crop of the country
•	Accounts for two-thirds of national cereal production
•	Provides 60% of the carbohydrate intake of an average Pakistani

(ii) Saving remaining livestock

- FAO will be reaching around 50 000 households with livestock support with existing funds. Distribution of supplementary animal feed and veterinary support has been completed in Kohistan (5 700 families) and continues in Nowshera and Charsadda districts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) (12 600 families).
- Livestock represent an immediate source of food (milk, meat), income, draught power and very often the savings of a lifetime.
- Without emergency feed, de-wormers and veterinary supplies, animals will continue to die in large numbers.

LIVESTOCK FACTS	
•	Approximate commercial value of one cow: USD 525 (PKR 45 000)
•	Saving one cow is equivalent to saving over a year's earnings for a person living at the poverty line (USD 1.25/day)
•	22% of Pakistanis live below the poverty line (UNDP, 2009)

PARTNERSHIP

- FAO is leading the Agriculture Cluster in Pakistan (active since 2009) and is providing technical expertise to assist in the preparation of the agriculture section of the ongoing Damage and Needs Assessment, led by the World Bank and Asian Development Bank. A provincial cluster is active in Peshawar for KPK and two more are being established in Multan and Sukkur for Punjab and Sindh, respectively.
- FAO field offices in Sukkur (Sindh) and Multan (Punjab) are providing logistical support for ongoing joint assessments and hosting humanitarian partners involved in the flood response.
- FAO is working closely with the Rome-based partner agencies – IFAD and WFP – to ensure a strong approach to food security and agricultural rehabilitation.

UPCOMING REVISED PAKISTAN FLOODS EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

- The launch date of the Revised Pakistan Floods Emergency Response Plan (PFERP) is scheduled for 17 September.
- In the context of the Agriculture Cluster, FAO has been leading the process to assess agricultural damages and formulate a rehabilitation plan for the coming 12 months, which will be included in the Revised PFERP.
- Funding requirements for the Agriculture Cluster over the next 12 months will rise significantly. As part of the Agriculture Cluster response, FAO plans to reach over 800 000 families, with focus on early recovery and rehabilitation needs in the areas of crops, irrigation, livestock, animal health, aquaculture and forestry.

INITIAL FUNDING REQUIREMENTS	
PIFERP (11/08/10):	
URGENT LIVESTOCK SUPPORT	
Funding requested	USD 5.7 million
FAO funding received	USD 2 million
Funding gap	USD 3.7 million
Donors	Belgium, CERF

- **FAO and its partners seek urgent financial support to scale up the current level of response.**

CONTACTS

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