



Floods in Pakistan

Swiss Humanitarian Aid one year after the floods
July 2011

Background

The Monsoon rains which fell for days on end in July and August 2010 triggered floods of devastating proportions. Around one-fifth of the country was hit by the flooding which covered an area stretching for more than 1,500 km along the Indus and its tributaries. Over 20 million people were affected by the disaster, and 1700 people lost their lives. According to UN estimates, 14 million people were dependent on humanitarian aid at the moment that the flooding was at its worst.

The floods caused immense damage to infrastructure and agriculture. Now, even one year after the floods have ceased, the country is still suffering from the consequences of the disaster.

After the emergency relief delivered and the measures taken to assist the affected populations in getting through the winter, the SDC is planning a number of reconstruction projects in the domains of civil engineering and water.

The planned reconstruction programme

Rebuilding of schools

To begin, the SDC is planning to rebuild 4 schools from scratch in the Swat Valley, which was badly hit by the floods. The Swiss Humanitarian Aid Department, which will be in charge of implementing this project, already rebuilt over 60 schools according to anti-seismic norms following the major earthquake of 2005, and therefore can boast of its long-standing experience, solid partnerships, and well-developed network.

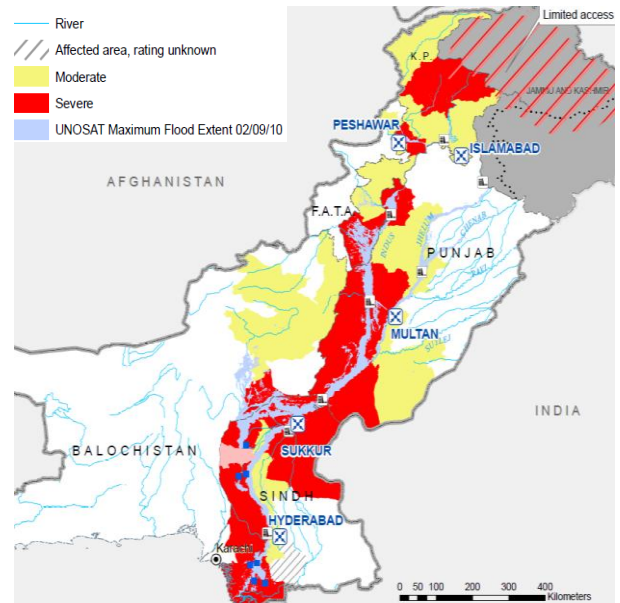
Long-term supply of clean drinking water

Numerous drinking-water supply systems were damaged or completely destroyed by the devastating floods. The SDC will conduct various awareness-raising projects on the cleaning, disinfection, and maintenance of water wells and groundwater pumps. In rural areas, so-called "Clean Tabs" will be installed from which the population can obtain drinking water of irreproachable quality. In addition, the SDC will participate in rebuilding public drinking-water systems.

Three staff members from the SDC and the Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit (SHA) will be on-site to supervise the projects.

In 2011, the SDC will once again support multilateral partners with various experts from the Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit. The beneficiaries of these secondment deployments were, and for a good part remain, the UN-OCHA (UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs), the UN-Habitat (UN Human Settlements Programme) and the WFP (World Food Programme).

In 2011, Swiss Humanitarian Aid will inject an overall total of more than CHF 7 million into Pakistan.



Source OCHA

Medium-term operations

Relief measures to get through the winter

- To provide the homeless with shelter over the 2010-2011 winter months, the SDC and Intercooperation launched a cash project in the Swat Valley. Some 800 families who lost their homes received a cash payment to help them get by. Families who were living in tents ever since the floods had set in, used the money to rent a place to live or to buy cooking and heating ovens, warm blankets and clothing, as well as construction materials to repair damaged houses. In the more southern-lying D.I. Khan district, the SDC was providing construction materials for roofing in order to support families whose houses have been destroyed. These roofs thus provided the families with protection from the winter rains.
- In the D.I. Khan district and the Swat Valley, the SDC financed seed distribution projects. Approximately 7,000 families received vouchers which they were able to exchange for wheat seeds and chickpea seeds, as well as for fertilizers. Funding was also provided for the reconstruction of irrigation dams. These projects too were organized in conjunction with SDC's partner organization, Intercooperation

Emergency relief measures during the floods

At the end of July 2010, within the very first few days of the catastrophic rainfall, the SDC took immediate measures to provide the flood victims in the northern districts of D.I. Khan and Karak with drinking water, food and hygiene kits, in addition to which the SDC also distributed tarpaulins and plastic sheeting for shelters and tents along with household utensils and hygiene articles to needy families in the badly affected areas of the Swat Valley and the southern Province of Sindh. These relief

efforts were organized in collaboration with the partner organizations Intercooperation, the Swiss Red Cross, the Pakistan Red Crescent, and other NGOs.

Clean drinking water

As part of an additional relief effort, the SDC launched projects for the disinfection and distribution of drinking water in a number of different regions.

In the Provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkwa (KPK) and Punjab, experts from the Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit (SHA) briefed and trained the authorities and partner organizations with the aim to guarantee the supply of clean drinking water to the local population. This was achieved with the aid of easy-to-use, Swiss-made chlorine production kits and well-cleaning programmes.

Meanwhile, over 13,000 water wells and groundwater pumps have been cleaned and disinfected in the Peshawar region and in the Provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkwa (KPK) und Punjab.

Financial commitments at a glance

2011

▪ SDC bilateral reconstruction programme	CHF 2,300,000
▪ Contribution to the ICRC	CHF 3,000,000
▪ Contribution to the WFP	CHF 1,500,000
▪ Contribution to the UNHCR	CHF 300,000
Total	CHF 7,100,000

2010

▪ SDC bilateral emergency relief	CHF 3,000,000
▪ Contribution to the ICRC	CHF 5,000,000
▪ Contribution to the WFP	CHF 2,000,000
▪ Contribution to the UNHCR	CHF 500,000
Total	CHF 10,500,000

In addition, the Swiss Solidarity foundation and other private Swiss relief agencies have collected donations amounting to **some CHF 42,000,000** for those persons suffering from the flooding in Pakistan.

The SDC on-site

Switzerland has been active in Pakistan for 45 years and is represented by an SDC Cooperation Office in Islamabad. Cooperation focuses on income generation, water, and agricultural development. In the area of disaster prevention, the SDC supports other projects aimed at the introduction of efficient protective measures, such as floodgates and dams, to prevent flooding. Indeed, the areas which had already benefited from these measures were less severely affected by the floods than those that had not.

Additional information

E-mail: hh@deza.admin.ch
 Tel: 031 322 31 24
 Web: <http://www.deza.admin.ch>

Photos of SDC relief efforts in the Swat Valley and in the Sindh Province



Cash Project in the Swat Valley – Distribution of checks in Shinko and Bela (UC Bashigram) October-January 2010/11



Camp for the homeless with tents provided by the SDC and the Swiss Red Cross in Hyderabad September 2010