



Australian Government

AusAID



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Australia's Humanitarian Aid Pakistan Floods





Globally, the number and scale of disasters is increasing.

The Asia-Pacific is the most natural disaster-prone region.

Australia knows from experience the devastation caused by floods. In July 2010, Pakistan's monsoonal rains caused widespread flooding in one of the worst humanitarian disasters in the past 50 years. More than 20 million people were affected—nearly Australia's entire population and more than the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami, 2005 Kashmir earthquake and 2010 Haiti earthquake combined.

Vast areas of land were under water; homes, schools, hospitals, roads and bridges washed away; families left with nothing but their grief. It's hard to imagine how a country recovers and rebuilds, especially when sixty per cent of Pakistan's population struggles to survive on less than two dollars a day. Economic losses from the floods are estimated at US \$43 billion.



Plan International



Benno Neeleman/Plan International

Australia dug deep. Australian families and businesses gave \$16 million to emergency appeals. Many also donated their skills and time, volunteering to help aid agencies deliver relief around the clock. The Australian Government quickly committed \$75 million for humanitarian needs such as food, shelter, clean water and sanitation, and hygiene kits. Early recovery support included helping farmers replant crops, encouraging children back to school and ensuring people have access to health services.

Australians donate more than \$100 million each year to help those affected by disasters and conflict overseas.



RedR Australia



Heather Pillans/AusAID



Credit7



Australian Defence Force

We help countries develop the skills needed to manage disasters themselves.

These skills also help countries to coordinate aid from other nations.

The Australian Government sent a 180-strong civilian and military medical and emergency response team, from state and territory health agencies and Australian Defence Force personnel. This taskforce treated more than 11,000 patients, working in a temporary health centre in the central Punjab province.

Every day up to 300 patients walked kilometres for help at 'Camp Cockatoo'. "I remember I treated an elderly blind man for pneumonia and after I'd treated him he had tears streaming down his face. That sort of gratitude makes you realise how much of a difference we're making here," Darwin nurse Ronnie Taylor said.



Heather Pillans/AusAID

Fourteen-year-old Uzma carried her pale, lethargic 17-day-old son Mohamad into one of the treatment tents a few hours after it opened. Mohamad was severely dehydrated. He had been suffering from acute diarrhoea for almost half of his short life, due to the floods. After treatment, the boy was saved. "My family lost everything in the floods. But thankfully my house was okay so now my family are all living with my husband and I. It is very hot and there isn't much food or clean water around because of the floods, but I am relieved now that my baby is going to be okay," Uzma said.

Australia is increasing its humanitarian work to help those in dire need.





Heather Pillans/AusAID



Australian Defence Force



United Nations World Food Programme



Shumon Alam/Oxfam International

**Humanitarian action
is strongest when
everyone works
together.**

Australia's work was at the invitation of Pakistan's government and supports Pakistan's emergency response and recovery strategy. It has deepened the relationship between our two countries. "It's humbling really to be given permission to come and assist these people in their most vulnerable state," Perth nurse Jo Wilson said. "Most of the people we've seen are parents with kids and they want the same things as us—for their kids to be happy and healthy and get a good education. It's a privilege to be here really, to be able to help them in their time of need," said Cairns doctor Mark Little.

United Nations agencies and Australian non-government organisations and their local partners, also deliver Australian-funded assistance. Food rations have been provided to 8.7 million people across 62 flood-affected districts. Many people will be dependent on food aid for some time. As the flood waters recede, the task of rebuilding expands. Reviving agriculture is critical as it provides food and jobs. Australia has provided 60 metric tonnes of sunflower seeds to more than 30,000 vulnerable farmers in Sindh. We are also helping to rehabilitate land and infrastructure. Our support has provided more than 28 million litres of safe drinking water to 270,000 people.

Preparing for disasters and reducing their potential impact, protects lives and development progress.



**More information
about Australia's
humanitarian aid is
available online at
www.ausaid.gov.au**

Recovery and reconstruction work is visible across Pakistan. Our work with trusted partners ensures accountability of Australian funds in a challenging environment. Our assistance has helped more than 22,000 children get back to school by fixing damaged schools and providing school supplies. It has supported immunisation programs, hygiene education to prevent disease outbreaks, and safe child-friendly spaces and activities.

We also fund teaching teachers and children about disaster preparation and response through the curriculum, as well as community training about the safety of schools. We support the education department to incorporate disaster risk reduction into policy and building safer schools. This work builds greater resilience, preparing for and protecting people from the next one.