HelpAge International: Resource Guide

Ongoing

Generated November 22, 2026 · 4 open facilities · closed facilities are not listed · call before you go: details change quickly

Pakistan

Age UK – 2010 Pakistan Floods

Info/Hotline · Open

HQ: 207–221 Pentonville Road, London N1 9UZ; PAKISTAN

Web www.ageuk.org.uk
Serves Nowshera
Service Temporary

From RELIEF WEB/SITE:

Pakistan floods still spreading fast
Source: Age UK
Date: 12 Aug 2010

The number of people who have died in the monsoon floods has now risen to 1,600 and estimates of those affected stand at almost 14 million.

Despite mass evacuations, there are fears the death toll will rise as flooding reaches the southern province of Sindh and the risk of water–borne disease outbreaks increases in many areas.

Age UK, in partnership with sister organisation opens link in new window HelpAge, is currently responding to the emergency alongside medical aid agency Merlin.

Asma Akbar, Programme Manager for HelpAge in Pakistan:

"We know that older people make up approximately 7% of the general population. This means that almost one million older people may be affected by the floods.

"Obviously we are very keen that any official assessments taking place will include older people. This will help the humanitarian community respond effectively and urgently to older people's needs."

Our emergency response is currently targeting the most vulnerable older people and their families in Nowshera district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. We have staff members attached to Merlin medical teams who will specifically focus on the needs of older people affected.

We are distributing mobility aids, hearing aids, and emergency health assessment kits. We are also handing out food and emergency household items such as flashlights, bedding and water containers.

Asma adds:

"So many people we have spoken to have told us that they had time to take their most valuable belongings with them – maybe a rug, or their livestock.

"But they only have the clothes they are wearing so we are quickly putting together 2,000 new water resistant bags containing sheets, umbrellas, a shawl, and shalwar kameez. We're also including dates in this package for breaking of the fast (Ramadan starts this week)."

In the UK, the DEC Pakistan Floods Appeal has now reached £9.5m.

Services offered: Clothing, Shawls; Demographic Served: Seniors / Elderly; Distribution * (ANY/ALL Types); Donations, Disaster Fund; Flashlights; Food * (ANY/ALL Types); Food Distribution, Emergency/Disaster Food Distribution; Food, Dry, Fruit, Dried Fruits / Vegetables; Information Resource, Online Networking, Facebook Page/Group; Information Resource, Online Networking, Twitter Page/Twitter Feeds; * KITS, HEALTH KITS; Linens, Bedding, Blankets * (ANY/ALL Types); Linens, Bedding, Sheets * (ANY/ALL Types) ; Medical, Equipment, Assistive Devices, Mobility, Misc. * (ANY/ALL Types); Medical, Equipment, Hearing Aids; Shelter, Supplies * (ANY/ALL Types); Shelter, Supplies, Umbrellas; Water, Supplies, Containers
Campaigns: 2010 Pakistan Floods; Age UK; HelpAge International; Merlin (Medical Emergency Relief International)

Updated Sep 27, 2010 · https://reliefdb.org/shelters/6144

HelpAge International – 2010 Pakistan Floods

Info/Hotline · Open

67–74 Saffron Hill – London – EC1N 8QX – United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; PAKISTAN

Phone +44 207 404 7201
Web www.helpage.org/Home
Service Temporary

8/11/10 FROM THE SITE – 2010 Pakistan Floods

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Targeting the most vulnerable

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Campaigns: 2010 Pakistan Floods; Age UK; HelpAge International; Merlin (Medical Emergency Relief International)
Updated Sep 28, 2010 · https://reliefdb.org/shelters/6145

MERLIN USA (Medical Emergency Relief International) – 2010 Pakistan Floods / Armed Conflict

Medical Facility · Open

HQ: 1600 K Street NW Suite 450, Washington, DC, 20006, United States; PAKISTAN
Phone 202–449–6399
Web www.merlin–usa.org
Service Temporary

FROM THE SITE:

September 14 2010

Merlin is ramping up our work in Pakistan to respond to the approaching peak of malaria season.

"We must be prepared to respond to as many as two million cases of malaria over the next four months in all areas that are mildly or severely flood–affected," says Naeem Durrani, Merlin's malaria expert in Pakistan.

"By comparison, last year's estimated figures for all of Pakistan were around 1.5 million cases for the whole year."

Once scale up is complete, the Merlin–trained network of over 2,000 health workers in 16 districts will provide malaria control services through 155 health centres.

Durrani points out that malaria is widespread in all 62 districts that have been severely affected by the floods.

Furthermore, the prevailing and most dangerous strain — Plasmodium falciparum — causes cerebral malaria.

As people have been displaced by the flooding, the potential for disease transmission has significantly increased, exposing 20 million people to life–threatening malaria outbreaks.

