



Rescuing and Rebuilding Lives: One Year On From the Floods in Pakistan



Message from the IRC Country Director



No one could have expected the tragic scale of last year's monsoon floods. With more than 30 years' experience in Pakistan, we were able to deploy emergency response teams rapidly to assist communities most in need. Replacing essential items such as jerry cans, buckets, soap, and pots and pans, as well as ensuring communities had access to clean water and hygiene materials, were crucial to preventing the onset of diseases in the early stages of the response. Over the past year we have sought new ways of providing support to the most vulnerable communities, expanding into different provinces and building partnerships to protect human rights and engage community members in income-generating activities to help families get back on track. As I've travelled across the country what has stayed with me the most

is the resilience of the Pakistani people. Their unwavering commitment to rebuilding their lives, despite huge challenges, is a constant inspiration. One year on there is still much to be done to help Pakistan recover. And we cannot forget the thousands of Pakistani's displaced by ongoing conflict in the tribal areas, many of whom faced the double trauma of fleeing their homes only to lose everything in the floods. The impact of climate change will only heighten these threats and place additional burdens on the population. Going forward, we are working with communities to try and better prepare for future disasters, support their returns and provide long lasting solutions for families to keep them safe from harm.

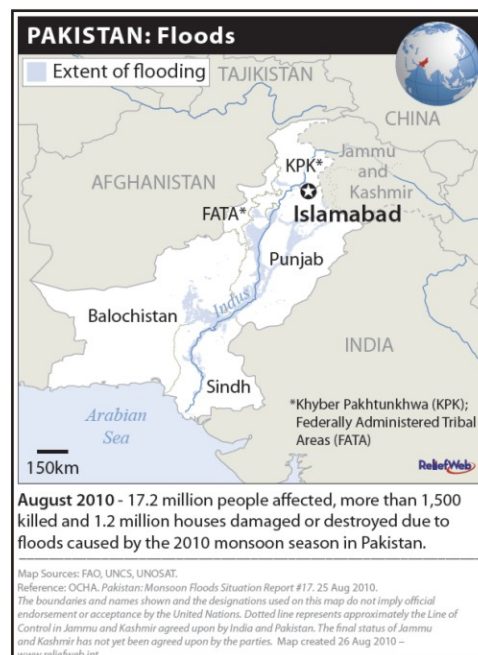
Tammy Hasselfeldt
IRC Country Director.

The IRC in Pakistan

Founded in 1933 the International Rescue Committee responds to the world's worst humanitarian crises and offers lifesaving care and life-changing assistance to communities forced to flee from war or disaster. The IRC has been working in Pakistan since 1980, when hundreds of thousands of refugees crossed the border from Afghanistan in the wake of the Soviet invasion. As well as continuing to support refugees and their host communities, the IRC responded to the 2005 earthquake and has provided support to those displaced by fighting in the country's west since 2008. Since July of 2010, the IRC has been responding to the devastating monsoon floods that affected over 20 million people across the country, distributing essential items such as hygiene kits; rehabilitating damaged schools; providing protection, water and sanitation services; and implementing livelihood programs to help farmers and small businesses get back on their feet. The IRC works in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Punjab and Sindh provinces.

Impact of the Floods

Last year's monsoon rains caused the worst flooding in Pakistan's history. More than a fifth of the country was under water, destroying 2.2 million hectares of crops and 1.7 million homes. Sindh, KP and Punjab provinces were among the worst affected. The floods also devastated the agriculture and farming industry, wiping out millions of dollars in crops and livestock. The impact on Pakistan's food supply is still being felt across the country. Despite substantial progress, nearly one year on, many communities are still struggling to recover. There are also widespread fears there will be further flooding during this year's monsoon season.



The IRC's Response

With a long and established history of working in KP, the IRC was able to quickly deploy emergency response teams, and further expanded target areas to include Sindh and Punjab, two of the hardest hit provinces. Working in 11 districts across all three provinces, the IRC delivered emergency aid and focused on sectors with the most need: water and sanitation, protection, livelihoods and health. In the past year, the IRC has provided assistance to more than a million people with the generous support of ECHO, DFID, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, OFDA, Stichting Vluchteling, as well as private foundations and individuals.

The total amount raised for flood-related activities was approximately **USD 38.7 million**.

