

## **Sindh Agricultural & Forestry Workers Coordinating Organization (SAFWCO) Flood updates November, 2011**



## **Flash Appeal For Flood affected Communities of Sindh**

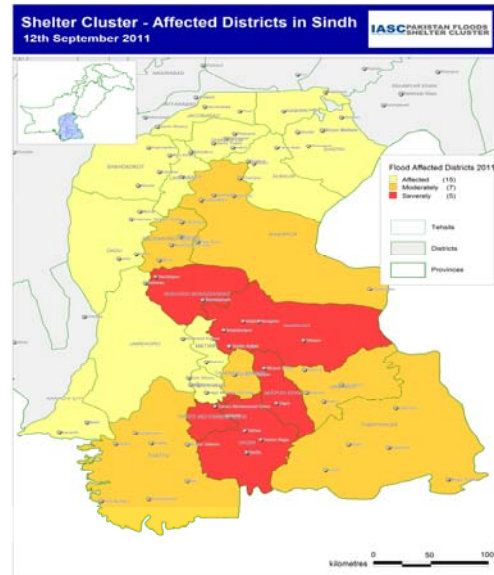
## Background Flood Caused by Monsoon Rains in Sindh

The current Monsoon rains have affected 22 districts of Sindh. Badin, Nawabshah, Sanghar, Mirpur Khas, Umerkot, Tando Allahayar, Tando Mohammed Khas and Tharparker are the worst affected districts of province. In all these districts 88 tehsils, 707 Union Councils and about 40000 villages are affected as reported by NDMA but according to private sources number may increase.

Looking at the destruction caused by monsoon rains government has announced severely hit districts as calamity-hot districts. Badin, Sanghar, Mirpur Khas, Tando Allahyar, Umerkot, Tharparker and Mirpur Khas are announced as calamity hit districts

According to reports of NDMA 466 people have lost their lives in these floods and 766 people are injured. More than 10 million people living in more than 40,000 villages and town are directly affected. According to reports 1.6 million houses are damaged half of them completely and half partially.

The flood water has entered even in major cities like Badin, Sanghar, Benazirabad, Mirpurkhas, Umerkot etc. Thousands of people are displaced in district; still no effective steps are taken for the displaced people and those who are entrapped in flooded villages.



### CONTEXT AND RESPONSE TO DATE

Affected Districts are experiencing heavy rainfall since early August 2011 onwards. This rainfall intensified from August 2011, significantly increasing the level and extent of flooding caused by rain and breaches in canals and LBOD. This increased precipitation is largely due to monsoon phenomenon, with Department of Meteorology records indicating the highest rainfall levels in the history of district, where the entire district is under rain.

At the peak of the floods, with local resources under serious stress, elected representatives of districts MNAs and MPAs, Relief Committee Chairperson, Civil Society Organizations, Local Support Organizations and grass root level have appealed to government and Internal, National, and local Non Governmental Organization for the support of people of district. Thousands of people have displaced and stayed on embankments and road sides to save their lives

No any response has been reported yet by any organization except provision of cooked food in some areas by the government authorities. Presently there 808 Camps are organized in all districts where only one hundred thousand



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people are stayed. (Number varies as given by other sources this figure is given by district Government official)

### **Agriculture and Livestock losses**

Agriculture and livestock are the main sources of livelihoods of people. Agriculture of province is hardly hit which serves as the backbone of economy of province. According to rough estimations by government, the losses range billions of rupees.

Agriculture of province is adversely affected which is reported to be immensely contributing to economy of province and country. More than 2.16 million acres of cultivated land according to data provided by NDMA but the figure may increase after a systematic survey is carried.

Growers' bodies like the Sindh Abadgar Board and the Sindh Chamber of Agriculture (SCA) estimate that 90 per cent of the cotton crop has been lost in lower Sindh and there have been considerable losses in sugarcane, rice and vegetables. The provincial agriculture department's Sept 21 report, however, estimates overall damages to Sindh's agriculture sector at Rs217bn with cotton losses at 75 per cent, rice 26 per cent and sugarcane 34 per cent. Of 4.3 million acres of cultivated area, 2.2 million acres have been damaged.

Livestock is also adversely affected. According to rough estimates more than 1 million heads of livestock are dead and a large number are reported to be diseased caused by mosquito bites, consumption of contaminated water, scarcity of fodder, insect bites etc.



## **Diseases to people**

People with Malaria, diarrhea, Gastro, fever, eyes and many other skin diseases are reported to be present and killing hundreds of people in Sindh province. Drinking water sources are contaminated. And there are doubts of spreading of Dengue and other such diseases as well. The consumption of drinking water caused water born diseases. Death of children due to water born diseases is also reported in district. Cases of poisonous insects are snake bites are also reported in districts of province.



