



CARE's Pakistan Flood Emergency Fund



Severe flooding has claimed more than 1,000 lives and affected some 14 million people across Pakistan. Please lend your support to CARE's emergency response.

Overview

Heavy rains during the last week of July have triggered some of the most severe and widespread flooding in Pakistan's 63-year history. Across the nation, hundreds of thousands of homes and crucial infrastructure have been washed away, with the heaviest damage in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK), Baluchistan and Punjab provinces. Some 1,300 people have lost their lives, 1,500 more have been injured, and as many as 14 million children, women and men have been affected – more than the 2005 Asia tsunami and 2010 Haiti earthquake combined. In a disaster of this scale, international assistance is crucial in order to meet the needs of so many survivors.

Damaged and flooded roads and bridges are preventing the government and aid agencies from reaching the worst-hit areas, but CARE is already on the ground distributing shelter materials and emergency supplies, such as mosquito nets, plastic floor mats, water purification tabs, hygiene kits and kitchen sets, to more than 4,000 people in the worst-affected areas of Swat, Charsadda and Nowshera. And our mobile health clinics have treated nearly 5,000 people, mostly women and children. But much more remains to be done; we need your help today.

Monsoon rains will continue until early September, which means that the situation in the affected areas could worsen further, and new areas might still be affected. The planting season is expected to start in September, and if we can't help people recover soon, they will miss the planting season and lose a harvest – which means people will be dependent on food aid for much longer.

CARE has launched an initial appeal of \$5 million to help address immediate relief needs, and to help survivors start to rebuild their lives after floodwaters recede. Your support could make a considerable difference.

Emergency Relief



The northern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) province, highlighted above, is one of the most affected areas, and at the heart of CARE's immediate and long-term response.

Working through a local partner, CARE has conducted eight mobile health clinics in the Swat Valley with a team of four doctors and two female health visitors. These are in addition to the four Basic Health Units (BHUs) operating in Behrain, Tirat, Mayedmn and Chail, where CARE is providing primary health services to some 5,200 patients. The mobile clinics and BHUs will continue for at least the next four months.

CARE is also transporting emergency stockpiles of tents, shawls, mosquito nets, plastic floor mats, family hygiene kits and kitchen sets in the Swat, Charsaddah and Nowshera districts of KPK. Initial distributions are reaching 5,200 people. CARE has partners already operating in Swat, Charsaddah, Peshawar, Rajanpur, DG Khan and most affected districts of Balochistan. They have assessed the damage and needs in these districts.

“The devastation has widely affected the KPK province and we are receiving information about the loss of life and property caused by the floods from all over the province,” said Waleed Rauf, CARE's country director in Pakistan. “Thousands of survivors are now in need of shelter and tents and the basic health facilities, as there is a possibility of an outbreak of waterborne diseases in some affected areas. Therefore CARE is focusing on providing these now.”

CARE has developed an initial plan to reach about 50,000 people with both short-term immediate relief and long-term livelihood recovery. Emergency relief will take priority in the immediate future. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, where the army is evacuating people from their villages, some areas are only accessible by helicopter or boat.

“We are working with the Basic Health Units, mainly in Mayedmn, Behrain and Tirat and we have send out an outreach team of doctors and staff to the areas where access through road is not possible,” Rauf said.

Response Strategy

The overall goal of CARE's emergency response strategy in Pakistan is to reduce the impact of the disaster and protect the lives and livelihoods of people affected or displaced by the emergency.

The strategy has two objectives – short-term and long-term – to help survivors cope with the immediate emergency and then start to rebuild their lives over the next 12 months in KPK, Punjab, Sindh and Balochistan.

- To meet the immediate survival needs of the most affected people in the most affected districts, CARE will continue our distribution of shelter materials and non-food items (kitchen sets, mosquito nets, hygiene kits, soap, etc.), and provision of health and sanitation and hygiene services.
- To help those same populations rebuild their livelihoods and better prepare against future flooding, CARE will also help farmers to rehabilitate their crops and protect their farms from further damage.



Children and other vulnerable populations suffer most in an emergency such as this. Your support can have a profound effect.

Specific activities for each phase of our response are outlined below.

