



UPDATE

AUGUST 11 2010

Welcome to this special issue of *UPDATE*, World Mission Council's email newsletter. This issue features news about the devastating floods which have recently hit Pakistan. The regular *UPDATE* newsletter returns after its summer break next week.

Please feel free to share any of the following news items in your newsletters, bulletins and prayer diaries. Where appropriate, please cite the original source as well as World Mission. You can contact us at wmeditor@cofscotland.org.uk.



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Pakistan Floods

Pakistan flood response not enough, aid bodies say

Nearly 14 million Pakistanis have now been affected by the floods and aid agencies in Pakistan have warned that many more people will die as floods inundate southern areas unless more international help comes. The United Nations is to launch a fresh appeal today (Wednesday) to help 14 million people affected by the deluge. It says that so far about 1,600 people have been killed. The UK charity, Oxfam, has described the floods as a "mega disaster" which require a "mega response". It says that so far that has not been forthcoming. The UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) on Wednesday warned of serious threats to the livelihoods and food security of millions.

Source: BBC NEWS ■ You can read the full story from the BBC [here](#)

SOS call from Peshawar Diocese

Our partners in the Peshawar Diocese of the Church of Pakistan have issued the following 'SOS' call through their website and networks:

The monsoon rains have caused havoc all over Pakistan, but the Khyber Pakhtunkwa province has been hit hard by the floods. Thousands of villages are under water and

hundreds of people are either dead or missing. All road links within the Province have been cut down; relief workers are trying to reach the affected people.

The Diocese of Peshawar has launched an emergency Relief and Rescue programme for more than 1300 Christian and Hindu families affected by the floods, including the other minorities. Any possible help will be appreciated.

This summer the monsoon rains have caused heavy flooding, up to 2.5 million people have been affected by the rains. So far, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province is one of the worst-affected areas. Entire villages are washed away, thousands of people have lost their houses and are trapped in floods, only helicopters can reach there, which are in limited numbers anyway. According to the official reports 1,500 people have been killed by floods only in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, whereas, unofficial figure is lot higher. The ongoing floods have so far caused 90 billion loss to Agriculture.

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa the worst hit area is Swat. The people of Swat were first hit by militancy and now they are terrorized by the natural disaster, worst of its kind in the living memory. Thousands are still trapped in floods, as roads and bridges have been washed away.

Similarly, people in Peshawar, Charsadda, Mardan, Pabbi, Tarnab Farm, Tarbella, Swabi and Nowshera have also lost literally everything and are residing in open spaces, apart from floods and no-aid, they are also facing the deadly snakes, scorpions and mosquitoes and have no protection and/or medicines and flood. There are reports that people are also suffering from trauma, gastroenteritis, are also facing the deadly snakes, scorpions and mosquitoes and have no protection and/or medicines and flood. There are reports that people are also suffering from trauma, gastroenteritis, skin diseases, cholera and skin diseases.

Peshawar Diocese has launched an emergency Relief and Rescue programme. The Development & Relief cell of the Diocese is reaching the affected Christian communities in the province, distributing flood and non-food items.

Bishop Humphrey himself along with senior management of the Diocese went to visit the people of Tarnab Fram and Charssadda. They visited every Christian household, consoled with the community, and provided then moral and material support as well.



You can find more information and photographs at: <http://www.peshawardiocese.org>

Church of Scotland World Mission response

After hearing about the flooding, World Mission immediately contacted Bishop Humphrey Peters of Peshawar Diocese, Church of Pakistan, noting our concern and assurance of the prayers of the Church of Scotland. Bishop Humphrey responded:

"Many thanks for the email and all the concerns. I am personally visiting the affected areas, our Christians who are already deprived are in pathetic conditions, difficult to explain in words. They have lost almost everything in their houses; they could only save their lives. Soon after the emergency phase that might last for a couple of months, the most important will be the

rehabilitation."

World Mission has now also arranged for an emergency grant to be sent the Diocese. The Church of Scotland World Mission Council will continue to work together with the Diocese in supporting the relief effort both in this immediate phase and in the months ahead.

Moderator pledges Church of Scotland support for Pakistan

THE Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland has pledged the church's support for Pakistan in wake of the devastating floods. Staff have received first-hand accounts of the disaster from many members of its partner church in Pakistan, including the Bishop of Peshawar, who was present at May's General Assembly in Edinburgh. The Moderator met Right Reverend Humphrey Sarfraz Peters during this time, adding a personal dimension to the crisis.

