

HIGHLIGHTS

- Critical humanitarian operations are in jeopardy as a result of attacks against aid workers.
- More than 18,400 people could be displaced from Kurram and South Waziristan agencies in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas between January and June 2013 due to planned security operations.

FIGURES

Population affected by floods in 2012 (NDMA)	4.8m
Registered displaced people in KP/FATA (UNHCR)	758,000
Returnees from KP to FATA in 2012 (UNHCR)	58,000

FUNDING

Monsoon Floods 2012

169 million (US\$)
Overall required

30% funded

Complex Emergency in KP and FATA

289 million (US\$)
Overall required for humanitarian assistance

76% funded



OCHA/Stacey Winston

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Concerns rise over shrinking humanitarian space

Partners call for respect of neutrality and independence of aid workers

Humanitarian space is shrinking due to diminished safety and security of aid workers as well as bureaucratic restrictions.

Attacks against aid workers are threatening life-saving activities they conduct in the neediest parts of the country. Since January 2012, at least 25 aid workers have been killed, 9 have been kidnapped and 14 have been injured in 51 reported incidents. In 2013 alone, 11 aid workers have been killed and 2 injured in 3 incidents.

Critical humanitarian operations, in particular the polio eradication programme, are in jeopardy as a result of these acts of violence.

The neutrality and independence of aid workers needs to be respected, humanitarian workers and operations protected, and secure and unlimited access to people in need of humanitarian assistance prioritized by all parties.

Delays in INGO visa registrations jeopardize humanitarian access

Delays in processing legal documents for international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) in Pakistan are also of concern. As of November 2012, 18 out of 45 surveyed INGOs that are members of the Pakistan Humanitarian Forum (PHF) were still waiting for valid NGO registration documents or Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs).

An MoU constitutes the legal basis for INGOs to work in Pakistan. In 2012, no fixed-term or permanent MOUs were issued by the Economic Affairs Division, pending the release of revised NGO MoU guidelines.

During the same period, only three organizations received four-month temporary agreements, with some organizations having received several of these.

The lack of valid MoUs negatively impacts NGO operations at various levels, including the inability to acquire tax waivers for importing relief goods; challenges in obtaining permits (No Objection Certificates) to travel and operate in the country; and further delays in the issuance of long-term multi-entry visas.

The issuance of NGO visas and NGO registrations needs to be accelerated to ensure safe, timely and unimpeded access by humanitarian workers to people in need.

INGO registrations of PHF members		
Description	# of NGOs	%
Total no. of INGOs with valid MoUs	27	60
Total no. of INGOs without valid MoUs – extension/application in process	18	40
Total no. of surveyed INGOs	45	100

Source: Pakistan Humanitarian Forum, November 2012

More displacements expected in the north-west

More than 18,400 people could be displaced from Kurram and South Waziristan agencies in FATA between January and June 2013.

Displaced and returning families require ongoing humanitarian assistance

More than 18,400 people (4,000 families) could be displaced from Kurram and South Waziristan agencies in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) during the next six months due to planned security operations, according to the FATA Disaster Management Authority (FDMA).

Humanitarian partners are currently developing plans to provide life-saving assistance to the expected and currently displaced people in 2013. More than 76,000 internally displaced people are currently hosted in three camps in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and FATA, while about 682,000 are living outside camps. Both groups need ongoing assistance in the form of relief items and life-saving services.

FDMA also estimates that about 300,000 displaced people (over 65,000 families) could return to all FATA agencies, except Bajaur and North Waziristan, during the next six months. The highest returns are expected to take place in Khyber (157,000 people) and South Waziristan (69,000 people) agencies.

Funding constraints affect critical relief services for displaced people

As a result of funding constraints, the monthly food basket for cereals (wheat) has been halved (from 80kg to 40kg) per family, monthly (from 2,100kcal to 1,238 kcal per person, daily) from January to March 2013. The rest of the food basket (including high energy biscuits, vegetable oil and salt) remains intact. This ration cut will affect the 758,000 internally displaced people both in and outside camps in KP and FATA. In addition, funding constraints have forced the stoppage of reproductive health and newborn services for 2,800 pregnant displaced women, protection services for children in Dera Ismail Khan, Hangu and Tank districts in KP and Kurram Agency in FATA, and education services for children in the camps and host communities. Other life-saving services are scheduled to end between March and June 2013 if more funds are not secured.

