



Highlights

- Heavy monsoon rains in Pakistan have triggered flash floods, claimed the lives of at least 60 people and rendered thousands homeless since 1 August.
- In Balochistan, extensive flooding and damages have been reported in Sibi, Harnai, Jhal Magsi, Loralai and Jaffarabad districts.
- In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the PDMA reported deaths, injuries and damages in Chitral, Bannu, Tank, Peshawar and Lakki Marwat districts. Flash floods damaged houses, irrigation canals and water and electricity supply systems.
- In Punjab, hill torrents unleashed by heavy rains swept through over 187,000 acres of farmland and affected over 165,000 people in Rajanpur.
- In Sindh, Karachi reportedly received 140mm of rain and is worst affected. Lyari and Malir streams (nullahs) and runoff water from Kirthar Ranges caused extensive flooding and loss of life, property and infrastructure.



Rajanpur: (photo: AGAHE)

Pakistan – monsoon floods – 2013

Since 1st August, nation-wide substantial monsoon rains in Pakistan have prompted flash floods that have claimed the lives of at least 60 people and rendered thousands homeless since. The floods have also led to a widespread loss of crops, property and livelihoods, and have caused pervasive damages to infrastructure.

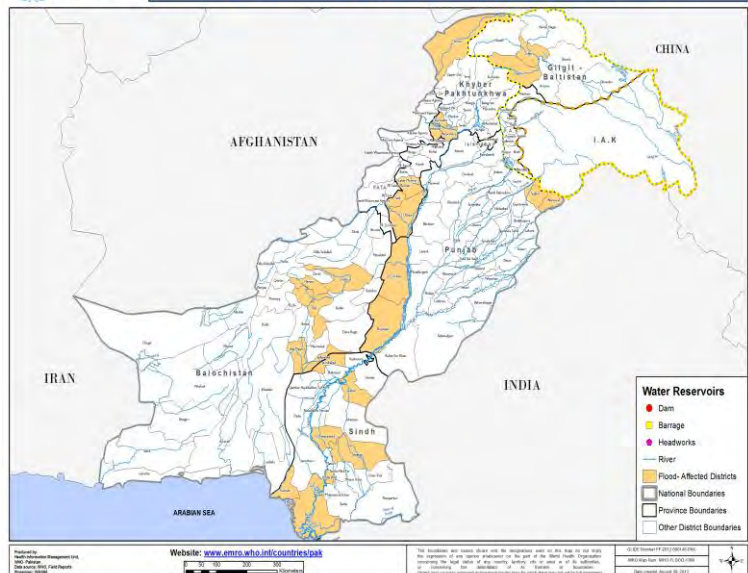
According to initial information, the worse hit areas are Rajanpur and DG Khan in South Punjab, Chitral, Peshawar, Charsada, Tank, Lakki Marwat and DI Khan in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, rural areas of Jacobabad, Sukkur, Benazirabad, Sanghar, Thatta and urban areas including Karachi and Hyderabad in Sindh, Jhal Magsi, Sibi, Harnai, Loralai and Jaffarabad districts in Baluchistan.

Punjab:

According to initial assessment reports, hill torrents unleashed by heavy rains swept through acres of farmland and affected population in more than 7 Union Councils of Rajanpur district. Floods also affected Dera Ghazi Khan and Narowal along with some parts of Sialkot district as well. As per initial report of District Government 127,500 cusec flood came from Dara Kaha, Chachar and Suri and crossing Tehsil Jampur and Rajanpur that affected mud houses and washed away agricultural crops. Peoples are rendered homeless, crops and livestock has been badly affected by recent flood.



Pakistan : Flood- Affected Districts, 2013



Sindh:

Due to heavy rains in Karachi, low lying areas of Gaddap, Malir, Orangi, North Karachi, Liaquatabad, Gulberg, Korangi, Saddar and North Nazimabad have been affected as rain water entered into residential areas. Situation worsened due to a breach reported in Gaddap band near Northern bypass and heavy flood entered in low lying residential areas. Navy boats were called in to rescue residents stuck in their flooded houses. According to district administration still no any death reported from any part of the city due to heavy rains. Media reported 10-deaths due to electric shock in different areas of the cities.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa:

In KP, the PDMA reported deaths, injuries and damages in Chitral, Bannu, Tank, Peshawar and Lakki Marwat districts. Flash floods damaged houses, irrigation canals and water and electricity supply systems. The PDMA distributed NFIs to affected families from Chitral and Peshawar. As per PDMA report, 10 people are reported dead and more than 20 injured. Among the dead, 5 deaths were reported from Chitral, 4 from Peshawar and one from Lakki. So far no damage is reported to health facilities in these districts. No alert/outbreak reported from these areas so far, though the risk is too high for waterborne diseases, as some water supply schemes are badly damaged.