"This is the key to saving lives"

Durrani explains why there is an expected surge of malaria outbreaks:

"What you need to trigger an epidemic is a breakdown in health services, a lack of trained health workers, large population movements and favourable climactic conditions, such as a prolonged summer and excessive rains."

"Should the flood–affected areas experience an extended month of hot and wet weather, it could lead to a health disaster," he adds.

Noting Merlin's significant efforts in preparation for the peak of malaria season, Durrani says that this is a Herculean task, given the scope of the flood–affected areas.

"People are asking 'Are we ready?' and I tell them that no one can be truly ready," he says.

"But we are ahead of the curve with a programme designed to improve early diagnosis and in turn prompt treatment and efficient outbreak response. This is the key to saving lives."

FROM Relief Web:

As the floods continue to rage in Pakistan, our long term work to deliver health care in the country continues.

Source: Medical Emergency Relief International (Merlin)
Date: 13 Aug 2010

Merlin has worked in Pakistan since the Kashmir earthquake in 2005, which killed 73,000 people, left thousands homeless and destroyed much of the country's health infrastructure.

Since then, Merlin has responded to Cyclone Yemyin and the flooding in Balochistan in 2007, displacement caused by conflict in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) region in 2008 and the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa region in 2009, as well as to the flooding devastating the country at the moment.

The health outlook in Pakistan is one of the bleakest in the world, with around one in ten children dying before the age of five. The recent conflicts and disasters have only made things worse, further extending the population's need for health care.

What we do

Merlin's work in Pakistan is made possible through a network of over 600 health workers, working tirelessly to provide primary health care, reproductive health and emergency nutrition outreach services throughout the country. We also work to combat malaria in 19 districts in the FATA, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces.

Additionally, in cooperation with Help Age International, Merlin provides services specifically to the elderly in the Swat and Buner districts. And in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa area, we deliver health care to internally displaced people in both camps and host communities.

From the InterAction Site – 2010 Pakistan Flood Response

Medical Emergency Relief International (Merlin) responded immediately to the floods in Pakistan and has scaled up existing operations in northern Pakistan where the worst flood in decades has caused widespread devastation. Merlin's team of 600, including 300 medical experts responded immediately.4 million people have been affected and 1,500 people have died. Merlin teams working in the worst affected areas have treated over 4,000 patients in the last two days alone. Merlin has set up 28 health clinics and deployed 18 mobile teams. Merlin medics are running 24–hour clinics in Jalozai camp, home to over 100,000 vulnerable people, in response to a significant spike in diarrhea and other waterborne disease.

From the site – 2010 Pakistan Flood Reponse:

August 4 2010

Merlin has scaled up existing operations in northern Pakistan, as fears rise that waterborne diseases could exacerbate the situation following last week's severe flooding.

Merlin has more than 300 medical experts responding to the emergency, which is Pakistan's worst flooding in decades. Our teams are on the ground now in some of the worst affected areas, including Swat Valley, Khyber–Pakhtoonkhwa, and Nowshera district.

Marinella Bebos, Merlin's operations manager, said: "With water supplies contaminated and an estimated 2.5 million people affected, Merlin's main concern is to manage the spread of disease – diarrhea and other infectious diseases will claim thousands of lives if we do not act fast."

Merlin’s 300 medical experts are working around the clock to respond to the growing needs of survivors caught up in the floods.

Critical situation for survivors

Dr Fayaz, Merlin's regional health co–ordinator in Pakistan, told us the seriousness of the situation for those affected: "The rains have wiped out whole villages, forcing people to flee their homes with nothing but the clothes on their backs.

"Roads and bridges have collapsed, making it difficult to get help through to survivors, who are congregating in makeshift shelters and camps. "Access to clean water or proper sanitation is nonexistent in places, making this a perfect breeding ground for deadly diseases."

With water sources contaminated by the monsoon rains and landslides, families who were already already vulnerable and homeless now faced the very real risk of disease outbreaks. Our teams have already seen a spike in diarrhoea cases, an infection that tends to plague and adversely affect young children. If patients do not take fluids rapidly, the infection can quickly lead to acute dehydration, which can in turn prove fatal.

Widespread devastation

Whole villages have been washed away by the monsoon floods, with hospitals and health centres destroyed and the infrastructure left on its knees. Tens of thousands of survivors still cannot be reached with land access impossible in some areas. Merlin is airlifting our medics into areas cut off by the floods, setting up health clinics and sending mobile teams out to treat survivors.

There is a desperate need for temporary shelter, clean drinking water and toilets to avert a public health catastrophe. People also need medical care and food along with basic household items to replace those that were lost.

In Swat, one of the worst affected areas, we have already sent in three mobile teams by helicopter. Merlin has been working in the area for two years before the flooding, with 12 functioning health facilities in the region. We plan to keep all 12 health facilities operational and to run at least five mobile teams in the area.