Rt Rev John Christie said the Church of Scotland had an important role to play as many in the north-west of Pakistan try to rebuild their lives: "None of us can be detached from the crisis which faces the victims of the almost unprecedented monsoon flooding which has struck North West Pakistan. The International Red Cross reports that up to 2.5 million people - a figure equivalent to almost half the population of Scotland - have been affected by devastating floods. The flooding is enormously destructive of lives and property and the agriculture which is the livelihood of so many.

"Information coming through the media tells of a staggering crisis. For example village wells have been inundated with flood water and mud and the water is now unsafe to drink due to contamination by bacteria which causing disease like Cholera and dysentery. The Church as a whole has a particular role to play in supporting our sisters and brothers in the flood stricken area by what we do as we support the aid agencies. We also express concern and assure the leadership and members of the Church of Scotland's partner church in Pakistan, as well as the wider community, of our prayers and thoughts at this time."

Christian Aid response

The development arm of the church, Christian Aid, is focusing their effort on five districts affected by the flooding through their partners, ACT Alliance and Church World Service-Pakistan/Afghanistan. They will be providing:

- food parcels to 5,000 families
- tents and plastic sheets to 2,500 families
- preventative and curative medical care to 2,500 families through three mobile health clinics.

To date, food parcels have been delivered to communities in Kohistan, Balochistan and D.I. Khan, with further assessments being made for other planned distributions. Health teams are treating hundreds of patients through its mobile health clinics in Balakot District, providing free medicines and health education. The distribution of 70 tonnes of food items in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is complete, and an additional 70 tonnes of food items will be distributed in Allai within in a few of days. The procurement of an additional 490 tonnes of food items is underway.

Once the initial emergency relief is over, plans will be made for reconstruction and rehabilitation. CWS-P/A will help communities get back on their feet by helping them restart their business and grow crops once more.

Scottish donations for Pakistan Floods Appeal reach £795,000

Funds are continuing to pour in for the DEC Pakistan Floods Appeal with the latest count of donations showing that Scots have raised just under £795,000.

Disasters Emergency Committee Chair in Scotland, and Director of Christian Aid Scotland, Kathy Galloway, says, "The situation in Pakistan continues to get worse and the devastation is now affecting 40 per cent of the country and many millions of people. As the rains continue, the waters are moving downstream like a 'rolling earthquake' and there are grave concerns about further deaths due to water-borne diseases. Scots have responded generously - thank you - and the UK DEC total is now about £9.5 million. But the emergency is so immense that we need people to rise to this challenge and keep the donations coming in.'

The DEC Pakistan Floods Appeal is separate from the pledges being sought by the United Nations which is hoping to secure funds from governments worldwide.

Floodwaters have now moved south to the Sindh province and hundreds of villages have been flooded. Reports say the protective bund at Torhi in the province's north has been breached and several barrages and dams are under threat from floodwater. The DEC's member agencies have now distributed aid to more than 500,000 people affected. Floods have destroyed villages, crops and infrastructure and damaged some 290,000 homes. A total of 1,600 people have died.

To make a donation to the DEC Pakistan appeal call the 24 hour hotline on 0370 60 60 900, visit <http://www.dec.org.uk> or donate over the counter at any post office or high street bank, or send a cheque. You can also donate £5 by texting the word GIVE to 70707 - see details below.

Source: [Christian Aid](#) / DEC

Prayer resources from Tearfund

UK Christian charity, [Tearfund](#), is also responding to the situation in Pakistan and has downloadable prayer resources on their website, including a Power Point presentation which could be used at a church service. See [here](#) for details.

Prayer Focus

Compassionate God, source of all comfort,
We pray for the people of Pakistan whose lives have devastated by rain and flood.
Bring them comfort, we pray.
Protect the vulnerable.
Strengthen the weak.
Keep at bay the ravages of disease.
Have mercy on all those working to rescue the stranded and to feed the hungry.
And may our response to their suffering be generous and bring you praise.
For we ask it in Jesus Name, Amen.

Christian Aid

Subscription & Contact Information

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The WMC is the channel through which the Church of Scotland responds to the command of Jesus "Go into the world and preach the good news to all creation." (Mark 16:15). The Council works in many countries worldwide, usually on the basis of partnership with national churches and institutions and always with a view to involving church members in Scotland in the development of the work. Our mission is to empower everyone to discover, experience and share the challenges and opportunities gained by connecting with the World Church.



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