



Photo credit: Islamic Relief Worldwide

THREE MONTH INTERIM REPORT

February 2023

Covering the period September-November 2022



1. Overview

Following the start of Pakistan's rainy season in June 2022, the country was hit with extreme monsoon rainfall, leading to devastating flash flooding and landslides that destroyed homes, damaged critical infrastructure, and disrupted livelihoods.

By early August, more than 7 million people were estimated to be in urgent need of humanitarian assistance. Displaced from their homes with little or no belongings, families were living in crowded and unsanitary conditions by roadsides or on elevated ground, surrounded by floodwater and with no access to food, safe drinking water, adequate shelter, sanitation or healthcare.

Faced by the unprecedented scale of the disaster, the Pakistan government requested support from the international community. On 1 September 2022, as the number of people affected by the floods reached 33 million, the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) launched an appeal to provide urgent aid to the most vulnerable and badly affected people. The appeal has raised £45.8 million so far (as of 3rd February 2023), including £5 million of UK Aid Match funding from the UK government.

Appeal funds have been allocated to 11 member charities¹ who are taking part in Phase 1 of the response, which runs from September 2022 to February 2023. By the end of the first three months of the response, £3.7 million had been spent, out of a total Phase 1 budget of £11.9 million.

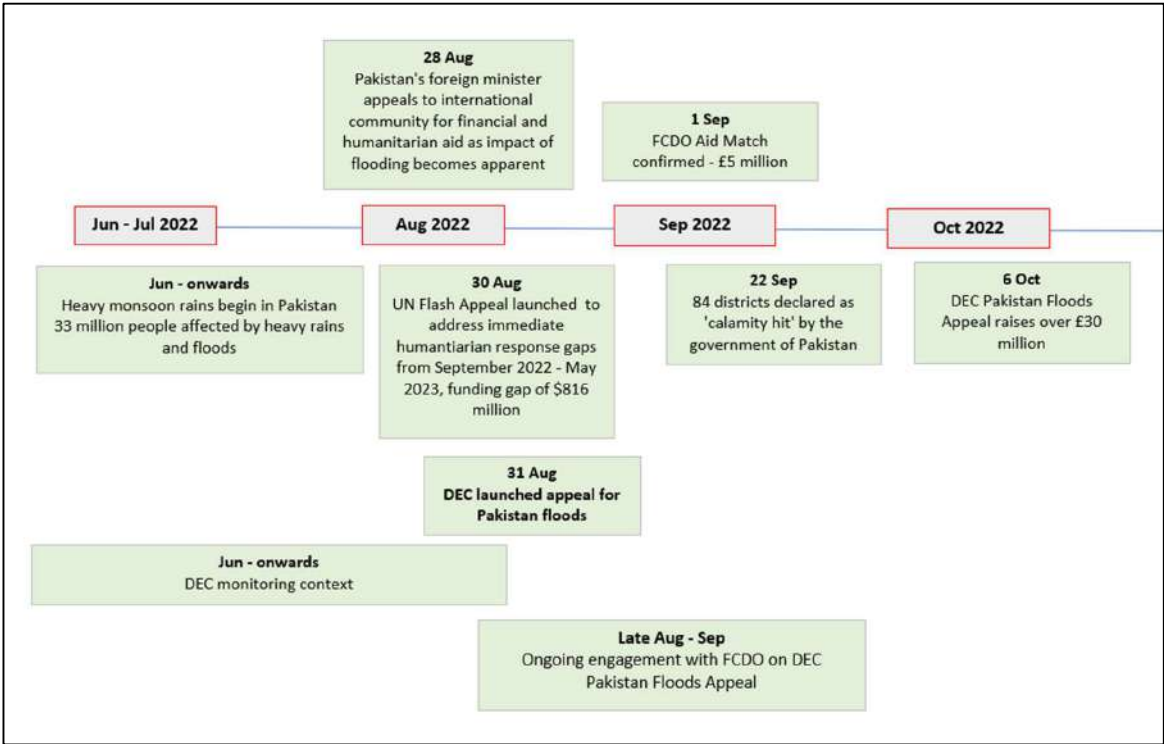
DEC funds have been used to provide life-saving aid in the immediate aftermath of the disaster and ongoing support to people whose lives and livelihoods have been devastated by the floods. During the first three months of the response, DEC member charities and their partners have provided:

