



An International Medical Corps doctor gives medicine to a woman in a flood-affected community in Charsadda district, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

Heavy rains and floods in Pakistan have affected more than one-third of the country and caused more than 1,700 deaths. Five months after the disaster, more than 6 million people remain in dire need of humanitarian assistance. According to reports from the field, more than 40% of those affected people are still living along roads in temporary shelters in unsanitary conditions, often with limited access to basic services—thus heightening the risk of a major public health crisis.

The floodwaters have started receding in many districts of Sindh and Balochistan, and families have started returning to their villages, but vulnerabilities remain due to a lack of adequate shelter, tents and food items, including safe drinking water. Cases of water and vector-borne diseases continue to remain a major concern, due to stagnant water that is still present in their communities. Among other challenges, low stocks of essential medicines and medical supplies continue to pose hurdles to providing adequate health services to people in need. Moreover, the winter season in many of the affected areas is fast approaching, and is likely to negatively affect the population in the coming weeks. Without adequate shelters and blankets, it is likely the health situation of those affected will quickly worsen.

According to United Nations Population Fund, around 5.1 million women in affected areas are of childbearing age and 410,846 are currently pregnant, with 136,950 expected to give birth in the next few months.

The floods have also aggravated food insecurity and malnutrition, as the agricultural land in flood-affected areas is still inundated and livestock has perished. About 14.6 million people will likely require emergency food assistance from December 2022 through March 2023. According to the latest National Nutrition Survey estimates, almost 1.6 million children in Sindh and Balochistan are at risk of malnutrition that will require treatment, and stunting rates among 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 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

- Since the devastating floods that began in June, more than 1,700 people have died and almost 8 million people have been displaced.
- International Medical Corps has deployed 11 mobile medical teams, which have provided 17,849 consultations in severely affected districts in Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces.
- In Sindh, International Medical Corps, in collaboration with its local partner, has delivered 816,000 liters of potable water to the affected population through 19 water trucks, and 300,000 liters through our solar-powered mobile reverse-osmosis plant, which converts contaminated floodwater into safe drinking water.

We have deployed 11 mobile medical teams (MMTs) in severely affected districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh that are 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 carrying out operations in the Charsadda district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

During the reporting period, our MMTs reached 4,471 people in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and 13,378 in Sindh, conducting 17,849 consultations for men, women, children under 5 and the elderly. We have reached 56,108 people in both provinces since the onset of the emergency. Our teams have reached 4,764 people through awareness-raising sessions, including 1,730 men and 3,034 women. We also have distributed 8,980 water purification tablets among 898 households and carried out demonstrations to ensure optimal usage.



International Medical Corps staff carry boxes of medicine to load onto vehicles that our health team drives to flood affected communities of Charsadda district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

In the Mirpur Khas district of Sindh, we are collaborating with our local partner, the Association for Water, Education and Renewable Energy, to carry out water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) initiatives through the following activities.

- *Water supply.* During the reporting period, we have provided 816,000 liters of portable water to the affected population through 19 water trucks, and 300,000 liters through our solar-powered mobile reverse-osmosis plant, which converts contaminated floodwater into safe drinking water.
- *Pit latrines.* We constructed 46 pit latrines for flood-affected communities in Roshanabad, in the Mirpur Khas district of Sindh province, supporting 2,418 people.
- *Hygiene sessions.* During the reporting period, we conducted 55 hygiene sessions, reaching 1,080 people in different communities in the affected areas.

Gaps and Needs

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

- shortages of essential medicines and medical supplies;
- a lack of health services for nearly 150,000 pregnant women;
- weak health systems, training gaps for health workers and midwives, and limited access to quality reproductive health services;
- ways of curbing open defecation, including latrine construction;
- awareness-raising about proper handwashing, and hygiene kits containing soap for handwashing; and
- cash-for-work activities to provide communities with a source of income to support families and reduce stress levels through engagement in work.



An International Medical Corps mobile medical team on its way to help a flood-affected community in Dadu district, Sindh province.