



Photo of the Quarter

UNDP supports skills training ensuring that vulnerable sections of society play a role in rebuilding their lives. Women in Shah Wasaiyo, Sindh, proudly work on the reconstruction of a well after being trained in masonry and painting. © Satomi Kato/UNDP Pakistan

Story of the Quarter: Every Cloud has a Silver Lining – Girls' Education

By Malcolm Brabant

Pakistan's catastrophic flooding last summer is leading to a change in attitudes towards sending girls to school. The floods damaged approximately 10,000 schools, of which more than a third were completely destroyed. Thousands of parents in rural areas have traditionally declined to send their daughters to school. But the flood waters forced them out of their villages into areas where temporary learning centres (TLCs) have been set up to try to minimize the impact of the disaster on children's education. Coming into contact with education for the first time has led to both parents and girls becoming motivated about girls' education. The extremely encouraging response bodes well for the prospects of girls being enrolled in schools once families return to their homes.

In Mulla Wala village in Southern Punjab, Aqsa Rehman, 9, happily rocks backwards and forwards in an open-air Temporary Learning Centre (TLC) while reading aloud, her fingers tracing words in a paperback book. Aqsa's education was greatly disrupted by the floods when her school was destroyed. She has since begun classes at a TLC and is now reading with the full confidence of a fourth grader. "We will come to school, even if we have to struggle for it," said Aqsa. "We will help our people by replacing everything they have lost in the floods."

Aqsa's father, Haji Abdur Rehman, works in a vegetable market in Karachi, hundreds of miles from his family. Nine out of his ten children attend school. "I am educating them so that they have a bright future and a comfortable life," he said. "When the girls get married, their in-laws will treat them with respect." Hanging out the washing, Aqsa's aunt, Iqbal Bibi, had a wistful but determined look as she explained that educating their children was a means to a better life. "We hardly have enough to eat or to feed the children, but are still educating them so that they can become better people and get rid of poverty," she said.

Situation Overview



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The 2010 floods constituted the worst natural disaster in Pakistan's history. Its scale can be gauged from the following statistics:

- Over 20 million people affected across an area of more than 100,000 sq. km, spread over 78 districts;
- 2.2 million hectares of standing crops destroyed, and 450,000 heads of livestock lost;
- At least 1.67 million homes damaged/destroyed.

In response the Government of Pakistan, with support from national and international humanitarian actors, launched a massive relief operation. The main relief operation came to an end on 31 January 2011, with the exception of parts of five districts in Sindh and Balochistan where the continued inundation led to relief activities being extended till mid-April 2011.

The flood response is now moving into the Early Recovery (ER) phase. ER initiatives were actually started almost in parallel to the relief phase (both spontaneously by the affected population, and with the support of outside actors), and ER was included in the Pakistan Flood Relief and Early Recovery Response Plan (PFRERP). The ER phase is proposed to run until the end of 2011.

In order to coordinate the activities of the myriad of actors working on ER, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and the United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) agreed to constitute an Early Recovery Working Group (ERWG). The ERWG seeks to foster information sharing and forming of standards to minimise duplications and gaps, and to avoid introducing inequality in goods and services to be delivered to the affected population. The ERWG has been set up at federal and provincial level in the 29 worst affected districts. The Group comprises 8 Sectoral Working Groups (SWG) organised around the 8 prioritised sectors for ER, and 4 Thematic Groups (TG), convened around 4 cross-cutting ER themes – DRR, environment, gender and protection.