Distribution of essential supplies

In the immediate aftermath of the floods, as part of its emergency response, the IRC distributed essential everyday items to families whose homes and belongings were destroyed. These included hygiene kits (soap, jerry cans, aqua-tabs, etc), kitchen sets (pots, dishes, cutlery, etc), bedding kits (sheets, blankets, tarps, etc) and monsoon kits (shovels, gloves, tarps and rope). The IRC adopted a community-based approach to delivering these kits as a way of engaging communities in their own recovery. Local committees, made up of elected community members, took the lead on identifying the most vulnerable and distributing kits. This locally-owned approach minimized the risk of the misappropriation of kits and ensured they reached those in the most need.

- **KP:** The IRC distributed 2,425 hygiene kits, 2,800 kitchen and bedding sets and 2,240 monsoon kits in Nowshera and Charsadda. 4,000 comprehensive Non-Food Item (NFI) kits – comprising all kits – distributed to families in Swat cut off by winter's heavy snowfall.
- **Punjab:** 18,870 kits (primarily hygiene and monsoon kits) distributed, reaching approximately 132,090 individuals (based on average household size of 7).
- **Sindh:** 9,000 hygiene kits distributed, reaching 54,000 beneficiaries; 9,000 combined kitchen and monsoon kits, reaching 54,000 beneficiaries; and 5,129 winter kits distributed reaching 30,774 beneficiaries.

Clean water, sanitation and hygiene

IRC Pakistan's largest program is Environmental Health. The EH teams work in every district and agency where the IRC has programming. As well as the distribution of hygiene supplies contained in the NFI kits, other water, sanitation and environmental health interventions included: the supply of clean water through the construction and rehabilitation of wells and handpumps; water treatment; the establishment of water management committees (WMCs) responsible for the management of water sources and spreading hygiene awareness within their community; the provision of sanitation facilities; and community clean-up campaigns.



The IRC has provided communities in Punjab with access to clean water reaching more than 23,000 individuals. Photo: Peter Biro/IRC

- **KP:** To date, 70,000 beneficiaries reached through tankering, water treatment and storage, rehabilitation of water sources and handpumps, latrine construction and hygiene sessions, as well as debris removals. Total target beneficiaries to be reached - 108,500.
- **Punjab:** 23,142 beneficiaries reached through the construction of latrines, new and rehabilitated water sources, and hygiene promotion activities.
- **Sindh:** 190,939 beneficiaries received hygiene training and/or access to clean water and latrines.

Protection

The IRC runs one of Pakistan's largest protection programs and has been co-leading the Protection Cluster/Protection Thematic Working Group with UNHCR at the national level and in Punjab. Working together with IDPs, returnees/stayees and flood-affected populations as well as the Pakistani authorities, the protection program seeks to safeguard the human rights and well-being of those affected by conflict and natural disaster. In the aftermath of the floods, the IRC worked closely with UNHCR to advocate for the rights of IDPs and flood-affected populations regarding Computerized National Identity Cards (CNIC) cards, access to services, government compensation and other protection issues, particularly for vulnerable populations. The IRC also provided capacity-building and other support to protection clusters/working groups at the provincial and district levels. IRC Protection field teams in Sindh and KP reported and referred all identified protection incidents and issues to the relevant service providers or authorities. These cases were then followed up by the IRC to confirm the effective response and support.

- **KP:** 100,000 IDPs (flood and conflict-affected) received information on rights, entitlements, available services and conditions in places of return. Information was shared through legal clinics, brochures and posters as well as at some food hubs and Watan card distribution points.
- **Sindh:** The IRC reached more than 100,000 households (around 700,000 individuals based on 7 people per HH) through special radio programs on protection issues broadcast across six districts.

Safe, dignified, livelihoods

The floods had a devastating impact on livelihoods, with small business owners and farmers often losing everything, including homes, places of business, livestock, crops and agricultural land. To prevent further losses, the IRC has provided support to help restart employment and encourage recovery. The livelihoods programs in KP and Sindh aim to facilitate the sustainable return of families to their villages by providing the means for households to rebuild their communities and return to income-generating activities.



This KP farmer, who lost everything in the floods, now sits satisfied with his healthy sugarcane crop, received through the IRC Livelihoods program. Photo: Luca Tommasini

IRC projects have provided Cash for Work to support repairs to damaged local infrastructure and the clearing of debris; encouraged the regeneration of small enterprise through cash grants and job training; and distributed seed and livestock to help get farmers back into the fields. This has helped reduce dependence on food aid and revitalized local economies.

- **KP:** Approximately 18,405 households or around 39% of the population received food security and livelihoods assistance. Another 16,000 people benefited from improved conditions and cleared roads in 11 villages.
- **Sindh:** More than 10,000 beneficiaries have been reached through income generation and cash for work activities.