Huge influx of people

We also have six clinics in the Jalozai camp for internally displaced people, in Nowshera. Jalozai is one of the biggest camps in Pakistan and home to more than 100,000 residents; it was cut off by flooding for three days. Our health teams expect an influx of people seeking support over the next few days as we plan to expand our work in the district.

Merlin is also active in Buner District and is monitoring the situation in Charssadda and Shangla, the other two worst affected districts. It is only the beginning of monsoon season and forecasts suggest that the extreme rains will continue for three more days.

This is the worst flooding in 80 years and will demand long–term funding to rebuild health services destroyed in the floods. Merlin was here before this disaster and we are committed to staying for along as it takes. We are appealing for £250,000 to support our emergency response.

Services offered: Demographic Served: Diaspora Populations; Demographic Served: Disabled, Persons With Disabilities; Demographic Served: Seniors / Elderly; Demographic Served: Vulnerable & Marginalized Populations; Donations, Disaster Fund; First Responder, Middle East; Medical, Facility, Clinic, Outpatient Clinic; Medical, Services, Emergency Medical Services; Medical, Services, Medical Care * (ANY/ALL Types); Medical, Services, Mobile Medical Unit/Clinic; Medical, Services, Primary Care; Medication, Rx, Anti–Malarial Medication (Chloroquijne, Resochin)
Campaigns: 2010 Pakistan Floods; 2010 Pakistan – Humanitarian Support for Armed Conflict; HelpAge International; InterAction; Merlin (Medical Emergency Relief International)
Updated Sep 28, 2010 · https://reliefdb.org/shelters/6114

United Kingdom

HelpAge International (HQ)

Info/Hotline · Open

PO Box 32832; London; N1 9ZN, London
Phone +44 20 7278 7778
Web www.helpage.org
Service Temporary

Situation worsens for older Japanese post–earthquake

Source: HelpAge International

Date: 23 Mar 2011

By Rosaleen Cunningham

Almost two weeks after the earthquake and subsequent tsunami that devastated the east coast of Japan on Friday 11 March, it is becoming clear just how badly older people were affected.

The estimated death toll from the disaster is currently 15,000. It is not yet clear how many of those were older people but given that almost 30% of Japan's population are over 60, the figure will be significant.

The oldest old are most at risk

Many older people have been participating in relief efforts and are trying to locate their own elderly relatives. But it is the oldest old who are most at risk.

Hypothermia, dehydration and respiratory diseases are still a risk among older people in temporary shelters. Many lost their medication when the earthquake and wave struck. There is still concern for the older survivors, some of whom in more remote areas are still without basics such as medicines, food and fuel.

The international media has reported over the last few days dire situations in the immediate aftermath of the disaster in hospitals and residential homes, as heating fuel and medicine ran out.

Recovery process is well underway

But Japan is a wealthy, developed country with impressive disaster preparedness and response capacity.

Although the scale and severity of the disaster was initially overwhelming, a recovery process is already well underway.

Though HelpAge International and its partners are not currently launching a large scale humanitarian response, we are providing some financial support to YMCA in Japan, who are responding on the ground.

Longer–term needs being identified

Godfred Paul, Emergency Programme Manager for HelpAge in the East Asia and Pacific region says: "The YMCA in Tochigi has a well established service for older people with specialists in the team.

"They are currently working through their staff and volunteers to reach as many older people as possible in the area affected by the earthquake. They are focussing on identifying the long–term needs of rehabilitating older people, while also responding to the most urgent needs.

"Tochigi YMCA hopes to expand their services to many more older people to assist them with recovery. The YMCAs in Sendai and Marioka (devastated by the tsunami) are also working with volunteers to visit as many older people as possible to carry out individual assessments.

"Some of the more longer–term issues they have already identified are providing older people with psycho–social support, hospice care and residential care (for those who have lost their family members and are left alone)."

HelpAge has been working with the YMCA Alliance in South East Asia for two years, mainly providing training and advice on caring for older people and in introducing concepts such as home–based care into their programmes.

Older people should be included in the recovery effort

HelpAge works internationally to ensure that older people are included in all humanitarian responses. We will share this expertise in the coming months with agencies such as the YMCA working on the ground in Japan.

Our new shelter guidelines include practical suggestions on how to ensure older people are considered in emergency housing programmes.

These have been developed in collaboration with the International Federation of the Red Cross.

Services offered: Advocacy, Special Needs Folks, Seniors/Elders; Demographic Served: Seniors / Elderly
Campaigns: 2010 Haiti Earthquake; 2011 Japan Earthquake/Tsunami/Nuclear Disasters; HelpAge International; YMCA/YWCA
Updated Mar 24, 2011 · https://reliefdb.org/shelters/7824