

CHILDREN IN PAKISTAN

ONE YEAR AFTER THE FLOODS –
TURNING TOWARDS A BRIGHTER FUTURE

FROM DISASTER TO RECOVERY, AND WHAT WE
HAVE ACCOMPLISHED WITH YOUR SUPPORT

“ I, like others, was shocked to see the devastation from the 2010 flooding and its impact on children in Pakistan. Over the past year, the global community, including UNICEF, has launched a massive response, reaching millions with clean water, critical nutrition, immunizations, education and other essential services to protect children and their families. Thanks to your support, we have made great progress, and have given a great number of Pakistan’s children and families reason for hope and optimism.”

- Anthony Lake, UNICEF Executive Director



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ACCOMPLISHMENTS (JULY 2010 TO JULY 2011)

- 5 million people now have daily access to clean drinking water
- 11.7 million children have been vaccinated for polio and 10.4 million for measles
- UNICEF screened over 2 million children under five for malnutrition, treating 95,000 for severe acute malnutrition and 256,000 for moderate acute malnutrition
- 294,000 children benefited from 4,250 Temporary Learning Centres
- 397,000 children benefited from our Child-Friendly Spaces
- 47,800 Lady Health Workers were engaged to offer community health services in the flood-affected areas
- over 550,000 hygiene kits and 1.4 million bars of soap were distributed
- 3,000 hygiene promoters have been trained and deployed to communities

INTRODUCTION

A year after Pakistan experienced one of the largest disasters ever recorded, hope and a sense of normalcy have returned for many. Thanks to donor support, UNICEF has made significant progress in reaching those children and families most in need.

The unusually heavy monsoon rainfall in July and August 2010 caused flash floods in the north of Pakistan, with the floodwaters travelling downstream, swelling rivers, breaching embankments and sweeping over barrages in the south. The floods affected four provinces, at the peak covering one fifth of Pakistan, an area the size of Austria, Switzerland and Belgium combined. More than 18 million of a population of 187 million were affected by the floods which devastated rural areas, communities, health facilities and basic social services across the entire country, from the Himalayas to the Arabian Sea.

Immediately after the floods, ensuring the survival of millions of children was UNICEF's imperative. In the 12 months that followed, UNICEF mobilized national, regional and global resources to reach children and women with supplies and services, mounting one of the largest emergency responses in history. UNICEF has achieved many remarkable results and will continue to support the vital needs of women and children to reduce vulnerability to disaster and build a better future for Pakistan's children.

There is still much work to be done. As of this summer, 97 percent of those displaced have returned home, many to dire circumstances. Around 50,000 square kilometres and 2.2 million hectares of standing crops were destroyed and half a million livestock were lost; 1.7 million homes and nearly 10,000 schools were damaged or destroyed and millions of livelihoods disappeared. Families hosting displaced relatives for months exhausted their own savings and assets. The poorest suffered the most losses, many without assets to help recover from the devastation.

With sustained support and the generous investment of donors, UNICEF will continue to provide assistance, strengthen resilience, build capacities for social service delivery and cultivate an environment in Pakistan in which women and children can thrive. Please read on to learn how donor support is already helping UNICEF reach those most in need in the areas of health, nutrition, water and sanitation, education and protection.



HEALTH

The floods affected an estimated 3 million children under five years of age (including 600,000 newborns) and 780,000 pregnant women. Extensive damage was caused to Pakistan's rural health care system in all four provinces, damaging health facilities and displacing frontline staff, including community health workers and vaccinators. Children and newborns were at elevated risk due to the rising prevalence of diarrhoea, acute respiratory tract infections, measles and malaria.

Considering the scope of the disaster, the lack of large-scale disease outbreak is a major achievement. Guided by global experts, the decision was taken early on to immunize all children in flood-affected districts to prevent disease spread. Remarkable immunization efforts reached millions across Pakistan.

- UNICEF and partners vaccinated more than 93 percent (10.5 million) of children 6 months to 5 years with measles vaccination and 98 percent (11.7 million) with polio drops.
- Nearly 12 million children 6-59 months of age also received Vitamin A supplementation.
- UNICEF provided funding and supplies for 47,800 Lady Health Workers to restore and maintain community health services in the flood-affected areas.
- To address the risk of increasing mortality rates in childbirth caused by the floods, 24/7 Emergency Obstetric Care (EMOC) services have been supported or established at health centres.
- During "Mother and Child Health Week" campaigns in September 2010 and April 2011, 13.3 million children received de-worming medicine (92 percent coverage) across the five provinces, and nearly 7.8 million beneficiaries attended health education sessions.

Did you know?

