

Pakistan Century Flood

Reported by Nadeem Masih, Pakistan on 31 August 2010

Heavy rains and flood hit massively causing great destruction of livestock, civil and government properties. 1640 people died in the rains and flood in the different parts of the country. Millions of people trapped in the remote areas after the heavy rains. One month has been passed away and people are still under the threat of flood and rains of monsoon. This is the most terrible flood in the history of Pakistan. Monsoon rains caused the worst flooding in decades in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, Punjab and Baluchistan provinces.

NGOs, government institutions, civil and military intuitions, civil societies, religious organizations, TV channels and individuals from various walks of life, made great efforts to rescue, evacuate and provide relief to the affected people in flood affected areas of Punjab, Sindh, Baluchistan and Khyber provinces. It was because of their commitment, spirit, and enthusiasm of voluntarily and humanity bases efforts people were saved from the flood and evacuated to safer place and high grounds. All the above mentioned people and institutions both civil and military tried their best to reach to every one in flood, evacuate them, and provide relief to affected people.

According to the press conference held yesterday, Mr. Qamar Zaman Kaira, Federal Secretary for Information and Communication, 1.3 millions and 49 thousand persons were saved from this flood by rescue teams so far.

Present flood situation in different regions

Dera Allah Yar is still under the threat of flood. There is still high level flood in Kotri Beraj headworks. N-65 Sukkur highway is still blocked. A big relief camp in Karachi, there is need of water, food, milk. Warning has been given to the people of Shadad Kot in Sindh province to leave the village. This town is consisted of 12 thousand inhabitants. Thousands of people are still in open air places waiting for the relief in hot, water and risk of life.

Contaminated water of sewerage after the heavy rains is still not properly dispose off in Jinnah Park area of Rehim Yar Khan (a district of Punjab province. Water flows in the street and on the roads, which caused diseases of cholera and diarrhoea. Inhabitants of this area met with Municipality Authorities to solve this problem but nothing has been done so far. On the other hand when community took their own initiatives by making blockage to stop water going towards houses, conflicts arose among the community. Municipality is not paying attention towards this problem which can create disharmony and riots among people. Water created lot of health problems in Noshera city as there is contaminated water in the streets and on the roads. The situation is likely to get worse if the water is not dispose off.

Gilgut, a city in tribal areas is still disconnected from other parts of the country. Access is blocked to this area and it is hard to provide relief goods to affected people. There is shortage of food, medicines, milk and water. 1.5 million People are in relief camp in Charceda in Khyber Province. Thousands of villages are in flood in Kasur district in Punjab Province. Ravi and Satluj rivers are at high flood levels. Flood in Sulemaniki headworks in Punjab Province. Deaths are happening due to snake bites, animals and diseases.

Destruction and Damages

- 19 districts out of 23 districts in Baluchistan province are affected. 5'000 villages in this province are swept away by water.
- 0.6 Million people migrated from Baluchistan to Karachi and other safer places.
- 0.6 Million people are homeless in Baluchistan province.
- 80 % sugar cane and 20 % wheat crops are destroyed in Dera Ghazi Khan District in Punjab Province.

Post Flood Development and Rehabilitation

International Response and aids

- Yemen sent aircraft of food, milk, medicines.
- British Government donated 10 bridges for northern areas
- China sent 36 doctors, 19 technicians and medicines for the affected people of district Thatha. (Sindh province)
- Japan sent 10 helicopters for rescue operation.
- United Arab Emirates made promises to donate for affected people in kind and cash.
- United States of America pledges a huge amount for relief and rehabilitation. US government also sent 20 helicopters for rescue operation. Washington provided rescue boats, water filtration units and prefabricated steel bridges.
- Saudi Arabia set up two field hospitals of 200 beds for Charceda (Khyber Province). 22 doctors and 100 medical staffs will serve in these hospitals.

Government Initiatives

- Turkham-Karachi Road is opened for traffic.
- Repairing work of Thatha canal is 70 % completed.
- Indus Highway is opened for public traffic.
- Pakistani army provided 200 tons rice for the relief camp in Quetta.
- Prime Minister of Pakistan said today, construction of houses is the first priority of government for the rehabilitation. Government will provide cash money to affected people to construct their houses. And the first installment of relief money will be given to every affected family soon.
- Mr. Abid Sher Ali, member provincial assembly (Muslim League N-Group) said, they have motivated people and collected food, medicines, water from people and sent 10 trucks for affected people of Noshera (Khyber-Phakhtukhuwa Province).
- Punjab Provincial Government installed 13 mechanical ovens to bake roti (traditional bread) for the flood affected people of Dera Ghazi Khan.
- 0.8 Million persons are rescued and sent to safer places in Noshera City in Khyber Province.
- Government took back the decision of export of 2 millions ton wheat due to flood.

Community and institutional donations

- University of agriculture dispatched 13 trucks of food, milk, medicines, water and agricultural inputs and instruments for the flood affected people. University administration also decided to give 10 thousands poultry birds.
- Students of Lahore University of Management sciences collected contribution from the individuals and passer-by on the road for the flood affected people.
- Medical Association Punjab sent medical aids for 3500 patients. MAP also gave check of 3 millions(Pak. rupees)to Chief Minister Punjab as donation

Hurdle and difficulties in relief and rehabilitation work

Feudal lords and political influences at various places are creating disturbance in the distribution of relief goods. Affected tenants and farmers have to get recommendation letters from their landlords. This makes the equal and timely distribution very difficult. At some places, relief is distributed on the national identity card. But people do not have any thing with them as their houses are totally demolished and every belonging is washed away by flood.

Terrorist's activities are also stopping people and NGOs, to carry out relief and aid activities in some of the areas.

As people are hungry and thirsty in the highly flood affected areas, whenever relief goods arrive there, they try to snatch the food, water and milk for their kids and family. It is the matter of uncertainty of the availability of the stuff.

In hardest-hit areas, there is water on hundreds of miles, it is not easy to reach to those who are in water and they are cut off from other parts and access is blocked to these areas.

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Note: Facts and figures and information are according to the Local TV channels and Newspaper. Some information is feedback of the people visited hardest-hit areas. Given data can differ with the official data.

