

# PAKISTAN UPDATE - AUG 30, 2010

The floods are starting to take a toll on the weary people of Pakistan. Almost 4,000 are reported to be killed or injured. Diseases such as malaria, diarrhea, skin diseases and acute respiratory conditions are spreading rapidly among hundreds of thousands mainly affecting the elderly, women and young children; those with chronic conditions face a dangerous situation in the coming weeks. The UN's Martin Mogwanja warns that "if nothing is done, an estimated 72,000 children, currently affected by severe acute malnutrition in the flood-affected areas, are at high risk of death."

Humanity First continues to ship tonnes of aid from Europe, the Middle East and North America including tents, blankets, mosquito nets, water treatment boxes and water straws, high energy food and medical supplies. Shipments are being done free through the support of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA).

On the ground, truck loads of aid are going out daily from Karachi, Islamabad and Faisalabad to various towns and villages across the country with the support of Pakistan's National Commission for Human Development (NCHD). To date, over 800 tents, 600 water survival boxes, 500 malaria nets and 500 bathing tubs as well as hundreds of hygiene kits, blankets and domestic supplies have been distributed. 600 food packs serving a family of 6 for a fortnight are being shipped out every week, and so far 1.1 tonnes of food aid has been distributed to the needy. Supplementary eid gift packs for the children are also being prepared in their thousands to be distributed in a week's time.

Humanity First is running medical camps across the country treating minor injuries, infections and illness and is also planning to set up a more substantial field hospital. Currently, our response is serving 15,500 people. Humanity First has a large team on the ground and is ramping up the scale of our response covering all regions of the country which is expected to last several months. HF's global appeal for funds has faced a good response, with significant funds raised in 14 countries helping us to plan for the rehabilitation phase as well as the current disaster response, but much more funds will be needed due to the scale of the need.