## **Rescue and relief Services by Government**

Government has taken very small measure to help the affected peoples of the district. Army has been called out to rescue thousands of stranded people marooned in floods villages, but still a large number is looking forward for their help and support. Number of camps is reduced to 1713 where hardly half a million people are now staying. But hundreds of thousands of people are looking for their help for about 1 million people are affected directly by these floods. Government has announced PKR 20,000 per affected family but affected families have still not received that little amount. Note consolidated list of relief services by government agencies i.e. NDMA, PDMA, Pakistan Baitul Mal, NRSP etc is attached in **annex**.

## **HUMANITARIAN CONSEQUENCES AND NEEDS ANALYSIS**

The Sindh Agricultural & Forestry Workers Coordinating Organization, one of the leading Humanitarian Organization of Sindh with District Sanghar as her home district and working in flood affected districts i.e. Sanghar, Dadu, Matiari, Thatta, Jmahsoro, Khairpur Mir's, Tando Allahyar, Tando Mohammed Khan. The rapid assistance indicated that immediate humanitarian support is required for:

- Food and NFIs relief, as food stocks and crops were destroyed and market supplies and damaged and destroyed are on the verge of being exhausted
- WASH interventions as floods contaminated water supplies and damaged or destroyed infrastructure such as roads and culvert and sanitation.
- Emergency Medical Services to people with diseases like gastro, diarrhea, malaria etc.

## **Immediate Needs of people**

### **Clean Drinking Water, Sanitation and Hygiene**

Sources of drinking water are contaminated in rains. People have dire need of drinking water immediately. Families require external assistance for access to safe water for drinking and cooking. Furthermore, majority of the drinking water sources are contaminated, thus putting

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these families, including women and children, at risk of water-borne disease. In WASH Sector initially emergency water supply, sanitation and hygiene promotion facilities should be provided in the temporary evacuation centres. Emergency latrines are also needed because in emergency relief camps either there are no latrines or they are not enough for migrated people

#### **Health and Nutrition**

During this constant rainfall some people are suffering from water born diseases and rest other are in threat of more epidemics if immediate initiatives are not taken to drain out the stagnant water and to shift the people to the safer areas. In many camps team didn't find any medical assistance. Patient of different diseases are complaining for medical assistance.

The immediate health need is provide health and nutritional services to the affected population including those staying in camps and safer areas. This can be achieved through establishment of medical camps in relief camps and mobile medical clinics. Ambulances may also be needed to assist in the emergency referral services to those in need.

Medical supplies including medicines, maternity and hygiene kits and high energy biscuits can assist in reducing morbidity and preventable mortality. Potential outbreaks of diseases in the flood-affected areas should be addressed immediately through strengthening of early warning disease surveillance system, and implementing food, water and vector-borne prevention activities. Mobilization of the affected community can assist in the dissemination of health information on health diseases and hygiene and sanitation through health campaigns.

#### **Shelter and NFIs**

Initial assessment figures indicate that over 1.6 million families may need both shelter assistance and NFI relief. Number of families likely to increase in camps and host families can be expected to need both types of support in the coming weeks and months. Basic items such as clothing, anti-mosquito equipment, light sources and cooking equipment are urgently needed by the displaced, including those still with host families, as such items were lost or rendered unusable by the floods. Rapid mitigation of the risks to family health and basic welfare such losses entail is essential.



#### **Emergency Medical Services**

A large number of people especially children and women are entrapped by Diarrhea, gastro, malaria etc. Like other emergency needs, emergency medical camps need to be organized to save the lives of children, women and men especially old age people.

## **Education**

More than half million of students are currently unable to continue with their education. Schools have been closed and many, despite being flooded, are currently occupied by displaced residents of the affected areas.

Schools are close in all the affected villages of Province. In addition, students have lost their education materials including uniforms, text books and learning materials. These losses along with disruption to daily livelihood activities and the difficulties living in the displaced environment have stressed children and teachers.



## **Rehabilitation and reconstruction of Flood affected areas**

These floods have caused a lot of collateral damages in the adversely affected areas. There is need of rehabilitation and reconstruction of houses, social and agricultural infrastructure in these areas so that people can be protected from any other disaster induced by negligence of Rehabilitation and reconstruction of these areas and restoration of their livelihoods to the people.

**SAFWCO Appeals to all humanitarian organization to come forward and help the marginalized communities of Sindh.**