

Pakistan Floods Update

25 August 2010

The flooding across Pakistan continues to gather momentum affecting 20 million people in an inundation that covers 20% of the country. 3.5 million children are in desperate need of food and medication to fend off malnutrition and water-borne diseases. The number of cases of infectious diseases is rising alarmingly. The latest UN report cites 204,040 cases of acute diarrhea, 263,356 cases of skin disease, 204,647 cases of acute respiratory infection, and the lack of clean drinking water and proper sanitation will turn this into an epidemic.

Humanity First has a team of 200 on the ground working across the country in the districts of Rajanpur, Dera Ghazi Khan, Muzaffargarh, Layyia, Jacobabad, Jhang, northern Balochistan, Peshawar and the Swat valley.

Humanity First has sent hundreds of tents, water survival boxes, weekly food rations for over 500 families, thousands of blankets, hygiene kits and other supplies. In addition, many other shipments are on their way from Europe and North America of additional tents, cholera kits, blankets, water purification tablets and life straws. Other urgent items are high-energy biscuits and dried milk powder, the latter because the loss of so many heard of cattle is making milk a scarce and costly commodity on the ground. The high energy biscuits are particularly needed for children and pregnant women.

As a Muslim country, Pakistan will be mutedly celebrating Eid in mid September. Humanity First is packing small gift bags as a supplement to the aid packs to brighten the day for the beleaguered children caught up in the disaster.

A medical team on the ground continues to run several camps every week manned by a team of local doctors. So far, the team has treated over 3,500 patients. At least \$400,000 worth of aid has been sent by Humanity First and its partners, and around 15,000 people are being assisted.

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