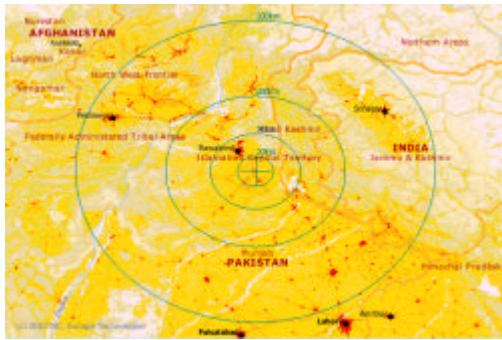


Over 1400 dead in Flooding in Pakistan

PAKISTAN FLOODS 2010- 03 August 2010

Worst Flooding in 90 Years Causes Thousands of Victims



The catastrophe which started already a week ago, has revealed the worst floods in the history of Pakistan since 1929. More than 3 million people are affected by the flooding, over 1400 people died and the authorities believe that the death toll will still be rising.

According to the United Nations the floods in northwestern Pakistan, the probably worst affected region, are going to take on more disastrous proportions as more heavy rainfalls are expected for the coming days and conditions are ripe for the outbreak of diseases. Rising water levels at Warsak Dam, the country's third biggest dam, prompted disaster officials to ask residents in the northern outskirts of Peshawar city to leave their homes. If needed, forced evacuation will be started.

Usually the monsoon starts in South Asia, in early June and lasts until September. During this period, the rain area moves from the south of the Indian subcontinent to the north. Storms and floods cause heavy damage and cost many lives every year.



Flood Puts the Pakistani Government Under Pressure

While the government is coming increasingly under attack, Islamist charities, some with suspected ties to militants, have stepped in to provide aid and are piling pressure on the government to show that it is capable of controlling the crisis. Thousands of victims in Pakistan are still waiting for much needed help.

International aid agencies are constantly trying to reach the mountainous areas, however many of the bridges and roads have been swept away by the water masses. It is now important to fast provide people with potable water, food and medicine, but as the official response is dragging protests are breaking out among the population that is frustrated by the lack of government help, which many complain was limited to a military airlift of people stranded on roof tops. The government and military insist that a full-scale relief effort is under

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way. The disaster management authority informed that tents and hygiene kits had been delivered. And helicopters and boats been dispatched

The government however lacks the resources to take on a disaster of this scale, leaving the military in charge. More than 30,000 Pakistani troops have rescued some 19,000 people from marooned areas so far. Some army bases used to strike at militants in Nowshera, some 100 km (60 miles) northwest of the capital Islamabad, have been flooded.

The government's failure to help victims reinforced the long-held view that Pakistan's civilian authorities are ineffective, leaving the military to act at troubled times.

The north-west is the centre of Pakistan's battle against al-Qaida and the Taliban. Alongside military and police operations, the government is trying – with the support of the west – to improve its services and living standards there, to blunt the appeal of militancy.

Economic Damages

Officials said it was too early to estimate the damage the floods had caused to the economy, but the rains had so far spared the main agricultural heartland in the Punjab. The entire infrastructure that has been built up during the last 50 years has been destroyed.

Now, across Nowshera, people are wading through the water, with bundles of salvaged possessions on their backs. The river should be far away, but water or sticky mud saturates everything, creating a landscape of collapsed homes, fallen electricity pylons and upturned cars.

The U.S. embassy announced \$10 million in immediate humanitarian aid, with more to be earmarked as necessary. The European Union will donate 30 million euros.