Sector	UN Lead	Government Lead
Food Security & Agriculture	FAO/WFP	Ministry of Food and Agriculture
Health and Nutrition	WHO/ UNICEF	Ministry of Health
Education	UNICEF	Ministry of Education
Water and Sanitation	UNICEF	NDMA
Housing	UN Habitat	NDMA
Governance	UNDP	NDMA
Off Farm Livelihood	ILO	Ministry of Labour and Manpower
Community Infrastructure	UNDP	NDMA

CROSS CUTTING THEMATIC GROUPS

Environment: UNDP; Protection: UNHCR; Disaster Risk Reduction: UNDP; Gender: UN Women

The ERWG SWGs and TGs conducted a Mapping and Gap Analysis exercise to identify ER needs, challenges, response to date, funding and funding gaps, and develop ER strategies for each sector/thematic area. ER planning is based on fundamental considerations, key among which are the following: the priority is to tackle the most urgent needs in the worst affected areas, and within this to prioritise the needs of the most vulnerable; activities do not include relief or reconstruction or long-term development; ER activities should be completed by end 2011 and on implementation capacity. The sectoral and thematic strategies have been collated in the Strategic Early Recovery Action Plan. This serves as a guide to help decision-makers prioritise investments, to address the most urgent needs and the most vulnerable sections of the population.



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SECTORS

Agriculture and Food Security

Agriculture - 1.1 million households have been assisted to date, including provision of crop/ vegetable packages to 768,680 households, and livestock packages to 327,340 households. Assistance committed/underway to a further approx. 293,300 households: crop/vegetable packages - 150,000 households; livestock packages - 43,000 households; and Cash-for-Work (CFW) - 100,300 households. As of February 2011, the Government of Pakistan had invested US\$165.71 million for agricultural inputs and donors had provided US\$97.00 million.

Food Security - During March 2011, around 384,000 people were assisted through CFW and Food-for-Work activities, 531,000 students through school feeding, and an additional 220,000 mothers and young children through nutrition programmes across the flood-affected districts. A further 170,000 persons will be helped through international NGOs.

Health and Nutrition

Since the floods, a total of 24,541,717 consultations were carried out through Disease Early Warning Systems. A total of 625 feeding centers for the management of severely malnourished children and 602 Supplementary Feeding Programmes were established. So far 1.3 million young children have been screened. A total of 55,921 out of 89,832 severely malnourished, 155,000 out of 301,000 moderately malnourished and 95,131 out of 180,000 pregnant and lactating women are being served in feeding centres. Seven nutrition surveys have been conducted. 50 deep freezers, 75 Ice Line Refrigerators and 24 solar refrigerators have been provided to the Health department for strengthening cold chain and revival of EPI services in more than 99 health facilities. The required population coverage is 13.9 million, while 5.53 million have been covered.

Community Physical Infrastructure

About US\$73 million has been mobilised; approximately 63,000 CPI units have/are being repaired across four provinces with these funds, benefitting 5.68 million. The response includes repair/construction of link roads, culverts, street pavements, and restoration of drains and water channels. The prioritised gap is US\$ 25 million which will benefit 2.03 million.

Education

Of the total target of 1.3 million affected people, 40% have been reached including 207,449 girls and women, through various activities. 947 flood damaged schools (of which 358 girls' schools) have been repaired; 7,979 teachers (of which 2,904 females) trained in DRR and emergency education; 2,917 PTC/SMC members (of which 342 females) trained; and Temporary Learning Centres (TLCs) have benefited 291,714 children (of which 39% girls).

Housing

The total ER response to date – self-recovery, committed/completed transitional shelters and One Room Shelters, committed non-registered shelters – accounts for 351,980 housing units, or 43% of the total destroyed houses. Registered commitments in PAK and Gilgit-Baltistan cover 100% of the caseload.

Non-Farm Livelihoods

18 projects related to non-farm livelihoods have been completed; worth a total of US\$ 3 million. The prioritised gap is US\$ 15.23 million. A further 127 projects need to be launched shortly, subject to the availability of funds.

Water and Sanitation

US\$1.6 million has been mobilised and 9 projects have been completed; the total coverage is 154,600 households. US\$ 106.63 million is required to cater to the needs of 800,000 households. Sanitation coverage has been challenging because of low pre-flood levels of coverage; nonetheless credible WatSan support has been provided in several affected districts. The success of this is clear from the absence of any major outbreak of water or sanitation related diseases.