- Temporary shelter for families made homeless (tents, tarpaulins, household items, and winter support kits of clothing and blankets)
- Access to clean water and hygiene kits (including soap, toothbrushes, water purification tablets and sanitary items)
- Food supplies for families who lost their livelihoods
- Cash support to meet urgent needs (for example food and medicine)
- Mobile healthcare services and support

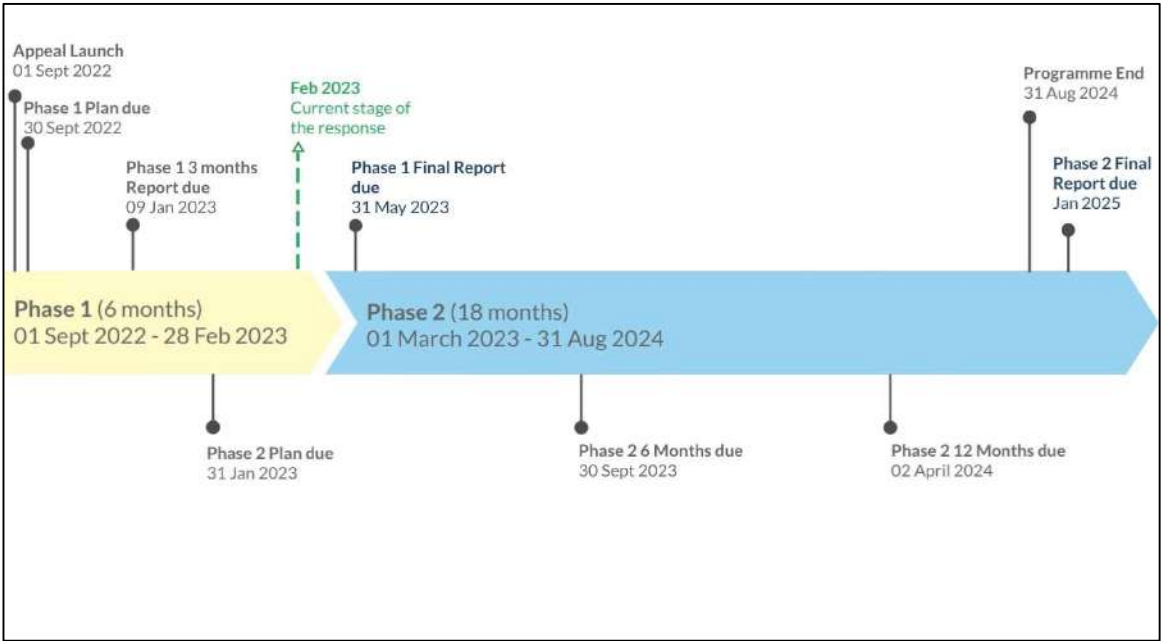
This interim report provides a summary of the main achievements of 11 DEC member charities in Pakistan during the first three months of the response from September to November 2022; the challenges in delivering humanitarian assistance and how DEC member charities are meeting them; and the ways in which DEC member charities will support flood-affected communities in Pakistan during the remainder of Phase 1 and help people recover and rebuild during Phase 2 of the response, which runs from March 2023 to August 2024.

¹ DEC member charities who are receiving DEC funds in the Pakistan Floods Appeal are: Action Against Hunger, Age International, British Red Cross, CAFOD, Care International, Concern Worldwide, International Rescue Committee, Islamic Relief Worldwide, Oxfam, Save the Children, Tearfund

Timeline of key events in the DEC Pakistan Floods emergency appeal



DEC Pakistan Floods Appeal Response Timeline



2. The floods in Pakistan

Key Humanitarian needs overview, as of October 2022:

- 33 million people affected¹
- 20.6 million people in need of humanitarian assistance
- 2 million houses affected (damaged or destroyed)
- 1.1 million livestock lost and 9.4 million acres of crop area affected²

From mid-June until the end of August 2022, Pakistan experienced record-breaking monsoon rainfall, leading to widespread and extensive flooding and landslides. The country received more than three times its usual rainfall in August, with the two most badly-affected provinces, Sindh and Balochistan, experiencing seven to eight times their usual monthly totals. The Indus river, which runs the length of the country, burst its banks, inundating thousands of square kilometres of land.³ By the end of August, more than 15% of the population of Pakistan was affected.

