



SITUATION OVERVIEW

- The heavy monsoon rains in Pakistan which started in mid-July 2022 are continuing in many parts of the country and have affected 116 districts (75%) out of 154 districts in Pakistan. The most affected province is Sindh, followed by Balochistan.
- As of 25 August 2022, 33+ million people have been affected. 6.4+ million people are in dire need of humanitarian aid, including 421,000 refugees. Over a thousand lives have been lost and almost 1500 people injured.
- Health facilities have been severely affected. As 28 August 2022, 888 health facilities have been damaged in the country of which 180 of them are completely damaged. Access to health facilities, healthcare workers, and essential medicines and medical supplies remain the main health challenges for now.
- Country's health system is already battling multiple concurrent health threats including COVID 19, and outbreaks of cholera, typhoid, measles, leishmaniasis and HIV. Even

before the current floods, there was a significant disparity in access to health services between rural and urban areas. The current situation will highly likely increase the spread of disease especially if/when response capacities are hindered.



IMMEDIATE WHO & HEALTH SECTOR PRIORITIES

- **Rapidly expand access to essential health services to the flood-affected population**
 - Provide medicines and other medical supplies, while ensuring reliable supply chain
 - Support medical camps and mobile clinics
 - Undertake urgent repairs in affected health facilities
- **Strengthen and expand disease surveillance, outbreak prevention and control**
 - Reinforce laboratory capacities to detect epidemic-prone diseases
 - Reinforce on-going cholera and dengue control measures, including intersectoral collaboration (WASH) and oral cholera vaccination
- **Strengthen health cluster coordination:**
 - Consider need for supplemental vaccination activities, especially for measles
 - Ensure a well-coordinated response at national and sub-national levels, including involvement of all relevant partners
 - Establish strong inter-cluster coordination, especially with WASH, nutrition, shelter, food aid, protection.



WHO RESPONSE

- Provision of essential medicines and medical supplies worth US\$ 250,000
- Support for strengthening disease surveillance in the flood-affected districts
- Conducting mobile medical camps in affected districts.
- Working closely with the Federal Ministry of Health, WHO supported the development of the Health component of the flash appeal which was launched on 30 August 2022 simultaneously in Islamabad and Geneva.
- Prepositioning of medicines and other medical supplies in provinces based on the contingency plan.
- Outreach and facility-based medical services, including maternal, neonatal and child health (MNCH) and nutritional support.
- Strengthened COVID-19 surveillance in affected populations with increased testing services coupled with rapid investigation of case clusters and contact tracing.
- Polio teams are presently supporting disease surveillance for other diseases during the flood emergency. The programme is working closely with relevant authorities for supporting relief efforts, particularly in areas worst hit by the floods.

CONTACTS

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