



Background

In August 2008, overlapping crises compounded the impact of global soaring food prices on growing food insecurity in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. Unusually heavy monsoon rains at the beginning of the month led to flash floods that had a significant impact on households in Peshawar district of North West Frontier Province (NWFP) and in Rajanpur district of Punjab province. Provincial authorities reported that 200 000 people were affected by the flooding in NWFP, and a further 100 000 in Punjab province.

Throughout the month, renewed fighting between the Government and militant groups in the Federally-Administered Tribal Areas and in the Swat district of NWFP resulted in significant internal population displacements. Authorities in NWFP estimated that 260 000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) were in the province – living with host families, in 33 official camps or in spontaneous settlements. Many IDPs in the camps returned after the Government declared a ceasefire. However, most of those living with host communities have remained. The area is experiencing persistent insecurity and IDP numbers are therefore likely to change in the coming months.

On 8 September 2008, the United Nations and its partners launched the 2008 Pakistan Humanitarian Response Plan, which appeals for USD 55 million to assist approximately 400 000 people affected by these emergencies in the coming six months.

Challenges facing food security and livelihoods

A Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)-led assessment in the worst affected areas of Peshawar district found widespread damage to crops and livestock. Preliminary assessments indicated that 74 percent of the cultivated area was affected. Standing crops of sugarcane, maize, sorghum, vegetables and rice were damaged. In addition, an estimated 15 000 livestock were killed or are missing. However, most of the households impacted by the floods remain on their lands and are in urgent need of agricultural assistance to rapidly rebuild their livelihoods.

The floods and ongoing conflict have significantly affected agricultural production in Pakistan. The approaching *rabi* (winter) cropping season is critical for the lives, livelihoods and food security of rural households in NWFP in particular. The food deficient province has been heavily affected by supply shortfalls and the rising prices of basic food stuffs, particularly of wheat. This has been further exacerbated by an influx of IDPs into food stressed areas. Both IDPs and host families require urgent agricultural assistance.

FAO in Pakistan

In 2008, FAO's emergency and rehabilitation activities in Pakistan have included continued support to rebuilding the livelihoods of households affected by the 2005 earthquake in NWFP and Pakistan-Administered Kashmir region. This has included poultry restocking, the restoration of damaged irrigation channels, the establishment of fruit nurseries and capacity building support for the Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority.

In response to the 2007 cyclone that affected vulnerable households in Balochistan and Sindh provinces, FAO has been distributing seeds and fertilizers, training farmers in improved agricultural practices and supporting the provision of veterinary services.

Through its emergency and rehabilitation programme in Pakistan, FAO aims to restore farmers' agricultural production capacity, thus reducing their dependence on food aid and increasing their self-reliance.

As part of the 2008 Pakistan Humanitarian Response Plan, FAO is appealing for **USD 5 600 000**. The main objective of the agriculture component of the Plan is to:

- **assist 15 000 conflict-affected households** through ensuring the food security and enhanced resilience of households hosting people displaced by the violence and helping returning IDPs to rebuild their agriculture-based livelihoods by restocking poultry, supporting surviving livestock and distributing critical agricultural inputs; and
- **assist 15 000 flood-affected and vulnerable households** to rapidly resume agricultural production and restore their livelihoods by restocking poultry, supporting surviving livestock and distributing the inputs critical for local production.



FAO'S ROLE IN THE 2008 PAKISTAN HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE APPEAL

Project Title: Emergency crop production, livestock and poultry support to populations affected by armed conflict in NWFP and by flash floods in NWFP and Punjab province

Objectives:

- (i) **Conflict-affected IDPs:** To assist 15 000 households by (a) ensuring food security and enhanced resilience of poor households hosting IDP communities displaced by the ongoing conflict in NWFP and (b) assisting returning IDPs to restore their agriculture-based livelihoods in their areas of origin by restocking lost poultry, supporting surviving livestock and providing inputs critical to the prompt resumption of crop production.
- (ii) **Flood-affected population:** To assist 15 000 vulnerable flood victims in the prompt resumption of their agriculture-based livelihoods by restocking lost poultry, supporting surviving livestock and distributing inputs critical to restarting crop production.

Beneficiaries: 30 000 households (180 000 individuals), including 15 000 households (90 000 individuals) affected by floods in Punjab and NWFP and 15 000 households (90 000 individuals) affected by armed conflict in NWFP.

Implementing Partners: Relief International, BEST, Strengthening Participatory Organisation, Sarhad Rural Support Programme.

Funds Requested: USD 6 million (USD 400 000 already contributed by CERF)

The proposed project “**Emergency crop production, livestock and poultry support to populations affected by armed conflict in NWFP and by flash floods in NWFP and Punjab province**” aims to ensure food security and enhanced resilience among poor, food insecure and vulnerable host community households and to sustain returning IDPs by assisting them to restore their agriculture-based livelihoods in their areas of origin by restocking poultry, supporting livestock and distributing inputs critical for local agricultural production.

The Central Emergency Response Fund has already contributed USD 400 000 to the project. FAO is therefore seeking a further **USD 5 600 000** to support the resumption of livelihoods for 30 000 households in Pakistan.



For more information please contact:

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