

60 DAYS LATER

# PAKISTAN FLOODS



Photos by Dana Chivers, USAID/OFDA

ABOVE: As floodwaters recede, early recovery activities begin throughout Pakistan, including infrastructure and home repair.

By far the worst natural disaster in Pakistan's history, extensive flooding that began on July 22 has affected more than 20 million people and covered one-fifth of the country's territory. Floods devastated crops, damaged 1.7 million homes, and displaced millions of people countrywide. Sixty days later, USAID continues to provide assistance as families return to their homes and begin to rebuild their lives. As of October 13, USAID had sent 24 flights of emergency relief supplies and provided \$334 million to meet immediate humanitarian needs and help the people of Pakistan recover from the floods.

## USAID HELPS SAVE LIVES IN PAKISTAN

### EMERGENCY RELIEF

In coordination with the Pakistan government and other relief agencies, USAID responded quickly to the devastation wrought by the floods. On July 30, U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan Anne W. Patterson issued a disaster declaration. In response, USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) immediately sent water treatment units and Zodiac boats to help rescue stranded people. USAID also sent a team of relief experts, called a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART), to assess conditions, transport relief supplies, and help meet the immediate needs of millions of people affected by the floods in Pakistan.

### HEALTH

Following disasters—particularly floods—the spread of diseases, such as malaria and diarrhea, is a significant concern. In Pakistan, flooding displaced millions of people to temporary camps, public buildings, or higher ground along highways and river embankments. These areas were often crowded and left people vulnerable to contagious diseases. Traditional drinking sources were inaccessible or contaminated, resulting in increased incidence of diarrhea and other illnesses caused by drinking unsafe water. In southern Pakistan's low-lying areas, pools of standing water created the ideal environment for malaria-carrying mosquitoes to breed.

**Disease Surveillance:** To help prevent massive disease outbreaks, USAID and the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) expanded the Disease Early Warning System (DEWS)—a network of permanent and mobile medical clinics that monitor, report, and respond to disease alerts. USAID has supported DEWS in Pakistan since 2008. Within two weeks, the DEWS network had more than tripled its coverage and the number of patients seen in medical facilities had increased six-fold.

Through DEWS, the government and humanitarian community have been able to monitor and respond to disease trends in flood-affected areas.



Photo by Pedro Ugarte, AFP

ABOVE: Families displaced by floods move to higher ground.

**Water:** Providing people with clean water is essential to preventing disease outbreaks immediately following flooding. Through a combination of USAID's own commodities and support for grantees' programs, USAID is ensuring that more than 2 million people per day have clean water.

**Sanitation and Hygiene:** USAID grantees have built thousands of communal latrines to improve hygiene in areas housing displaced families. USAID-funded relief organizations have also traveled to flood-affected communities to promote proper health and hygiene practices.

When spikes occur, like those shown on the disease monitoring graph below, staff and resources are relocated and appropriate treatment and control measures are provided. As a result of DEWS, there have been no large-scale outbreaks of disease to date.

**Diarrhea Treatment Centers:**

When patients develop severe diarrhea, they need to be rehydrated quickly and effectively. To assist with those efforts, USAID and WHO established diarrhea treatment centers, which help treat and prevent further transmission of severe diarrhea or cholera among flood-affected popula-

tions who are living in crowded conditions or do not have access to safe water or healthcare.

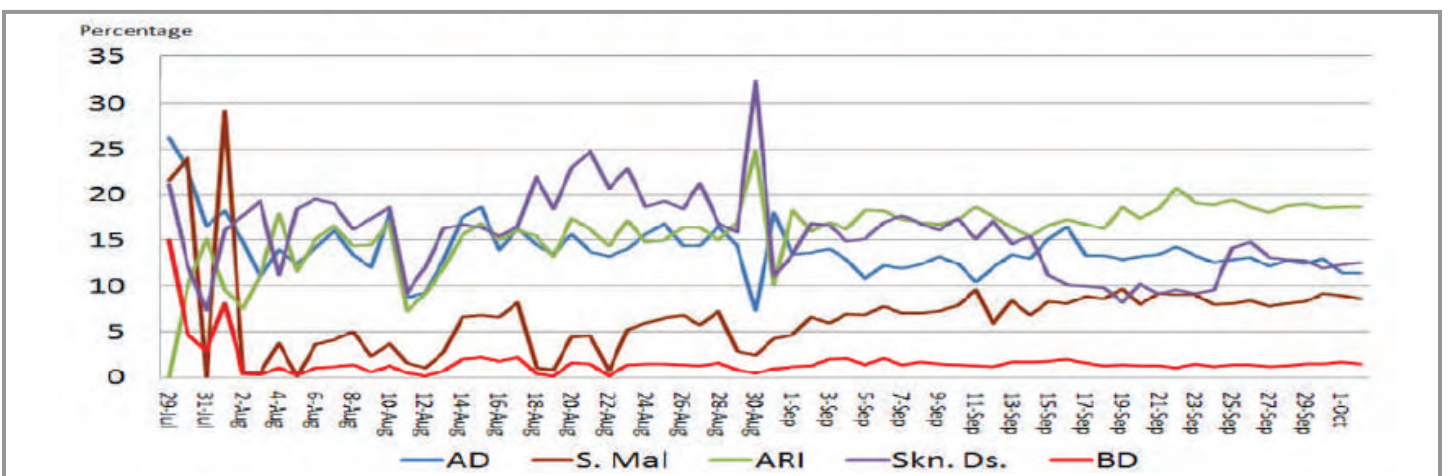
**WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE**

Floods damaged municipal water systems, boreholes, wells, and other infrastructure on which people depend for safe, clean drinking water. In addition, many families lost everything in the floods, including personal hygiene items. Since early August, USAID grantees have delivered safe drinking water and distributed chlorine tablets, water containers, and hygiene items to flood-affected families throughout Pakistan.