Before the floods, the statistics were already grim: 1 in 31 Pakistani women would die in childbirth and one in ten children would die before the age of five. Several years ago, in an effort to reduce infant and child mortality and provide basic care to rural populations, the government launched the Lady Health Worker Program. These women provide basic health services and information to the country's hardest to reach communities. After the floods, UNICEF provided support for some 47,000 Lady Health workers to ensure that every child and family is reached and provided with at least basic of care.



Key Priorities Moving Forward:

- Continue rebuilding systems and infrastructure that were damaged by the storm while dovetailing flood response activities into regular programming
- Continue to take on and train frontline healthcare personnel (especially women)
- Build government capacity on routine immunization and response to outbreaks
- Strengthen and support the facility-based care of diarrhoea and respiratory infections
- Support government efforts to improve emergency preparedness and response

NUTRITION

Over many decades, poor feeding practices have been a contributing factor in chronic malnutrition. The floods forced millions from remote areas into camps, including many rural poor previously unreachable. With access to information from this population, the extent of the malnutrition problem in Pakistan was revealed to be significantly above emergency thresholds.

- UNICEF initially provided nutrition supplementation to 292,500 children from 6-23 months of age. Pregnant and lactating women benefitted from preventive blanket distribution of nutrition supplementation, including ready-to-use supplementary food, high-energy biscuits and micronutrient supplements.
- UNICEF has trained, funded and supplied 155 master trainers and 4,600 healthcare providers in Community Management of Acute Malnutrition to help identify and prevent cases of acute malnutrition.
- UNICEF is developing a School Feeding Program in temporary and transitional schools.
- As a result of new information on the vast numbers of undernourished children, UNICEF dramatically increased its nutrition targets in an effort to reach every child in need.
- More than 300,000 mothers and caregivers have received support in infant and young child nutrition through the more than 10,000 information sessions held in the affected areas.
- Around 2,750 health care providers have been trained in infant and young child nutrition to help ensure that children receive adequate nutrition, including exclusive breastfeeding during the first six months of life.
- UNICEF led the development of the Pakistan Integrated Nutrition Strategy and is identifying gaps and formulating a strategy with national and provincial governments for addressing malnutrition.



Key Priorities Moving Forward:

- Develop the capacity of the government and partners to manage malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies
 - Work with government to integrate malnutrition prevention into the primary healthcare system
 - Expand the Lady Health Workers Network to reach more children in areas currently not covered
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WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

Post-floods, 14 million people urgently required safe drinking water and basic sanitation facilities. The floods devastated much of the country's water infrastructure and negatively impacted water quality. In affected provinces, the use of toilets dropped drastically from an average of 70 percent to 12 percent. Water quality deterioration has rendered the affected populations vulnerable to water, sanitation and hygiene-related disease.

- Two months into the response, UNICEF was already reaching over 2.6 million people with clean water.
- More than 550,000 hygiene kits and 1.4 million bars of soap were distributed.
- UNICEF and partners supported the training of over 3,000 hygiene promoters at the community level.
- Sustainable early recovery interventions such as water supply scheme repair, restoration and promotion of household water treatment have been scaled up, with over 5 million people (100% of goal) currently accessing safe water daily across the flood affected areas.
- During displacement, UNICEF focused its efforts on installing emergency latrines, defecation trenches and bathing cubicles.
- UNICEF has provided an integrated water, sanitation and hygiene promotion package over the year since the floods to 140,000 flood-affected children in 1,530 permanent schools and Temporary Learning Centres.



Key Priorities Moving Forward:

- Continue to restore water supply schemes for improved access to water
 - Ensure the stability of water supply technologies and build community capacity for operation and maintenance of water schemes
 - Work with partners on improved emergency preparedness and the integration of disaster risk reduction activities as they relate to water and sanitation
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EDUCATION

The floods served to highlight the situation of many children, especially girls, who have never previously had access to education. Attendance at transitional schools is higher than pre-flood levels, indicating a large number of children were not previously being educated.

- Over the year, in the most severely affected districts, UNICEF and partners established over 4,250 Temporary Learning Centres benefiting more than 294,000 children, including 112,000 girls.
- 761,000 children benefited from essential school supplies such as School in a Box kits, Early Childhood Development (ECD) kits, tables, chairs and stationery.
- Mass construction of 500 Transitional School Structures by December 2011 is underway. These prefabricated structures can be constructed in a month, endure for up to ten years, and provide safe, flood and earthquake resistant classrooms until children can return to a permanent school.
- Data has revealed that double the amount of formerly registered children are now attending schools, indicating high demand and a remarkable opportunity for reaching the previously unreached.
- UNICEF trained 5,750 teachers on psychosocial support, use of emergency supplies, school management, 'School Safety and Learning Environment', disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness.



