



EXECUTIVE BRIEF

PAKISTAN FLOODING

3 September 2010

HIGHLIGHTS

- The wheat planting season (Rabi) begins this month: needs in the sector remain extremely high at this critical stage of restoring agricultural production.
- Only 35 percent (USD 2 million) of initial funding requirements have been met under the Pakistan Initial Floods Emergency Response Plan.
- FAO will reach approximately 150 000 families with agricultural inputs and 50 000 households with emergency livestock assistance in flood-affected districts across the country.
- With additional funding of USD 30 million FAO could assist a further 250 000 families with wheat seeds and help keep at least 100 000 families' livestock alive over the coming winter.

AGRICULTURE SITUATION OVERVIEW

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

- Approximately 4 out of 5 people in the flood-affected areas depend on agriculture for their livelihood.
- One of the greatest challenges on the ground is helping farmers to recover their land in time for wheat planting beginning in September/October and to prevent further livestock losses.
- Across the country, millions of people have lost their entire means to sustain themselves in the immediate and longer term, owing to the destruction/damage of standing crops and means of agricultural production (e.g. seed stocks, irrigation, livestock, farmland).
- 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 millions of hectares of cultivatable land, including standing crops (e.g. rice, maize, cotton, sugar cane, orchards and vegetables) appears likely
 - 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 still cannot be quantified and assessments are ongoing, the direct and future losses are likely to affect millions of people at household level, as well as impact national productive capacity for staple crops, such as wheat and rice.
- Response to needs in the agriculture sector cannot be underestimated nor delayed.

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:	> 18 million
Persons in need of humanitarian aid:	8-9 million
Homes destroyed/damaged:	1.2 million

FAO IN ACTION

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

(i) Wheat planting season

- 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. This planting season is vital as wheat is Pakistan's main staple crop, accounts for two-thirds of national cereal production (planted on 9.05 million hectares in 2009, yielding 24.05 million tonnes) and provides 60 percent of the carbohydrate and protein requirement for an average Pakistani.

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

- FAO will be reaching approximately 150 000 households with agricultural inputs for the coming planting season, but with additional funding of USD 24 million could assist a further 250 000 families to plant wheat this year.

(ii) Saving remaining livestock

- FAO is also concerned with preventing the further loss of livestock, which represent an immediate source of food, income, draught power and very often the savings of a lifetime.
- Without emergency feed, de-wormers and veterinary supplies, animals will die in large numbers.
- FAO is already reaching 50 000 households with livestock assistance but, with immediate additional support, could assist a further 100 000 families before the winter sets in, which in the northern areas of KPK is particularly harsh.
- FAO is leading the Agriculture Cluster in Pakistan (active since 2009) and the agriculture component of various flood assessments, including the Damage and Needs Assessment, led by the World Bank and Asian Development Bank.
- Across the country, FAO has a well-established team with over 100 national staff and eight international staff working in the five flood-affected provinces in 14 locations. Deployment of additional technical experts is continuing as the crisis unfolds. 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 IN PAKISTAN

FAO's ongoing programme in Pakistan is valued at around USD 70 million.

Prior to the floods, FAO was assisting a large number of vulnerable families in the flood-affected areas and working with a broad network of humanitarian and government partners to improve agricultural production, rural livelihoods and food security in Pakistan.

FUNDING

FAO and its partners seek urgent financial support to scale up the current level of response before time runs out.

- The launch date of the revised Pakistan Initial Floods Emergency Response Plan (PIFERP) will be late for planting in some areas, such as in northern KPK where wheat planting begins in mid-September.
- So far, donor response to agricultural needs has been very low. In the PIFERP, agriculture was not featured as a sector as focus was placed on immediate actions to save livestock, valued at USD 5.7 million. Only 35 percent of these very limited funding needs have been met.
- FAO has engaged in vigorous bilateral funding mobilization, and is working closely with the Rome-based partner agencies – IFAD and WFP – to ensure a strong approach to food security and agricultural rehabilitation.
- The revised PIFERP, to be launched in the coming weeks (19 September), will contain a significant agriculture component.

INITIAL FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

PIFERP (11/08/10):

URGENT LIVESTOCK SUPPORT

Funding requested	USD 5.7 million
Funding received	USD 2 million
Funding gap	USD 3.7 million
Donors	Belgium, CERF

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