

Highlights:

- Severe flash floods are expected in the Nullahs (water channels) and Hill Torrents of eastern parts of Baluchistan & DG Khan division during next 48 hours.
- WHO's Rapid Response Teams (RRT) are responding to alerts/outbreak in the flood affected areas in close coordination with Health Department and NGO partners. Malaria, diarrhea, gastrointestinal and skin diseases have been reported from the affected areas in Punjab and Balochistan.
- Health department Baluchistan has requested WHO for 300 vials of Anti-Snake Venom (ASV) to respond shortage of ASVs in the flood affected districts of Jhal Magsi, Jaffarabad and Nasirabad.
- In Punjab, WHO has dispatched diarrheal and emergency health kits as well as anti-scabies treatments to districts reporting high consultation of Scabies cases and other skin infections.



Medical camp for flood affected population in Narrowal (photo: WHO)

Health situation / health needs:

Baluchistan: In most of the flood affected areas drinking water sources are contaminated due to flood water which poses a serious risk for outbreak of Diarrhea, Malaria and Typhoid. Due to use of contaminated water 100 Diarrheal cases have been reported from Mastung and as a response WHO has handed over 1 Diarrheal Disease Kit – DDK to health authorities in the district. Due to increasing risk of diarrhea WHO has handed over 5 Diarrheal Disease Kits to Health Department in Naseerabad where large numbers of diarrheal cases have been reported. Disease data collected from 03 flood affected districts (Naseeraba, Jaffarabad and Jhalmagsi) from 06- 13 August, consultation reveals Diarrhoea 667 (26%), ARI 223 (9%), Suspected Malaria 503 (19%), Skin Diseases 269 (11%) and Other 804 (31%) of total 2629 consultations

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: PPHI has extended Primary Health Care services in flood affected areas of the province with additional resources have been mobilized to address immediate health needs. In district Lakki marwat, PPHI has mobilized its staff to run mobile health units along with provision of emergency medicines. WHO has prepositioned medicines which will be dispatched as per need to health facilities and mobile health units in the district.

DHO Bannu received 1 Emergency Health Kit-EHK from WHO as a reserve stock for flood emergency. District Health Office-DHO Bannu has prepositioned WHO's provided Diarrheal Disease Kits in high risk areas of the district. Due to increasing number of snake bite cases DHO Bannu, Lakkimarwat and Tank has requested for Anti Snake Venom-ASVs.

Sindh: In Thatta one Mobile Medical Team is functional in district Thatta and 25 patients were treated, most of them were of Diarrhea, ARI, Suspected Malaria, Skin disease. All DHOs of Sindh and EDOH Karachi requested for EHK, DDK and NFIs to mitigate the current and expected flood emergency in high risk districts.

Punjab: CARE International conducted an initial field assessment in district Rajanpur which indicates that due to displacement and harsh living conditions healthcare is one of the priority need along with WASH, Shelter and Food. Two BHUs are affected with floods in the district. Presently, district government is providing healthcare through Mobile Medical Camps. Cases of snakebites are reported, the venom for treatment is not available with mobile camps and as well as with functional BHUs. The assessment also highlighted that health threats includes snake-biting, as people are living in open areas there are chances of sun stroke, diarrhea, Malaria and skin diseases.

In Narrowal approx. 226,000 people in 20 UCs got affected due to the flood and district government has established IDPs camps at 17 locations but there are no beneficiaries in the camps as people are reluctant to leave their belongings. Food, safe drinking water, bed nets and tents are the urgent needs. Only one RHC at Qila Ahmedabad was underwater for some time. Water entered the main building of the RHC but no damage to building, medicines, or equipment was reported. Rests of all

the HF's are safe and functional. EDO Health has requested for support of 3-4 ambulances to improve access of mobile medical teams to the flood affected areas. Additionally, he requested for 4 DDKs, ORS Sachets (20,000) and ASVs to full fill immediate health needs. ARI, Acute diarrhea and febrile illness are the leading prevalent diseases being treated at medical camps. There is a need of WASH interventions (Safe drinking water, water purification tabs/sachets and ORS) to avoid any water born disease outbreak while snake bite cases are being reported regularly.

In Wazirabad 8 medical camps have been established in the affected union councils while Department of Health, Gujranwala has requested for provision of 1 Emergency Health Kit, chloroquine tabs and ORS.

In Rajanpur skin disease is very high while stagnant water in the low lying areas posing threat for increase in mosquito breeding and outbreak of water borne diseases. There is need for quick trainings or orientation sessions health department staff on standard protocols of alert/outbreak investigation and response.

In Dera Ghazi Khan 10 Mobile Health Units are on standard-by in the District to deal with any emergency situation and these units have been provided with fully equipped Ambulances, Medical Officers, Dispensers, Drivers and Guard/peon. Medical supplies have also been provided for these mobile units.

Health response:

Baluchistan:

- 8 medical camps are working in Jhal Magsi, Gandawa, Bareeja, Kot Magsi, Saifabad and Shambani with support with health department while 2 Camps are functional in Jaffarabad with the support of PPHI.
- Rapid Response Team (RRT) has been activated at Jaffarabad, Jhalmagsi and Naseerabad. RRT is in continuous coordination with DHO and NGO partners working in the area.
- 85 Anti Snake Venoms-ASV have been given to DoH for flood affected districts of Balochistan.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa:

- UNFPA has prepositioned 2,096 Newborn Kits along with 15 sets of Clean Delivery Kits for pregnant women in its warehouse in Peshawar which can be dispatched to the flood affected areas as per need and health department request.
- AQUA tabs provided by WHO to Health department are available for distribution in the flood affected areas
- WHO handed over 1000 hand washing soap, 16000 aqua tabs and 10000 Pur Sachets to PPHI Charsadda as contingency stock for flood response

Punjab:

- WHO Office Punjab provided 100,000 Primaquine tablets and 15000 RDTs for diagnosis and treatment of malaria cases in affected districts as per request of Provincial Health Department.
- Anti-Scabies treatments are being dispatched to the districts that are reporting increasing numbers of Scabies cases and other skin infections.
- WHO has handed over 3000 Clean delivery kits to department of health which will be distributed as per need in the affected districts.
- 3000 vials of Anti-Snake Venom (ASV) have been received from NIH and will be distribute according to the requirements of affected districts. Additional 3000 Units are in Pipeline.
- The WHO supplied DDKs (14 out 48) have been distributed to affected and high risk districts of Narrowal, Rawalpindi, Sialkot, Muzaffargarh, Rajanpur, DG Khan and Layyah.

Snapshots of the flood affected areas (Source: WHO Field Staff)



Population evacuated – Gambilla Lakkimarwat



Village Bandmik underwater - Jaffarabad



Pasroor- Narrowal Road inundated



Health camp for affected population-Narrowal

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