



Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance

# DISASTER CASE REPORT

Agency for  
International  
Development

Washington D.C.  
20523

## PAKISTAN - Floods

### Data

Date: Late July - August 1978 (FY 78)

Location: Provinces of Northwest Frontier, Punjab, Baluchistan, and Sind

No. Dead: 393

No. Affected: 2,236,000 of which approximately 10,000 were left homeless

Damage: 396,817 buildings damaged; 224,148 buildings destroyed; 2,990,752 cropped acres damaged; 9,662 head of cattle missing; 1,085 tubewells damaged; 334 underground irrigation water courses damaged; estimated value of damage was put at \$250 million

### The Disaster

Early monsoon rains caused accumulation of rainwater in local rivers and flash flooding in four provinces. Some city areas were flooded and mountain regions were affected by hill torrents. Inundation of large tracts of land was averted by previous strengthening of protective river embankments (bunds). Accurate flood forecasting and local disaster preparedness measures, such as the establishment of relief camps, helped limit losses.

### Action Taken by the Government of Pakistan (GOP) and the Pakistani Red Crescent

Almost all rescue and relief activities were carried out by federal and provincial government agencies, assisted by the military. The Disaster Relief Cell in the Cabinet Division of the federal government supervised local flood relief operations and served as liaison with foreign donors. The rupee equivalent of \$1.25 million was released to provincial governments which distributed more than 11,000 MT of wheat, set up 249 relief centers, and repaired breached roads and bridges. The GOP did not make an appeal for outside assistance.

The Pakistani Red Crescent donated blankets, clothing, and cash to the victims in the Punjab, Sind, and Baluchistan.

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Assistance Provided by the United States Government (USG)

On September 3, 1978, the U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan, Arthur Hummel, made a declaration of disaster.

Catholic Relief Services was granted rupees 100,000 (approximately \$10,101) in excess currency from Food for Peace funds for non-food relief. In coordination with the Social Welfare Directorate of Sind Province, these funds were used for assisting some 3,500 flash flood victims who were evacuated from their homes in Karachi.....\$10,101

TOTAL           \$10,101

Assistance Provided by U.S. Voluntary Agencies \*

Catholic Relief Services provided milk powder and cash for initial relief to Karachi flood victims. In response to a request from the Sind provincial government, non-food items were furnished using the USG grant mentioned above.

Church World Service issued an appeal for \$10,000 for local food purchases for Karachi victims

TOTAL           \$10,000

Assistance Provided by the International Community \*

Libya - \$150,000 cash grant to the President's Flood Relief Fund

UNICEF - unspecified relief commodities

TOTAL           \$150,000

\* Please note: the figures for total U.S. voluntary agency and international assistance are an approximation. In many cases the cash value of in kind aid is unavailable.