

FLOODS IN PAKISTAN: CESVI'S INTERVENTION IN THE DISASTER SYMBOL OF THE CLIMATE CRISIS

A CLOSER LOOK



© CESVI

Since 14 June, torrential rains - three to five times more intense than the average of the last 30 years - have hit the region and combined with the rapid melting of glaciers due to an abnormal heat wave, have affected more than 33 million people, with 6.4 million – including 3.4 million children – requiring immediate assistance. An estimated 1,700 people died and about 13,000 were injured, while 2.1 million homes, 25,000 schools and 13,000 km of roads were destroyed or damaged.⁹

CESVI has been working in Pakistan since 2005, focusing its intervention on activities to prepare the population for catastrophes and natural disasters, reaching more than 2.5 million beneficiaries. For years, CESVI has been operating in Sindh, where it has been helping communities and local authorities to improve their capacities to respond to disasters through training activities aimed at improving their crisis response capabilities. CESVI has also set up “river water monitoring systems” to monitor river levels and prepare for the impact of flooding once the alert threshold is reached.

In addition to the activities in the villages, which have proved to be lifesaving because they have enabled the population to evacuate the areas at risk well in advance, and the volunteers to come to the aid of the victims, CESVI has immediately started distributing emergency kits to support the communities affected by the crisis. We are now stepping up our interventions to stem the spread of disease and mitigate the risk of food insecurity. In Sindh and Balochistan, we continue to provide to over 354,000 people emergency hygiene kits – containing soaps, women’s dignity kits, nail clippers, jerry cans and water purification tablets –, tents, mosquito nets to fight malaria infections, lamps and solar panels to counter frequent power cuts.

With winter just around the corner – even now that the rainfall has decreased in intensity – the consequences of the floods have to be reckoned with: the floods have paved the way for what could become a real long-term humanitarian catastrophe with serious effects on the already extremely vulnerable population. Eight million

9. UN OCHA, October 2022

10. UN OCHA, October 2022

people have lost their homes and fields. These are still flooded by the waters that have been stagnating for more than two months, resulting in the spread of diseases such as malaria, dengue fever, cholera, acute diarrhea and typhoid. Numbers are increasing at an alarming pace, also due to the extensive damage to basic services that forced about 5.4 million people to start using unprotected water sources and about 6.3 million people to lose access to household sanitation facilities (an estimated 950,000 household latrines are damaged or inaccessible).¹⁰

Adding to the worrying sanitation situation is the shadow of hunger. Already before the floods, some 6 million people were at risk of food insecurity. The current emergency has further exacerbated hunger in the region and – due to rising food prices, loss of livestock, fields and other income opportunities – the number of people at risk could rise to 11 million in the coming months. The situation is particularly serious for the most vulnerable groups: in the most affected provinces of Sindh and Balochistan 1.6 million children – 1 in 9 – suffer from acute severe malnutrition and urgently need life-saving treatment.¹¹ 'To support the communities in the fight against hunger, CESVI has been assisting them with cash grants for those who have lost their income. Moreover, we are distributing food parcels – containing flour, rice, pulses, vegetable oil and other nutritional products – and Plumpy'Sup-based therapies for severely malnourished children and pregnant and lactating women.

Simona Denti
Communication Manager
CESVI



© CESVI