Governance

US\$8.74 million has been mobilised; this is funding repair of 190 government buildings and 120 record restoration projects. The bulk of governance sector projects will be launched during the ER phase, with the priority being key district level buildings necessary for implementing reconstruction.

CROSS CUTTING THEMATIC GROUPS

Disaster Risk Reduction – US\$ 10.6 million are required to cover prioritised needs benefitting 4.7 million people. Resources have been raised for community based early warning systems in 81 of the worst affected Union Councils; emergency communication equipment is also being provided to these districts. Initial information management support to NDMA, PDMAs and selected DDMA, and training of stakeholders in managing early recovery is in the final stages of planning.

Environment – A number of stand-alone environment projects (relating to debris removal, de-silting and alternative energy options) have been identified but await funding of US\$ 5.02million. Environmental components have also been integrated into other sectors’ projects, some of which have/are being implemented.

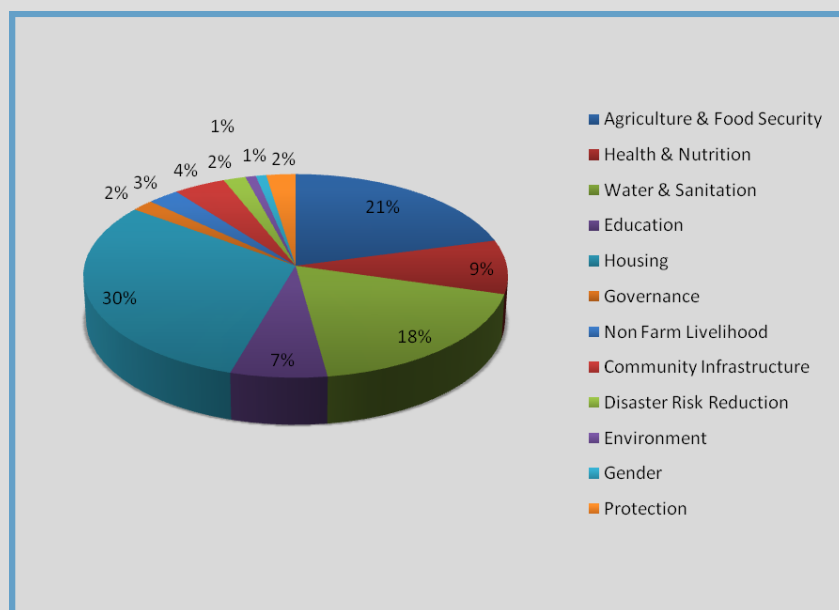
Gender –US\$ 5.5 million is required. A number of initiatives are currently underway promoting gender equality, including: transitional shelters constructed for female headed households and widows; livelihood cash grants; vocational training and adult literacy; women friendly spaces and community centres; vocational health skills training and psychosocial support; and health and nutrition services for women and children.

Protection – Protection will be integrated in all sectors as a cross-cutting theme and promoted through stand-alone activities (gap USD\$ 14 million). The support has been provided through legal assistance, monitoring, capacity building and information dissemination. Other initiatives include set up of Child Friendly Spaces, Child Protection Units, and psychosocial support services for women and children. There is a strong focus on capacity building, institutional strengthening, setting up standards and guidelines for protection, and advocacy. A particular focus area is tackling gender based violence through the

FUNDING

The Early Recovery Working Group has prioritised the needs of the most vulnerable and the table below represents the funding gap for responding to these critical needs .

ER Interventions	Funding Gap (US\$)
Sectors	
Agriculture & Food Security	119,330,000
Health & Nutrition	49,000,000
Water & Sanitation	105,030,000
Education	38,298,486
Housing	174,595,282
Governance	10,540,000
Non Farm Livelihood	15,234,155
Community Infrastructure	25,000,000
Thematic Areas	
Disaster Risk Reduction	10,665,000
Environment	5,020,500
Gender	5,000,000
Protection	14,000,600
TOTAL	571,714,023



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