Phase I – Relief (August 2010 – January 2011)

This phase of our response began immediately with the distribution of shelter materials and non-food items. CARE identified local partners with experience in distribution and health and hygiene services – and with a strong local presence in the affected areas – to assist with this stage of our response. During this phase, CARE and our partners will:

- Continue the assessment and identification of affected communities;
- Distribute non-food items (kitchen sets, mosquito nets, hygiene kits, soap, etc.);
- Distribute temporary shelter materials (tents, plastic sheeting, floor mats, etc.);
- Provide health, hygiene and sanitation facilities, including health services and sanitation and hygiene education;
- Conduct mobile health facilities and distribute essential medicine to prevent waterborne diseases;
- Initiate limited livelihood activities, such as cash-for-work initiatives, to help rebuild local infrastructure;
- Build staff capacity on accountability and humanitarian standards, gender and security issues; and
- Work in close collaboration with local authorities to target the vulnerable communities and provide services in an effective, efficient manner.

Phase II – Livelihood Rehabilitation (November 2010 to October 2011)

Areas most affected by the recent flooding are marked by heavy reliance on livestock and agriculture for livelihoods; when the floodwaters rose, entire crops and assets were completely destroyed – and could take years to recover. As funding allows, CARE plans to help farming communities rehabilitate their crops and better prepare for future emergencies, by providing agriculture extension services and facilities, cash-for-work programs and instruction on improved farming techniques .

In the second phase, CARE intends to support activities to help the poorest households affected by the floods in mid and long term. Activities for this phase will consist largely of livelihood interventions and will include continuation of cash for work, as well as some agricultural services. It is too early to have details for this intervention, as the situation is not yet clear. However, a defined intervention plan with coverage and activities will be developed as we gather more information within the next few weeks.

CARE in Pakistan

Founded in 1945, CARE is one of the world’s largest humanitarian aid agencies. Working side by side with poor people in 72 countries, CARE helps empower communities to address the greatest threats to their survival. Women are at the heart of CARE’s efforts to improve health, education and economic development because experience shows that a woman’s achievements yield dramatic benefits for her entire family. CARE is also committed to providing lifesaving assistance during times of crisis, and helping rebuild safer, stronger communities afterward. CARE re-established operations in Pakistan in June 2005, after being out of the country for more than 25 years. CARE places special emphasis on gender issues and building the capacity of local grassroots organizations in Pakistan, working to improve education and livelihoods, as well as maternal and childhood health. CARE also has responded to previous emergencies in Pakistan, including Cyclone Yemyin in 2007 and the South Asia earthquake of 2005.

Notes form the Field

Is This What We Prayed for?

By Jamshed Naseer, CARE staff in Pakistan

July 27 started off like any other summer day. The sun was shining bright and our enthusiastic team of five CARE staff set off to visit Swat district. Once upon a time, this was a hot spot for tourists; the people welcomed visitors with a smile and warm welcome.

My team and I were there to meet with local authorities to discuss CARE’s projects in the area and decide where to focus. I remember falling asleep with the sound of the rain drops echoing in my ears like a lullaby.

The next morning, on July 28, my colleague and I were sitting in the lobby of the hotel, enjoying a hot breakfast and admiring how the rain made the valley look fresh and clean.

We started our journey as planned and through the windshield wipers, I could see people running around covering their heads with news papers, shopping bags and some just their own hands. Women were carrying their children, men were holding household items, and I wondered, “Why are they out in the rain?” The question came and left my mind fleetingly.

But the rain was pouring; visibility was average and our car was crawling along the road, when we heard that the Gwaliari Bridge had collapsed. It was then, that the people on the road came back to my mind. We went as near as we could to the bridge to assess the damage.



As many as 14 million people have been affected by this unprecedented disaster - more than the Asia tsunami and Haiti earthquake combined.

I stood there, watching what the rain we were all praying for had done. The sound of the water gushing ... wood cracking ... and among the havoc, people left everything they had worked so hard for – running to save their lives. I saw fathers trying to keep their young ones safe, hauling them on their shoulders. I saw mothers sacrificing their own security to protect their children. I saw the landslide wipe away homes and the rains bury them in mud. The water did not care who and what it took with its force; it just pushed on.

The road was cracking and giving way to the force of the water. My team was busy getting information from their sources, planning what to do next. And with every second that passed, I felt worse. The sound of the rain that was a lullaby to my ears last night seemed to become a cry for help.

I tossed and turned in my bed at night and I asked my self over and over again, “Is this what we prayed for?”

Conclusion

CARE has launched an initial appeal of \$5 million to help with immediate relief and long-term recovery assistance. To date, we have distributed shelter materials and emergency supplies such as mosquito nets, plastic floor mats, water purification tabs, hygiene kits and kitchen sets to more than 4,000 people in the worst-affected areas, and our mobile health clinics have treated more 5,000 people, mostly women and children. Your support now can make a lasting difference in this unprecedented emergency. Thank you for your support.