Balochistan:

The recent spell of Monsoon rains started (in Koh E Suleman range) on 2nd August affecting Loralai and continued till 4th August by affecting another 7 districts (JhalMagsi, Naseerabad, Jaffarabad, Sibi, Harnai, Khuzdar and Lasbela). PDMA requested WHO to provide medicine, bed nets to affected districts. WHO has already prepositioned stock of 03 EHK and 02 DDK at Naseerabad to address the medicines needs in the district. DEWS Surveillance officers have close coordination with district administrator and DHO regarding health related need for affected districts. Union council Gandawa and Kot magsi of district Jhal Magsi are fully affected due to flash flood and still under water and not accessible due to damage of roads. DHQ-Hospital is fully under water and there is no access while DHQ is not functional.

WHO's Preparedness and Response:

Health as a frontline life saving cluster is ready to support the affected population as per need and request from the federal or provincial government. Rapid Response Teams of WHO are monitoring the disease situation for prevention and control of disease outbreaks specially cholera as risk exists for communicable and water born diseases due to contamination of water sources and unhygienic living conditions in the flood affected areas. WHO has already prepositioned essential medicines stocks in the provinces and high risk districts for timely and speedy health response. The medicines are provided through customized packages including Emergency Health Kits (EHKs), Diarrheal Disease Kits (DDKs), Anti Scabies Medicines, Anti Snake Venom (ASV) etc.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: 75000 aqua tabs, 150000 pur sachets and 60 Kg Hth 70% calcium hypochlorite already handed over to EDOH DI Khan for emergencies will be utilized initially for water quality improvement in the flood affected areas Kullachi D I Khan. WHO will provide further support if requested.

WHO has prepositioned 6 Diarrheal Disease Kits (DDKs) in Peshawar warehouse while sufficient quantity of ORS is available with DG Health and additional contingency stock of Metronidazole tablets is available in the stock. In DHQ Hospital Charsada one DDK kit is already prepositioned and can be moved on urgent basis in coordination with EDO Health.

Punjab: WHO has prepositioned 26 DDKs at its warehouse in Multan out of which one each will be moved tomorrow to Narowal and DG Khan. Additional stock of 22 DDKs are available at Lahore warehouse which can be mobilized as per need and on the request of DG Health Punjab.

Baluchistan: DDKs were prepositioned in 14 districts including 7 high risk districts (Sibi, Bolan, Naseerabad, Jaffarabad, Jhal Magsi, Harnai) and 7 moderate vulnerable districts (killa abdullah, Killasaifullah, Zhob, Chagi, Panjgor, Gawadr and Pishin)

Coordination:

1. Meeting on the flood health response has been planned with DG Health on 6th August, 2013 in Islamabad while close coordination is in place with National Health Emergency Preparedness and Response (NHEPRN)
2. Health Cluster Meeting has been planned for Wednesday 7th August, 2013 while WHO provincial coordinators are in close contact with local authorities.
3. Daily DEWS reporting format was shared with Provincial & District health departments for initiation of daily reporting from the flood affected areas.
4. DEWS Surveillance Officers have started coordination with District health officials, PDMA and NGO partners at district levels in all flood affected areas.
5. Coordination meeting held with PPHI provincial office and they are ready for response to districts except Tank and D.I. Khan where PPHI is not working.
6. Emergency Flood Operation room has been established in WHO country office and has been connected with all field offices and EHA units for daily reports and situation updates.
7. WHO/EHA Pakistan had a video conference with EHA EMRO regarding the current situation including grading of the emergency, sceneries, WHO capacity and response plan and if any support needed from the RO
8. WR has mapped other technical staff across Pakistan to support emergency response.
9. EHA is collecting information on the status of the health facilities in-terms of damages and functionalities. WR will update senior management in EMRO on regular basis to keep them informed and updated.

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