



**American
Red Cross**

PAKISTAN: Monsoon Flash Floods

August 10, 2010

Since late July, heavy monsoon rains have triggered flash floods and river flooding in Pakistan. These rains--the worst Pakistan has experienced in 80 years--have killed more than 1,000 people and affected millions. People are displaced, infrastructure is damaged and water sources are contaminated. The global Red Cross network is responding, working quickly to meet the urgent needs of survivors.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- As heavy rainfall continues, flooding is expected to continue and increase in some areas. As flood waters move downstream, rising water levels in the Indus River are threatening dams and embankments in southern Sindh province. Evacuation of low-lying areas continues.
- The American Red Cross has committed \$150,000 in relief supplies, in addition to an initial contribution of \$100,000 in financial assistance.

CURRENT SITUATION

Access – Severely damaged roads, bridges and communications systems pose a challenge to transporting supplies. In addition, regional conflict has left several vulnerable areas inaccessible to aid organizations.

Shelter – Initial assessments indicate that more than 272,000 houses are damaged.

Food and Agriculture – Floods waters are reported to have affected more than 1.45 million acres of crop land in the Punjab, which is expected to lead to increased food relief needs.

Health – Flood waters have contaminated water sources. The UN World Health Organization and partners report increases in acute diarrhea, scabies and acute respiratory tract infections.

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS RESPONSE

As a member of the global Red Cross and Red Crescent network, the American Red Cross is dedicated to helping communities around the world. We can provide three types of assistance when responding to a disaster overseas: trained personnel, supplies and cash assistance. To date, we have committed \$250,000 (including financial assistance and supplies like tarps, blankets and kitchen sets) to support relief efforts in Pakistan, and stand ready to provide additional support if needed.

SUPPORT OF DONORS

The American Red Cross can accept gifts designated to the ongoing response to the floods in Pakistan, but asks that donors consider making a gift to American Red Cross Disaster Relief. You can help people affected by disasters like floods, fires, tornadoes and hurricanes, as well as countless crises at home and around the world, by making a donation to support American Red Cross Disaster Relief. Your gift enables the Red Cross to prepare for and provide shelter, food, emotional support and other assistance in response to disasters. Visit www.redcross.org or call 1-800-RED-CROSS. Contributions may also be sent to your local American Red Cross chapter or to the American Red Cross, P.O. Box 37243, Washington, DC 20013.

To learn more about the work of the American Red Cross, visit redcross.org.