Humanitarian partners received 76 per cent of the US\$289 million required under the 2012 Humanitarian Operational Plan (HOP). Following the extension of some projects under the HOP to between March and June 2013, the \$70 million funding gap needs to be bridged to continue crucial services, as partners develop plans and funding estimates for 2013. The table below illustrates the funding gaps in each cluster and the priority humanitarian needs:

Cluster	Funding gap (US\$)	Immediate humanitarian needs
Shelter	\$17.9m	Transitional shelters for returnee families at their places of origin in five FATA agencies and shelter repair kits for families with severely damaged homes in areas of return.
Camp coordination and management; Non-food items	\$16.4m	Emergency tents and non-food item kits for displaced families in camps and routine maintenance of already constructed emergency tents and replacement of worn out non-food items like tents, blankets and kitchen sets.
Protection	\$8.4m	Protection services, such as prevention and response to gender-based violence, referral system and psycho-social support services for children and women.
Health	\$7.8m	Regular emergency health assistance, disease early warning surveillance, reproductive health services and strengthening of health care facilities.
Food Security	\$7.6m	Life-saving monthly relief food and unconditional cash assistance for displaced and recent returnee families.
Nutrition	\$5.0m	Continued emergency nutrition services, including specialized care in stabilization centers (for children) and nutrition surveillance in camps and host communities.
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	\$3.3m	Safe drinking water and safe and clean sanitation facilities for displaced people in camps and host communities.
Education	\$3.2m	Education support services for children in camps and host communities.
Coordination	\$1.3m	Coordination of humanitarian assistance.
Total	\$70.8 m	

Sources: Humanitarian partners in KP and FATA

Government extends validity of registration cards for over 1.6 million Afghan refugees

Cabinet committee established to find ways to expedite repatriation

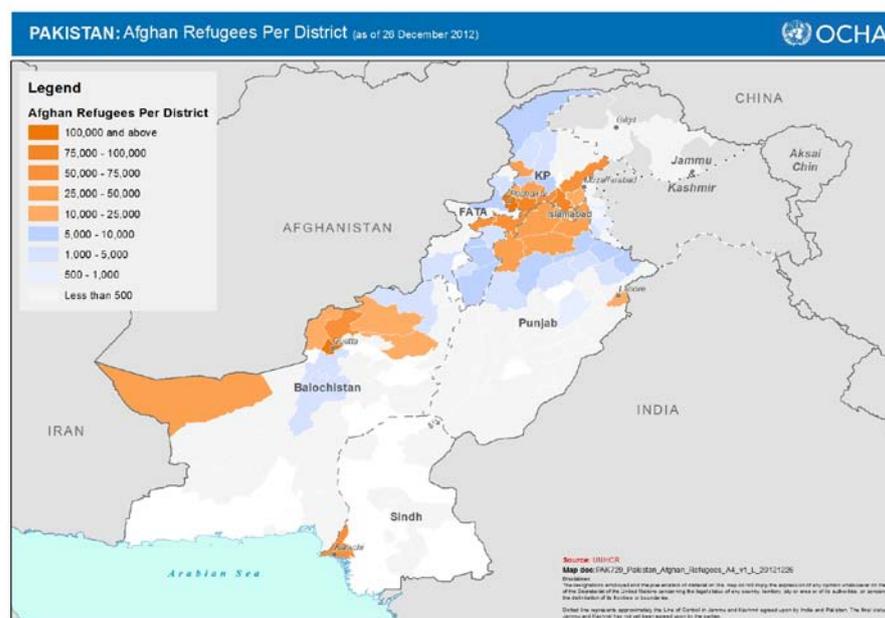
The repatriation of refugees must be undertaken in a voluntary, dignified, and safe manner, amid continuing insecurity and socio-economic conditions in Afghanistan.

The Government of Pakistan has extended the validity of Proof of Registration (PoR) cards for Afghan refugees for six months up to 30 June 2013, following their expiry on 31 December 2012. The extension allows 1.64 million registered refugees to remain in the country during the six months, alongside continued voluntary repatriation to Afghanistan.

The card is an important form of identification for Afghan refugees proving their legal right of stay in the country, and therefore giving important protection against possible detention or deportation.

The Government constituted a cabinet committee under the chairmanship of the Minister for States and Frontier Regions (Safron), with members from the ministries of Interior, Foreign Affairs and other relevant agencies, to find ways and means to expedite maximum repatriation during the extended period of six months and find solutions beyond 30 June together with the Government of Afghanistan and UNHCR.

For over three decades, Pakistan has shown strong commitment to the protection of Afghan refugees, who are in one of the world's most protracted refugee situations. Pakistan remains host to the largest refugee population in the world under UNHCR's care.



Partners seek to combat measles outbreak

Government and Health Cluster conduct mass immunization campaign

Humanitarian partners are stepping up efforts to contain a measles outbreak reported in parts of Sindh, Balochistan and Punjab.

During the past year, more than 400 deaths have been attributed to suspected measles cases in Pakistan, with most of the deaths caused by post-measles complications such as pneumonia, post-measles encephalitis and diarrhoea.

