



FAO'S ROLE IN THE PAKISTAN FLOODS EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

Launch date:
17 September 2010

Background

Over the course of seven weeks, flooding in Pakistan has affected over 20 million people across 160 000 km². The record monsoon rains caused rivers to overflow and flash floods to surge from northwest to central and southern Pakistan, where in Sindh province flood waves continue. Thus far, an estimated 12.4 million people are in need of urgent humanitarian assistance.

The duration and magnitude of the crisis have generated humanitarian needs of unprecedented scale.

To date, the floods have claimed 1 781 lives, damaged or destroyed over 1.9 million homes and left millions of people without the basic supplies and assets to ensure survival or recovery. Losses to standing crops, stored seed, irrigation, livestock, fishery assets and forested areas have severely threatened agriculture – the livelihood of 80 percent of the affected population.

Social services have been gravely affected, impeding access to water, health care, sanitation and education. Extensive damage has been caused to key infrastructure such as roads and irrigation channels, as well as dikes and embankments which serve as protective structures to prevent reduce the risk of floods.

The humanitarian community has been working to support Government-led efforts to address the most critical needs of the affected population. The Pakistan Initial Floods Emergency Response plan was launched on 11 August to mobilize immediate support. With increased access allowing assessments of the affected areas, the Response Plan was revised on 17 September to reflect a more comprehensive and updated account of needs and required funding for relief and early recovery interventions over a 12-month period.

Challenges facing agriculture

The need for agricultural assistance in flood-affected areas is pressing and immense. Many farmers and herders have lost a lifetime of work, generations' worth of savings and the resources to resume their livelihoods.

The floods have damaged at least 2.4 million ha of cultivatable land including standing crops (e.g. rice, maize, sugarcane, cotton), destroyed 0.5-0.6 million tonnes of family wheat stocks and killed 1.2 million livestock and 6 million poultry. Severe damage was caused to forest and fruit nurseries along

rivers and streams, and to fisheries and aquaculture, which provide an important and immediate source of nutrition.

The Rabi wheat planting season (September-November) has begun in many areas, but farmers lack seeds, fertilizer, tools, draught animals and viable irrigation systems. If support is not provided in time, the majority of affected people will not be able to plant their next crop until mid-2011, or to harvest wheat – Pakistan's main staple food crop – until spring 2012.

Failure to respond to agricultural needs in time will trigger a domino effect of further losses and prolonged dependence on external aid.

It is crucial to ensure at least limited planting of staple, fodder and subsistence crops in order to avoid further decline in household incomes and food security and to begin restoring seed stocks and fodder.

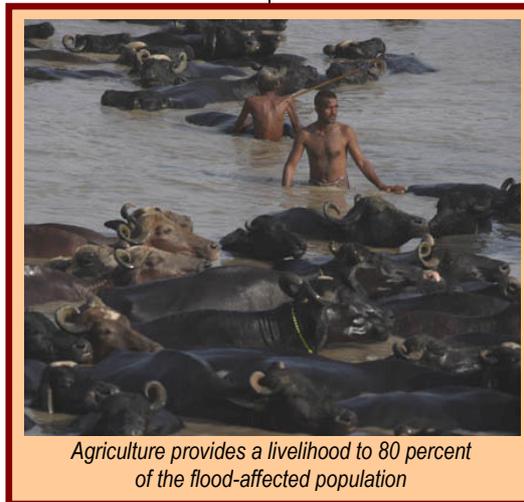
Provision of animal feed and basic veterinary support will safeguard livestock survival, health and productivity and avoid distress sales,

protecting a crucial source of milk, protein and income for rural families, and women in particular.

FAO response

The Agriculture Cluster, led by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), has appealed for USD 170.6 million within the framework of the Revised Pakistan Floods Emergency Response Plan. Of this total, FAO seeks **USD 107 million** to address critical needs in the crops, livestock, forestry and fisheries subsectors and assist directly 743 250 families, through activities such as:

- delivering critical **farming inputs** (seed and fertilizer) for the Rabi 2010 and Kharif 2011 planting seasons and restoring basic **irrigation infrastructure**;
- protecting and restoring productive **livestock assets**, through providing veterinary support, small ruminants/poultry, animal shelters and supplementary animal feed;
- providing inputs/rehabilitation support for the resumption of **fisheries and forestry-based production**; and
- expanding and improving the **coordination** of immediate and early recovery agriculture interventions through the cluster approach and assessments.



