



**Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA)
South Asia Region, Regional Office for Asia-Pacific, Bangkok, Thailand**

DISASTER RESPONSE

USAID/OFDA Assistance Follows Flood-Affected Individuals Home

Four months after the most severe floods in the country's history, the majority of displaced families in northern provinces of Pakistan have returned to homes to begin the process of rebuilding their lives and livelihoods. However, as flood waters receded, they left farmland covered with mud, houses destroyed, and many families without any possessions. While standing water continues to prevent population returns in some areas, in locations where returns are possible, USAID/OFDA grantees have shifted activities to support the needs of returnees, while continuing to provide immediate assistance to individuals who remain displaced.

Coordinating with the Government of Pakistan (GoP), other U.S. Government agencies, and relief organizations, USAID/OFDA has focused early recovery support in areas of return on livelihoods, agricultural recovery, and shelter reconstruction. USAID/OFDA grantees have initiated cash-for-work programs to rehabilitate damaged wells and irrigation canals, provided vouchers for farmers to purchase seeds and tools, and provided technical assistance and materials for families to rebuild houses, among numerous other initiatives. These activities build on self-help initiatives already begun by displaced individuals and help facilitate families' transition from camps back to their houses.



With support from the International Organization for Migration (IOM), a flood-affected individual reuses USAID/OFDA-provided plastic sheeting received as emergency shelter to help construct a more durable one-room transitional shelter. The plastic sheeting is laid over bamboo and steel girders and topped with woven mats. (Photo courtesy of IOM).

DISASTER RESPONSE

USAID Supports Flood-Hit Farmers in Northern Pakistan

With USAID/OFDA and USAID/Pakistan funding, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) completed seed and fertilizer distributions to 374,585 flood-affected households in



USAID/OFDA Acting Director Mark Ward (center) announced the FAO project to farmers in KPk in early October along with GoP and FAO officials. (Photo by Dana Chivers, USAID/OFDA).

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPk) and Punjab provinces in Pakistan in late November and mid-December, respectively, helping to improve food security for more than 2.2 million people.

Approximately 80 percent of flood-affected individuals in Pakistan rely on agriculture as the main source of livelihoods.

As a result of the floods, however, millions of farmers lost crops—some almost ready for harvest—and seed stocks intended for use during the current

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DISASTER RESPONSE

USAID/OFDA Assists Flood-Affected Individuals in India

USAID/OFDA has expanded support for flood-affected individuals in Leh District in northern India. In coordination with USAID/India and the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$86,000 in additional funds to help families restore damaged agricultural land and irrigation channels, bringing total USAID/OFDA assistance for the floods to more than \$136,000 to date.

Early August flash floods in Leh resulted in substantial agricultural damage, with crop losses of up to 90 percent in some areas and up to 3 to 5 feet of debris and rubble covering agricultural land, according to Save the Children (SC). With winter approaching and temperatures in the mountainous area already reaching 25 degrees at night, community members noted an urgent need to clear the land to prepare for the spring planting season.

With USAID/OFDA support, SC is helping 67 of the most-affected families in Leh District restore more than 67 acres of agricultural land and essential irrigation channels.

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USAID Supports Flood-Hit Farmers in Pakistan

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winter planting season.

Unless farmers quickly received seeds and other agricultural inputs, FAO noted that families would be unable to plant wheat, the staple food of most rural households, until the next planting season—in some areas not until next winter. To help recover the winter planting season, enable families to start growing wheat and other food immediately,



“I am very thankful to USAID for the wheat seed, vegetable seeds, and fertilizer given to my family,” Mr. Tariq (right) stated. “The help came at the right time. To buy inputs myself would have cost around 6,000 rupees (approximately \$70), which would have been very difficult...I am now hopeful.” (Photo courtesy of FAO).

and prevent deterioration in food security, USAID is supporting FAO to provide 409,585 households in three flood-affected provinces with wheat and vegetable seeds and fertilizer. The program emphasizes providing assistance to the most vulnerable individuals, including female farmers, female-headed households, and households with children under five years of age. The FAO program also includes cash-for-work activities to rehabilitate irrigation channels and provision of supplementary feed and veterinary support for livestock, targeting more than 160,000 households combined. In addition to KPk and Punjab provinces, FAO had distributed agricultural packages to more than 29,000 households in Balochistan Province as of December 13, with distributions to the remaining 5,550 families expected in the coming days. To date, USAID has provided more than \$62 million to FAO for agriculture and livelihoods support.

Assisting Flood-Affected Individuals in India

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USAID/OFDA staff note the importance of this activity, which will help maintain the seasonal planting cycle in the area. In addition to agricultural support, USAID/OFDA provided an initial \$50,000 in funds to SC to distribute mattresses, pillows, and blankets to ensure safe and warm shelter for 400 flood-affected families whose houses sustained either partial or complete flood damage.

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Supporting Transitional Shelter in Pakistan

As flood waters recede in Pakistan, USAID/OFDA has expanded support for more durable shelter solutions in Pakistan, focusing on the most vulnerable individuals. As families return to areas of origin, many individuals have begun the process of repairing or reconstructing houses. However, many vulnerable individuals, such as people whose houses were completely destroyed, people facing extreme weather conditions, and women- and elderly-headed households, required additional



Left: An IOM beneficiary covers walls of his one-room transitional shelter with a layer of plaster, reducing the risk of future flood damage. Right: Individuals use USAID/OFDA-provided plastic sheeting during one-room shelter roof construction. (Photos courtesy of IOM).

assistance to rebuild their destroyed homes. To support shelter initiatives for the most vulnerable individuals, USAID/OFDA has provided an additional \$10 million to IOM. With the USAID/OFDA funds, IOM plans to support at least 16,000 vulnerable families to build one-room transitional shelters in their area of origin in the coming months.

The one-room transitional shelter project uses locally available materials and traditional construction methods to meet the various needs of flood-affected families. IOM provides essential materials and technical advice to individuals, but families build their own shelters with the help of neighbors, reinforcing community-based recovery initiatives. With USAID/OFDA support, IOM will also provide emergency shelter for up to 13,400 families who remain displaced in Sindh Province and blankets and other supplies to 7,500 families to prepare for winter.

To date, USAID/OFDA has provided approximately \$44.7 million through 17 relief agencies to meet the immediate and transitional shelter needs of flood-affected populations in Pakistan. In addition, USAID/OFDA is providing tarpaulins and pieces of durable plastic sheeting for distribution to approximately 120,000 flood-affected families.



A family looks out from their one-room shelter in Sindh Province. Shelters can be upgraded later by adding a boundary wall or additional rooms. (Photo courtesy of IOM).