Health

The IRC's health program has focused primarily on improving access of flood-affected communities to health care services. In Sindh, the IRC is providing integrated primary and secondary health services through mobile clinics and medical teams in Qambar Shahdadkot District, and two static health centers in Shikarpur District. Through these health centers, the IRC is supporting, among other services, reproductive health initiatives, obstetric and newborn care, child immunizations, and the screening of children for malnutrition. The IRC is also conducting health education trainings and is integrating malaria control interventions into existing health services. In KP, the IRC has rehabilitated flood-damaged health centers, conducted training for medical workers, mobilized communities on good health practices and distributed long lasting insecticide treated nets to protect communities from vector born diseases including malaria.

- **KP:** More than 56,000 beneficiaries have benefitted from improved health services.
- **Sindh:** The two rural health centers and two mobile medical clinics have the potential to reach 101,232 beneficiaries. To date these clinics have treated nearly 26,000 patients.

Education

The IRC has worked extensively in education in Pakistan for more than 20 years. As part of the flood response the IRC focused on rehabilitating damaged schools. In KP, 12 flood-damaged schools in Nowshera have received repairs and rehabilitation, with plans for 9 more schools in Nowshera and Charsadda districts in the coming months.

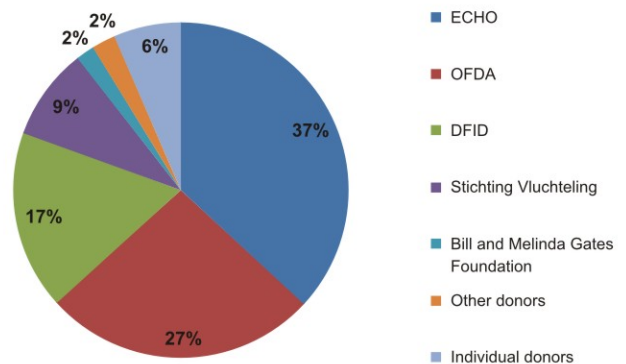
Looking Forward

As the emergency relief interventions are reaching completion, and recognizing the huge needs that still exist, the IRC is supporting the transition to early recovery programming. Given the very real threat of further flooding during the upcoming monsoon season, the IRC is working with communities and local leaders to identify priorities and seek support for new programs to provide lasting solutions and empower families to rebuild their lives.



A member of the IRC's health team treats a mother and child in a mobile clinic in Sindh. Photo: Peter Biro/IRC

IRC Flood Response by Donor



Note: OFDA and ECHO targeted conflict IDPs, flood IDPs, flood affected and host communities

Other donors include: Abraaj Capital, American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Bloomberg and Bloomberg Employees, Cyrus and Jeanne Spurlino, Merck and Co, Moriah Fund, Open Square Foundation, Pepsi/APF, Western Union Foundation.



The displaced in Sukkur, Sindh push trucks filled with their belongings through flood waters. Photo: Peter Biro/IRC

AT A GLANCE

- The IRC supported over **1 million** people across 3 provinces in the aftermath of the floods
- **Hygiene Kits** (incl. soap, rehydration salts, towels, buckets etc): 20,000 reaching 140,000 people
- Total Number of **blankets** distributed: 36,000
- Nearly 300,000 people received access to **clean water and sanitation**
- More than 200,000 people received information on **rights** and entitlements
- 16,000 individuals in 11 villages benefitted from **cleared roads**
- 10,000 students benefitted from **rehabilitated schools**
- More than 200,000 now have access to **healthcare** services
- 5200 households received **poultry** and over 1000 received **sugar cane**, benefitting over 42,000 individuals

Awaljan's Story

Awaljan, a 72 year old widow and mother of four, is from Malakabad, a small village of 450 people that lies alongside the River Kabul in Nowshera, KP province. The sole breadwinner of the house Awaljan owned goats, cows and chickens, selling the milk and eggs as well as running a home-based grocery store. She lived a comfortable life.

This changed in July 2010 after heavy monsoon rains swelled the River Kabul until it broke its banks, and flash floods tore through Awaljan's village. Awaljan was rescued from the gushing flood water by three villagers, however her home was completely destroyed, and her livestock and shop supplies were washed away.

"I lost everything. I was homeless, with no source of income and in serious debt. I moved to my grandson's house and was desperate for help," Awaljan recalled.

The IRC, with the generous support of the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO), provided Awaljan with nine chickens and a rooster, as well as a bag of poultry feed, to kick-start her income. She is now again able to sell eggs for a profit and feed her family. "I would have become a beggar, but you have given me dignity."



Awaljan shows off the eggs from one of her chickens.
Photo: Beenisch Tahir/IRC



Photo: Luca Tommasini



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