Key Priorities Moving Forward:

- Continue to reach more children who were previously not in school through the construction of additional transitional schools
 - Ensure all transitional schools have child-friendly school packages (including teacher/community training and equipment)
 - Build the capacity for government staff and partners in education by promoting global education standards and incorporating disaster risk reduction in permanent school construction and in teacher training modules
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CHILD PROTECTION

The floods caused insecurity in household food and income and reduced family and individual abilities to cope, putting children at greater risk to trafficking and exploitation, physical and sexual abuse.

- At the peak, 397,000 children (including 186,000 girls) benefitted from educational, recreational and psychosocial support services in 1,200 Child Friendly Spaces (CFS), at both stationary and mobile locations.
- UNICEF established 1,500 Child Protection Committees, reaching 54,000 children with support and service referrals. From April up to December 2011, Child Protection Centres are being established either newly or from converted CFSs.

These centres will strengthen national institutions in their provision of sustainable protection for vulnerable children through the monitoring of child rights, supporting service mapping and referrals.

- To support unaccompanied and separated children, UNICEF is developing new monitoring procedures and systems, and will conduct training for 60 provincial government staff in 2011



Key Priorities Moving Forward:

- Strengthen government and partners' capacity to set up community-based social services, strengthen gender based violence/child protection case management and meet global standards for child protection.
 - Work to transform Child Friendly Centres into community-based Child Protection Centres
 - Support government development of child rights monitoring and reporting mechanisms
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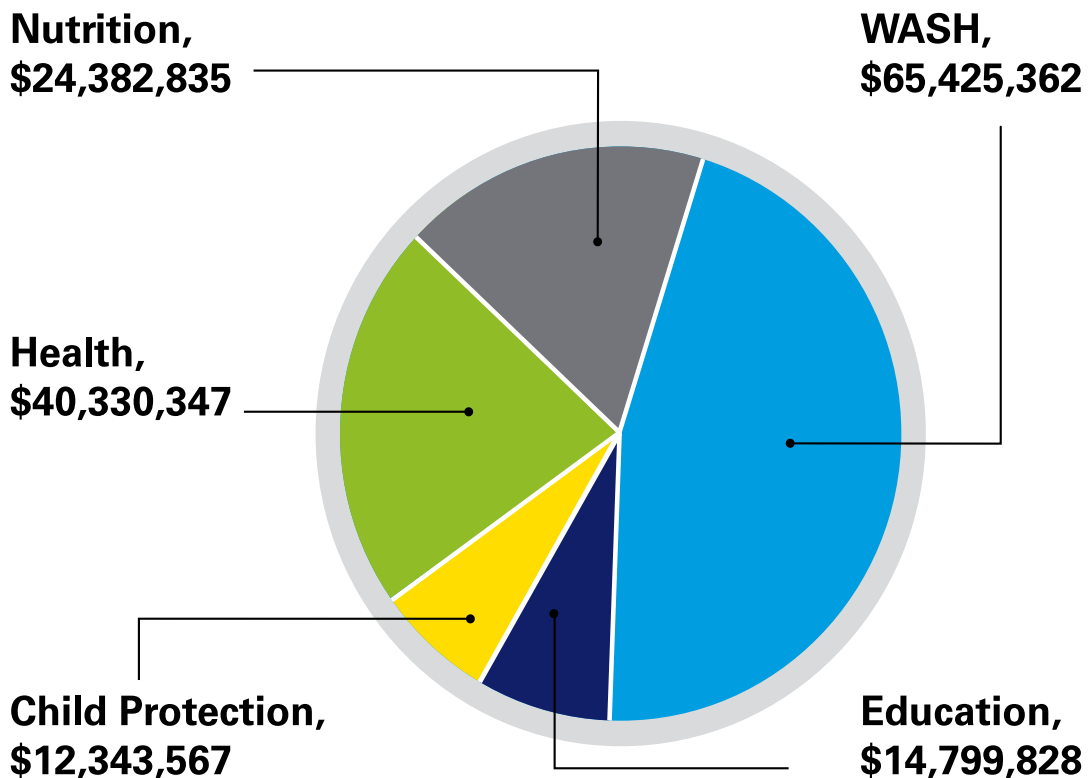
MOBILIZING RESOURCES

The massive scale of the 2010 Pakistan floods resulted in the largest-ever humanitarian appeal in response to a natural disaster. UNICEF requested US \$251.1 million to support relief and early recovery activities through December 2011.

We are exceptionally grateful for the US \$201.6 million UNICEF has received to date from public and private sector donors in support of Pakistan relief efforts. UNICEF National Committees, supported by donors like you, were responsible for 39 percent of the funds raised. Without these timely contributions, the current response would not have been possible.