Agriculture provides a livelihood to 80 percent of the flood-affected population





FAO's COMPONENT OF THE REVISED PAKISTAN FLOODS EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

Total FAO requirements: USD 107 million

Project title: Early recovery of agriculture based livelihoods and food security of vulnerable households through provision of critical agricultural and livestock inputs and rehabilitation of irrigation infrastructure in KPK, Punjab, Balochistan and Sindh (PKA-FL-10/A/34080/R)

Objectives: (i) To provide critical agriculture inputs (seed and fertilizer) for Rabi 2010 and Kharif 2011 field crops to enable flood-affected men and women-headed households to resume farming activities; (ii) to avert additional livestock losses, protect and restore productive assets, restock small ruminants and poultry, and ensure availability of draught animals for land preparation; (iii) to restore basic irrigation infrastructure for immediate availability of irrigation water for early recovery/enhancement of farm production.

Beneficiaries: 689 050 households, including 3 307 440 children and 1 102 480 women.

Implementing Partners: National and international NGOs.

Funds Requested: USD 81 000 000

With donor funding, FAO aims to support and safeguard the livelihoods of 690 000 severely flood-affected families engaged in crop and livestock production through the provision of time-critical inputs and training. The project seeks to distribute essential agricultural inputs – e.g. cereal, vegetable and legume seeds and fertilizers – for the Rabi 2010 and Kharif 2011 planting seasons. The intervention also endeavours to rehabilitate and de-silt over 2 800 irrigation schemes/water harvesting structures, and clear tubewells through cash-for-work schemes to ensure irrigation water availability for critical staple crop production.

FAO also aims to provide families with poultry, small ruminants, supplementary animal feed (3-month rations), transitional/permanent animal shelters, veterinary support and fodder seed to address feed shortages and safeguard animal health, with special focus on women and landless families. Interventions include support to public veterinary health services to minimize the risk of animal and zoonotic disease transmission.

Project title: Livelihood rehabilitation and mitigation of adverse impact of monsoon floods through interventions in forestry and fishery sectors in flood-affected districts of KPK, Punjab, Gilgit Baltistan, AJK and Sindh Provinces (PKA-FL-10/A/35575/R)

Objectives: To restore natural resource based livelihoods of flood affected communities (small landholders, landless, tenants, sharecroppers, women-headed households, fishers), and mitigate flash floods and prevent losses due to floods in the future.

Beneficiaries: 54 200 households, including 260 160 children and 86 720 women.

Implementing Partners: Agriculture Cluster members, national and international NGOs.

Funds Requested: USD 25 000 000

FAO seeks to distribute fast-growing tree seedlings to provide fodder, fuel and watershed protection, as well as fruit tree saplings, and to establish/rehabilitate small-scale family-run tree nurseries. Women will be involved in establishing polythene bags/potted plant nurseries which require less labour and time, enabling them to earn income without an excessive increase in their workload. Project efforts will also focus on stabilizing landslides and landslips through bio-engineering measures.

The project aims to repair, clean and restock private and government fish ponds, fish farms and hatcheries. Support will also focus on the rehabilitation of freshwater fisheries and critical fish habitats and providing fishery inputs. Activities such as de-silting private fish ponds and water supplies will be carried out through cash-for-work schemes or other appropriate approaches. FAO will provide equipment for simple handling/processing/conservation of fishery products.

Project title: Cluster-based coordination of immediate and early recovery agricultural assistance (PKA-FL-10/A/35416/R)

Objectives: To expand and improve the coordination of immediate and early recovery interventions in the agriculture sector (crops, livestock, fisheries and forestry) through the cluster approach, avoiding duplication and gaps, optimizing funds utilization and promoting synergies of programmes among partners in Pakistan, with a focus on the response to the 2010 monsoon floods and support for new provincial cluster arrangements in Sindh, Punjab and Balochistan.

Beneficiaries: 8 million people. *Direct:* Cluster members (national/international NGOs, Government Departments and UN agencies). *Indirect:* up to 1 000 000 farming families (6 000 000 children; 2 000 000 women).

Implementing Partners: N/A.

Funds Requested: USD 998 074

FAO is the lead agency for the Agriculture Cluster in Pakistan, active since 2009. Cluster meetings have been held regularly in Peshawar and Islamabad, with the participation of over 50 members. Given the magnitude and geographic scope of the current crisis, it is crucial that coordination work is intensified, geographically expanded and strengthened.

The role of Cluster Lead requires a fully-dedicated position and the appropriate resources, and is crucial to ensuring coordinated, efficient and effective response to needs in the agriculture sector. Specific efforts will be made to promote gender equality by ensuring that the needs, contributions and capacities of women and girls, as well as men and boys, are addressed. Other priority areas include assessments and the activation of additional provincial agriculture clusters in Sindh, Balochistan and Punjab.

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