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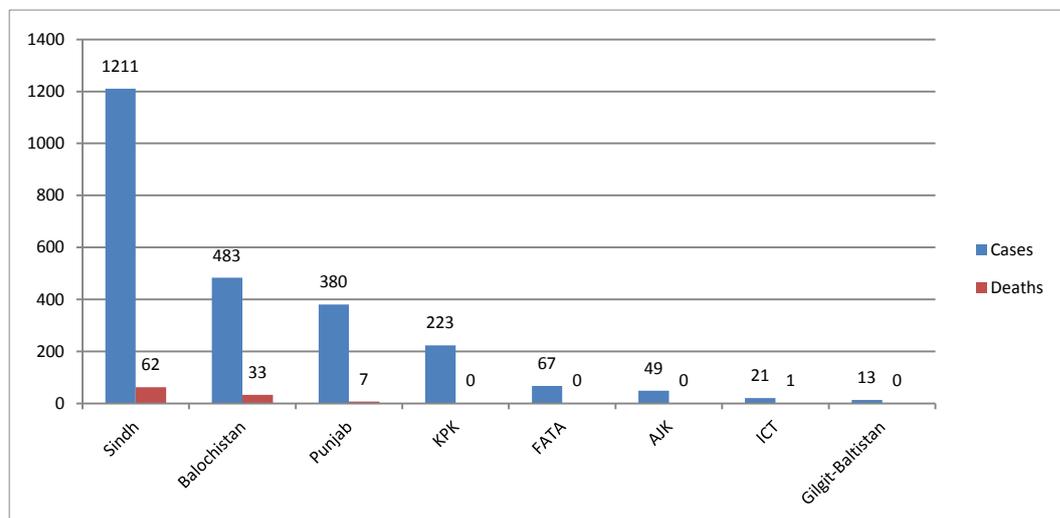
Measles is a highly contagious viral disease and a key cause of death among young children globally, despite the availability of a safe and effective vaccine. It is transmitted via droplets from the nose, mouth or throat of infected persons. Transmission increases during late winter and early spring in temperate climates and after the rainy season in tropical climates.

The current outbreak is attributed to the huge difference in routine immunization coverage between the affected provinces and districts.

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Sindh Province has been hardest hit, accounting for 49 per cent of the 2,447 measles cases reported through the Disease Early Warning System from 1 to 19 January.

Measles cases and deaths by province in Pakistan (1-1-2012 to 19-1-2013)



Source: WHO, January 2013

The Government, supported by WHO and UNICEF, started a mass immunization campaign in early January for children aged 9 months to 10 years in various districts, but vaccine shortages have hampered the campaign in some areas.

Local authorities are establishing vaccine management committees at provincial and district levels to ensure judicious use of vaccines.

Food security fragile in flood-affected areas

Over 80 per cent of the households surveyed in Balochistan, Punjab and Sindh reported receiving humanitarian assistance following the monsoon flooding emergency last year, but many still require continued support due to their enduring vulnerability to food insecurity.

Flood-affected households struggle to meet food and agriculture needs

Food and agriculture support provided by humanitarian partners to flood-affected households		
Form of assistance	Beneficiaries (households)	Province
Food rations	200,000	Balochistan, Sindh
Agricultural inputs	2,388	Balochistan, Sindh
Livestock support	12,670	Balochistan, Sindh
Conditional cash grants	5,400	Sindh
Unconditional cash grants	1,540	Sindh
Cash for work activities	1,875	Sindh

Source: Food Security Cluster

A detailed food security assessment conducted by the Food Security Cluster in seven hardest-hit flood-affected districts¹ from 6 to 14 December found that only 42.6 per cent of the surveyed 1,880 households had an acceptable level of food consumption.

The assessment found that on average, flood-affected households had sufficient food stocks for only one week and more than half of the households were unsure of fulfilling their food needs for the following two weeks.

Over 80 per cent of the surveyed households reported receiving humanitarian assistance following the monsoon flooding emergency last year, but many still require continued support due to their enduring vulnerability to food insecurity.

¹ Jaffarabad and Nasirabad (Balochistan); Dera Ghazi Khan and Rajanpur (Punjab); Jacobabad, Kashmore and Shikarpur (Sindh).

Following the monsoon floods, affected households coped with food problems by skipping meals, relying on less preferred and less expensive food, limiting portion size at meals and borrowing cash to buy food, among other coping mechanisms.

Livestock ownership, particularly of large ruminants dropped by 40 per cent, small ruminants by 45 per cent and poultry by 56 per cent among the assessed households, a devastating blow to overall food security and livelihoods.

Household debt increases due to food and health costs

Household debt has also increased due to ongoing food and health costs. More than 68 per cent of the households reported incurring new debts since the floods, the main creditors being shopkeepers, landowners, relatives or friends.