Of the funds received, US \$157,280,000 has been utilized to meet the immediate needs of Pakistan's women and children. The priorities for the remaining resources in the education and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sectors will be concentrated on the construction of 500 Transitional School Spaces and the scaling up of sanitation coverage.

Sectoral Fund Utilization Overall Utilization = \$157.28 million



LOOKING FORWARD



Although the challenges ahead remain great in Pakistan, UNICEF, with the generous support of donors, has made significant progress in meeting the needs of women and children. The floods created a vital opportunity to address major existing vulnerabilities that were exposed during recovery efforts, particularly in the areas of nutrition, education and sanitation. The UNICEF led Pakistan Integrated Nutrition Strategy and operational plan works across multiple sectors, including health and water and sanitation, to address chronic underlying malnutrition and the nutritional needs of vulnerable populations. Transitional School Structures will help vulnerable children access school for the very first time. With UNICEF support, the government will be scaling up its strategic approach to sanitation to reach at-risk rural communities.

Looking forward, there are clear priorities that must be addressed to ensure the well-being of the most vulnerable children and women. Continued investment in health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene is required to ensure that children survive and that their long-term development is not stunted. These priorities include:

- Eliminating polio through continued vaccination campaigns. Flood and militant conflict has led to polio spread in 2010 and 2011 and eliminating it in Pakistan would be a huge step towards global polio eradication.
- Increasing education access – including for those previously unreached – is critical for children to reach their developmental potential.
- Protective systems must be strengthened to prevent permanent school drop-out, child labour and child marriage.

A vital opportunity exists for UNICEF, the government and partners to address the challenges illuminated by the disaster. In line with longer term planning, UNICEF's strategy will be to strengthen community and local government capacities, including for disaster risk reduction, emergency preparedness and response. UNICEF has worked to buttress community resilience, through the Lady Health Workers and Transitional School Structures in particular.

To ensure the progression from recovery to longer-term national development and child rights goals, flood response programs will be integrate into UNICEF's regular country program up to 2013.

UNICEF is grateful for the ongoing support of its donors. We are committed to nurturing the seeds of hope already planted in Pakistan and with continued support, will remain there to provide assistance to those in need, reach the previously unreached, strengthen systems and build a hopeful future for the women and children of Pakistan.

“Today, there is still much more to be done to address the underlying conditions that made these communities so vulnerable, and to help them build resilience.

Together, we can turn the tide in the lives of children and families of Pakistan who have suffered so terribly.”

- Anthony Lake, UNICEF Executive Director



One Child's Story

Fiza Gul

ONE YEAR OLD, NOWSHERA DISTRICT, KP PROVINCE

Since the floods destroyed his crops, teacher and father-of-four Ibrahim (36), has been struggling to make ends meet for his family. Ibrahim's two youngest children Fiza Gul and Sohaib were identified this year as having severe acute malnutrition.

When a UNICEF-supported community health worker came to Ibrahim's home in Nowshera district in KP, she found that they were both in need of urgent help. "I was wondering why they were getting weaker and weaker," says Ibrahim. "I was very worried about them."

Both children were admitted to a health centre supported by UNICEF and other agencies, and run by implementing partner People's Empowerment and Consulting Enterprise (PEACE). They visited the health centre weekly for monitoring and to receive supplies of therapeutic food - sachets containing a highly nutritious peanut-based paste. After about a month, the children had made good progress and were given supplementary food.

"I was so happy to get this help for my children," says Ibrahim. "Fiza Gul and Sohaib are much happier now, have more energy, and are more interested in things. I'm just worried that it could happen again."

Before the floods, the family income was supplemented from the sale of wheat grown on his land near the Kabul River. The

flood waters inundated his fields and left behind a layer of mud, making the ground unusable. The family resources have since been severely stretched, and the quantity and quality of food for his children suffered.

Nutrition cluster Coordinator, Dr. Najeeb of UNICEF, says that chronic malnutrition existed prior to the floods and the impact of the disaster has exacerbated the situation for children. "Children living in low-income households were already vulnerable to malnutrition, but the effect of displacement, lack of adequate water and sanitation, loss of livelihoods, and inadequate primary health care has in many cases made them even more vulnerable."

UNICEF and partners have screened almost 730,000 children, aged between six and 59 months, for malnutrition in flood-affected areas of KP and FATA. Of these, more than 62,000 children have received treatment either for severe or moderate acute malnutrition. With partners, UNICEF is continuing to scale up efforts to address the underlying causes of chronic malnutrition.

*Ibrahim was interviewed on 28 June 2011
by David Youngmeyer*

