



UPDATE ON AGRICULTURE SECTOR PAKISTAN FLOODS

06th August 2010

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 devastated large parts of northern Pakistan and are currently heading south causing more destruction in Punjab and Sindh provinces. Assessments of losses and damages are underway, but according to initial estimates the number of affected people is over 4 million. Over 1,000 people have died and at least 250,000 homes have been damaged or destroyed.



Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) is presently the most affected province, where the effects of intense rains during the last week of July caused landslides with major rivers bursting their banks due to rain water surging down 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. Baluchistan, Punjab and to a lesser extent Pakistan-Administered Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan also experienced extreme weather conditions, resulting in widespread losses and damages.

As the flood waters began to slowly recede in the KPK districts, rivers continued to swell to unprecedented levels and flood waters to travel southwards by way of the Indus River. By early August, flood waters breached the river bank in at least eight districts of Punjab, devastating homes and crops in more than 1,300 villages. Flood surges continue to threaten the lives, homes and livelihoods of thousands of communities along the Indus River in Sindh province.

The flood waters have devastated towns and villages, crops, killed livestock, downed power and communications lines and inflicted major damage to public and private buildings. One week after the initial arrival of the floods, hundreds of thousands of people remain without electricity, piped water and communications. Many key roads and major bridges are damaged or destroyed. Swat, Dir, Kohistan and Shangla districts still remain accessible only by water or air transport.

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

- Planting - Harvesting

Impact on food security and agricultural needs

According to initial official estimates standing crops on over 10 000 hectares have been washed away and nearly 8 000 livestock has perished in Khyber Pukhtunkhwa province alone. The worst affected districts are Swat, Nowshera, Charsadda, Shangla and

Kohistan. Amongst these Nowshera and Charsadda are among the most fertile lands in the country producing a variety of cereal crops, vegetables and fruits. According to preliminary reports standing crops of sugar cane, maize, rice, sorghum, millet as well as orchards and vegetable plots in Peshawar, Nowshera and Charsadda Districts have been severely damaged. 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 survive lack feed and fodder.

People who managed to save livestock are in dire need of livestock feed to ensure their surviving livestock's ongoing survival, as the standing maize, sorghum and millet crops grown for fodder have either been washed away or are now not suitable for livestock consumption.

Initial figures from KPK Provincial Government on crop losses

Commodities	Affected
Kharif Crops (maize, Rice, sugar cane vegetables etc)	10,825 hectares
Livestock	7793

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The loss of harvested stored grains of Rabi 2010 Wheat - the major staple food crop - and other seeds that are crucial for household food security, has rendered the affected farmer households extremely vulnerable. Well targeted, time-critical interventions are therefore necessary for the timely restoration and recovery of agricultural-based livelihoods of flood affected farmers in Khyber Pukhtunkhwa and other provinces. Timely interventions are therefore needed in support of surviving livestock assets and forthcoming Rabi planting season. Delays in such assistance will likely lead to long-term dependency on food aid.

FAO response

On 4th August 2010, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan requested the UN Office for Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in Geneva humanitarian assistance and coordination support to respond to the effects of the floods in Khyber Pukhtunkhwa. The damages to public and private infrastructure, communication and private properties are enormous and have caused severe disruption of the local livelihoods.



The humanitarian community in Pakistan is using the IASC Cluster Approach to respond to the current emergency. 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. FAO is also in close

coordination with the Food and Community Restoration Cluster, together with the ICRC, the International and national NGOs, covering the agriculture sector. Immediately following the flood disasters FAO enhanced its

collaboration with the NDMA, PDMA/PaRRSA, provincial line departments and other local and international partners in the emergency response. The initial multi cluster assessment and provincial government highlighted the scale of crops and livestock losses and emphasized the need for a detailed assessment of the damages to agriculture based livelihoods in the affected areas. Assessment teams are being deployed to the most affected districts of KPK, Baluchistan, Sindh and Punjab to provide a more detailed analysis of damages to the agriculture sector.

FAO's Emergency and Rehabilitation Coordination Unit in Pakistan was established soon after the 2005 earthquake and has been responding to the floods in Pakistan. At the time of this press release USD 1.6m is being mobilized by FAO under an existing EU Food Facility funded project to address immediate needs in anticipation of the coming planting season, reaching 25 000 households through distribution of seeds and fertilizers. Using funding provided by the Government of the Kingdom of Belgium through FAO's Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation Activities (SFERA), FAO will assist an additional 3 000 households with immediate support to surviving livestock.

It is estimated that USD 20 million of urgent donor support is required: funds are needed to provide seeds, fertilizers, livestock feed and essential veterinary supplies to at least 150 000 households.

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 providing 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 is currently contributing to the Pakistan Initial Floods Emergency Response Plan, under which agriculture cluster seeks USD 20 million for the first three months.

The agriculture cluster response plan was prepared in close consultation with the cluster members and the 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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