Agricultural losses during the winter (*khariif*) season and reduced planting of wheat crops worsened the food security situation and adversely affected livelihoods. While 60 per cent of the households indicated they mainly practised farming (small, medium and large scale) before the floods, at the time of the survey only 13 per cent indicated farming as their main source of income, a 47 per cent reduction, as many resorted to day labour.

The assessment found an estimated 28 per cent decrease in wheat cultivation due to the lack of inputs, irrigation damages and loss of seed stocks.

The results of the detailed assessment confirm the findings of the Multi-Sector Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA) conducted in five flood-affected districts in September 2012, which found that the floods increased vulnerability to food security, underscoring the need for continued food and livelihoods assistance.

Standing water hinders return for over 43,000 people

Meanwhile, the findings of the second assessment of the Temporary Settlement Support Unit (TSSU) of the Shelter Cluster in seven flood-affected districts in Balochistan and Sindh show a consistent pattern of movement by flood-affected people towards return areas.

However, more than 43,000 people remained displaced in Sindh and Balochistan at the time of the assessment conducted between mid-November and mid-December, with inaccessibility due to standing water being the main impediment to return.

Over 1.1 million people who had returned from areas of displacement to their villages were unable to reoccupy their houses due to damages.

The majority of the IDPs interviewed feared they would remain displaced for between one and three more months, and would need continued humanitarian assistance, particularly in locations where relief activities have been limited. In Punjab, winterised kits and warm clothes are the immediate needs of the flood-affected population.

Prioritizing gender in humanitarian assistance

Needs of women, girls, men and boys must be met for sustainable outcomes

Pakistan is ranked 134 out of 135 countries on the 2012 Global Gender Gap Index, which captures the magnitude and scope of gender-based disparities around the world. The higher the number, the greater the magnitude of gender-based disparities in a country.

Since the 2010 floods, humanitarian partners in Pakistan have used the gender marker, an Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) tool that codes the ability of a humanitarian project to enhance gender equality, with the best-case scenarios being scale 2a and 2b.

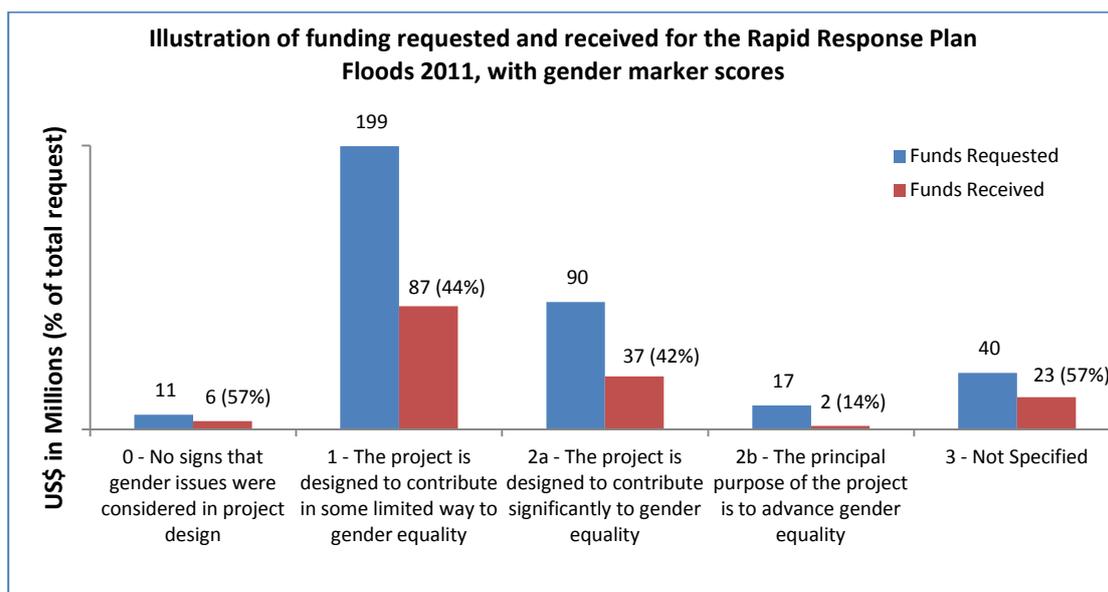
Despite this effort to provide strategic guidance, projects in the 2011 Floods Rapid Response Plan that scored 1 (gender-weak projects) received disproportionately more funding than those that scored 2a (preferred projects).

Advancing gender equality requires focused funded action. Resources need to be included within each project to monitor the outcomes of gender mainstreaming. Donor attention to gender markers would be a powerful motivator for clusters and partners alike to adhere to gender mainstreaming principles.

Resources also need to be allocated in each project design to train, develop resource material, conduct studies and advocate for better gender outcomes.

Humanitarian projects should be designed and implemented with sensitivity to the different needs of women, girls, men and boys.

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Sources: OCHA Financial Tracking Service and Online Project System

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