



*International Medical Corps staff carry boxes of medicine to load on the vehicles that our health teams drive to flood-affected communities of Charsadda district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, Pakistan.*

Tens of millions of people in Pakistan have been affected by the flooding, caused by devastating monsoon rains, that has engulfed one-third of the country. There have been more than 1,700 deaths, and more than 6 million people remain in dire need of humanitarian assistance. Many people live in unsanitary conditions in temporary shelters on the roads, often with limited access to basic services, heightening the risk of a major public health crisis.

Though flood water has started receding in many districts of Sindh and Balochistan during the last few weeks, standing water remains in many districts, leading to outbreaks of water- and vector-borne diseases—a problem compounded by the destruction of health facilities by the floods. Among other challenges, low stocks of essential medicines and medical supplies, and limits to access, are becoming hurdles to providing adequate health services to people in need.

The winter season in many of the affected areas is approaching fast and is likely to negatively affect the population in the coming weeks. Without adequate shelters and blankets, the health situation will quickly worsen.

The floods have also aggravated food insecurity and malnutrition in affected areas, with predictions that about 14.6 million people will require emergency food assistance from December through March 2023. According to the latest National Nutrition Survey estimates, almost 1.6 million children in Sindh and Balochistan are at the risk of malnutrition that will require treatment; stunting rates among these children will rise if they do not receive treatment in a timely manner.

## **International Medical Corps Response**

International Medical Corps is supporting the Department of Health in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh provinces by providing medical assistance through consultations, and providing essential medicines for a variety of conditions, including diarrhea, acute respiratory infections, malaria, skin and eye infections, snake bites and typhoid. We also are providing water purification tablets to thousands of people in both districts.

### **Fast Facts**

- 1,739 deaths, 12,867 injuries
- 2,288,481 homes damaged
- 13,115 kilometers of roads affected

### **Update by Province**

#### **Balochistan**

- 336 deaths, 187 injuries
- 32 districts affected
- 115,822 houses destroyed, 125,837 damaged

#### **Khyber Pakhtunkhwa**

- 309 deaths, 370 injuries
- 17 districts affected
- 37,525 houses destroyed, 53,939 damaged

#### **Punjab**

- 223 deaths, 3,858 injuries
- Three districts affected
- 25,854 houses destroyed, 42,127 damaged

#### **Sindh**

- 799 deaths, 8,422 injuries
- 24 districts affected
- 716,819 houses destroyed, 1,168,210 damaged

We have deployed 11 mobile medical teams (MMTs) in highly affected districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh, providing emergency medical assistance and essential medicines to underserved and displaced community members. Eight of the teams are working in Sindh, targeting Dadu, Jamshoro and Mirpur Khas, while the rest of the teams are conducting operations in the Charsadda district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

During the reporting period, our MMTs reached 2,820 people in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and 7,165 in Sindh, conducting 9,985 consultations. We have reached 38,259 people in both provinces since the onset of the emergency. Our teams have reached 2,520 people through awareness-raising sessions and distributed 1,070 water purification tablets to 338 people in Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.



One of our mobile health teams carries out general consultations in a flood-affected community in Dadu district, Sindh province.

In Mirpur Khas district of Sindh, International Medical Corps is collaborating with our local partner, Association for Water, Educations and Renewable Energy, to carry out water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) initiatives through the following activities:

- **Water supply:** During the reporting period, we provided 624,000 liters of potable water to the affected population through 19 water trucks, and 200,000 liters through our solar-powered mobile reverse-osmosis plant, which converts contaminated flood water into safe drinking water.
- **Family hygiene kits:** We have provided 300 families with family hygiene kits, which include a bucket, a mug, a jerry can, dishwashing soap, detergent, handwashing soap, toothpaste and sanitary pads.
- **Pit latrines:** We have constructed 95 pit latrines for flood-affected communities in Roshanabad, Mirpur Khas district, Sindh province, helping 4,750 people.
- **Hygiene sessions:** During the reporting period, we conducted 251 hygiene sessions, reaching 1,122 people in different communities of the affected areas.

## Gaps and Needs

The following gaps and needs have been identified by humanitarian actors working in the field.

- There is a need for essential medicines and medical supplies.
- Up to 1.5 million pregnant women need urgent health services.
- There is a need for latrines, to curb open defecation.
- There is a need for awareness-raising about proper handwashing, and a need for hygiene kits containing soap for handwashing.
- Cash-for-work activities are needed, to provide communities with a source of income to support families and reduce stress levels through engagement in work.



Women from a flood-affected community of Mirpur Khas district, Sindh province, fetch water from the International Medical Corps-supported solar-powered mobile reverse-osmosis plant.