Many of the hardest-hit areas are among the most impoverished districts in Pakistan, with millions of people already struggling with health, education and resource inequities. The consequences of the disaster for these people – particularly those living in rural areas – were devastating. Families were forced from their homes, taking refuge in crowded, makeshift camps, surrounded by miles of floodwater. They had no resources – little shelter, no food, no access to safe drinking water, no sanitation or health support. Their crops were destroyed and their livestock perished – leading to hardship and loss of livelihoods for the millions dependent on livestock and agriculture for a living. Health centres, schools, roads, bridges, railway-tracks, drinking water sources, electricity systems, shops, and businesses all incurred significant damage and losses. By the end of August, 6.4 million people were estimated to be in urgent need of humanitarian assistance, at a time when transport and communication networks were in chaos and the scale of the crisis was overwhelming the Pakistan government's capacity to respond.

“When the floods hit, we ran from that place to save our lives and left everything else behind. Our house, our clothes, our things to live by.”
– 14-year-old Humaira, Sindh province. A DEC member charity is providing relief packages, including temporary shelter kits, food packages, and safe water in villages, including Humaira's, in Sindh province.

“We were marooned in our village which had become an island in a sea. We lost our homes, our livestock and our crops. We suffered like we had never suffered before.”
– Mohammad Sadiq, Sindh province. A DEC member charity's mobile health unit is providing health services and urgently-needed medicines to Mohammad's village.

² UN Pakistan 2022 Floods Response Plan, October 2022: <https://reliefweb.int/report/pakistan/revised-pakistan-2022-floods-response-plan-01-sep-2022-31-may-2023-04-oct-2022>

³ <https://www.worldweatherattribution.org/climate-change-likely-increased-extreme-monsoon-rainfall-flooding-highly-vulnerable-communities-in-pakistan/>

Several months on, despite the efforts of the Pakistan government and international responders, the situation remains desperate for millions of people. While floodwaters have started to recede, great swathes of land were still under water in December 2022, with an estimated 8 million people still exposed to floodwaters or living close to flooded areas. Significant numbers of families remain displaced, most of them living with host communities, but many still in temporary shelters. Those returning to their villages find their homes damaged and their belongings destroyed, facing the onset of winter with no resources and no means of earning an income.⁴ Stagnant flood water, combined with damage to water infrastructure and sanitation, increases the risk of water-borne and vector-borne diseases. Health centres are damaged and health services are inadequate to meet the needs. Compared to the pre-flood estimate, the disaster has led to an increase of more than 100% in the number of people requiring food assistance, with more than 5 million people in flood-affected areas estimated to be facing a food security emergency going into the early months of 2023.⁵ This is defined as people who are in Phase 4 (out of 5 phases) of the Integrated Phase Classification framework for measuring food security. People in Phase 4 have large gaps in food consumption resulting in high malnutrition and increased risk of mortality.

A climate catastrophe

“We are suffering from it but it is not our fault at all,” said Pakistan’s Prime Minister, Shehbaz Sharif,⁶ of what the country’s foreign minister, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, has called “a climate disaster of biblical proportion”.⁷ Pakistan is globally one of the top 10 countries most affected by extreme weather events – yet Pakistan has been responsible for less than 1% of global greenhouse gas emissions to date, according to the country’s climate minister, Sherry Rehman⁸.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres noted during a visit to Pakistan in September 2022, the world has a duty to support Pakistan in responding to this disaster. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) floods response plan states: “National efforts to support people affected by this climate disaster require effective international solidarity and effective justice, through the mobilisation of support for relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction, and through concrete and equitable climate action.”⁹

⁴ <https://reliefweb.int/report/pakistan/pakistan-2022-monsoon-floods-situation-report-no-12-5-december-2022>

⁵ <https://reliefweb.int/report/pakistan/pakistan-2022-monsoon-floods-situation-report-no-12-5-december-2022>

⁶ <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/aug/30/pakistan-monsoon-on-steroids-flooding-warning-antonio-guterres>

⁷ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=spo2Vc419Tk>

⁸ <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/aug/30/pakistan-monsoon-on-steroids-flooding-warning-antonio-guterres>

⁹ UNOCHA, Revised 2022 Floods Response Plan: Pakistan, Oct 2022, p6; <https://reliefweb.int/report/pakistan/revised-pakistan-2022-floods-response-plan-01-sep-2022-31-may-2023-04-oct-2022>