Photo courtesy of Aga Khan Foundation

ABOVE: USAID-funded medical teams treat dehydrated children.



Source: WHO DEWS Weekly Epidemiological Bulletin - October 5, 2010.

ABOVE: WHO graph depicts weekly disease trends since flooding first began.  
Key: Acute Diarrhea (AD), Suspected Malaria (S. Mal), Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI), Skin Disease (Skn. Ds.), Bloody Diarrhea (BD)



Photo by Asif Hassan, AFP

ABOVE: Displaced families collect water delivered by truck in Sindh Province.

identified as one of the top priorities. USAID immediately transported reinforced plastic sheeting from warehouses in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, and Pisa, Italy. In total, at least 60,500 families are using USAID plastic sheets as emergency shelter or to repair homes. In addition, USAID grantees are providing hundreds of thousands of additional plastic sheets, tarps, and ropes from local manufacturers in Pakistan.

Despite ongoing relief efforts, the need for shelter will continue for the longer term, especially with winter fast approaching.

### EMERGENCY FOOD

As a result of the floods, millions of people were left without food and in immediate need of assistance. USAID is the single largest contributor to the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) operation in Pakistan. USAID's response was immediate, flexible, and focused on providing life-saving food supplies, including ready-to-eat food, high-energy biscuits, and fortified wheat flour.

In addition to food dispatched from regional warehouses, USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) provided cash grants to WFP, which allow the organization to purchase food supplies, such as wheat, locally and trans-

port the food where it is needed most. Local purchase also contributes to Pakistan's economic recovery.

To reach people across the country, all possible food delivery mechanisms were utilized—boats, planes, trucks, donkeys, and push-carts. In August, nearly 3 million people received emergency food rations; in September, the number doubled as food distribution was expanded to new areas. In October, more than 6 million flood-affected individuals throughout the country are receiving food assistance.

### SHELTER

The floods displaced millions of people and emergency shelter was quickly

### USAID COMMODITIES IN PAKISTAN

- 13 Mobile Water Treatment Units
- 12 12,000L Water Storage Bladders
- 208,750 10L Water Containers
- 15 Million Water Purification Tablets
- 58 Zodiac Inflatable Rescue Boats
- 96 Concrete Saws for Rescue Teams
- 237,005 Blankets
- 12,113 Rolls of Plastic Sheeting



Photo by Arif Ali, AFP

ABOVE: Shelter is made with USAID plastic.

### USAID RELIEF COMMODITIES

Between late July and October, USAID dispatched 24 flights with emergency relief supplies to Pakistan from USAID warehouses in Dubai, Pisa, and the United States. USAID also bought supplies locally, including 600,000 bars of soap, 200,000 water containers, and 170,000 blankets. Purchasing relief supplies in Pakistan benefits local manufacturers and helps jumpstart the economy.



Photo by Behrouz Mehri, AFP

ABOVE: A helicopter delivers USAID flour to northern Swat District, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province (KPk).

# USAID HELPS FAMILIES RETURN AND RECOVER

## EARLY RECOVERY

As floodwaters recede across Pakistan, displaced families are returning home to rebuild their lives. As a result, USAID is shifting the focus of ongoing programs to help returning families recover.

## HEALTH

As populations return home, the need for diarrhea treatment centers in areas where families were displaced is decreasing. As a result, the centers will be converted into treatment facilities for other common illnesses, such as respiratory infections. USAID grantees are also temporarily employing crews of workers to clear debris and reconstruct health facilities and associated water, sanitation, and electrical infrastructure. Health facilities will be repaired and people in the community will be given cash and vouchers to purchase urgently needed household items.



ABOVE: A USAID-funded mobile medical team sees patients in Punjab Province.

## FOOD

USAID has also provided funding for food voucher programs—benefiting more than half a million people. In areas where the markets are functioning, families can take the vouchers to participating vendors and exchange them for food items of their choice.

## WATER

**Rehabilitation of Water Points:** As floodwaters recede, water and sanitation needs are shifting. Wherever possible, USAID grantees are employing local people to repair dam-



Photo courtesy of WFP  
ABOVE: WFP beneficiaries collect USAID wheat flour and high-energy biscuits.

aged water points by replacing or fixing damaged pumps, water reservoirs, and storage tanks.

These activities help families return home and rebuild their lives with a temporary source of income and safe water.

## SHELTER

As displaced families return home, many will re-use plastic sheeting to repair damaged houses or construct what is called transitional shelter utilizing traditional techniques, plastic sheeting, and locally available and salvaged building materials. In fact, families are already rebuilding traditional mud-walled houses in KPk Province.

To promote transitional shelter, USAID grantees are now supplementing plastic sheeting with additional framing and building materials—such as bamboo, wooden beams, corrugated iron sheeting, and toolkits—to construct interim living spaces or repair damage to homes. USAID grantees are also building winterized shelters in high mountain valleys affected by floods. These shelters will provide families with a warm, dry room to pass the winter months.

## AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

USAID is helping more than half a million people who rely on agriculture and livestock to meet their basic needs but who lost crops and animals in the flood. USAID-funded programs are providing fertilizer, wheat seed, and vegetable seed to small farmers so they can take advantage of the winter planting season. USAID programs will also temporarily employ small farmers to repair irrigation canals in their communities. Animal feed and veterinary supplies will also be provided to a quarter of a million people with livestock that survived the floods.



Photo by Dana Chivers, USA D/OFDA  
ABOVE: Families in KPk begin to rebuild traditional mud-walled houses.