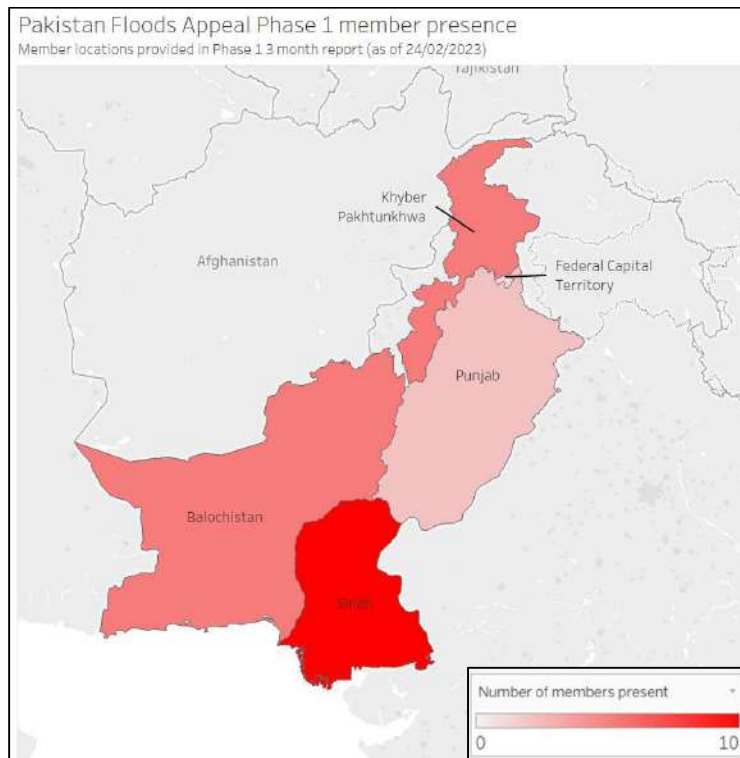
3. How the DEC is helping

- **Appeal Income**

Since its launch on 1 September 2022, the DEC's Pakistan Floods appeal has raised a total of £45.8m (as of 3rd February) from the UK public and other donors; of this, £34.9m has been raised by the DEC directly, including £5m from the UK government's Aid Match scheme, and £10.9m by DEC member charities.

- **11 DEC member charities responding**

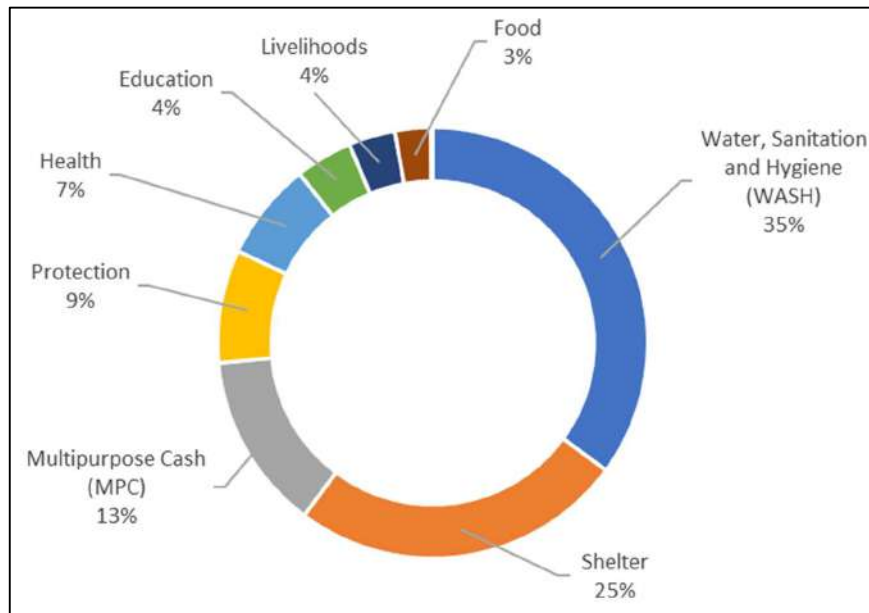
Eleven DEC member charities are responding, either directly or through local partners. Most were already operating in Pakistan and DEC funds have enabled them to make a key contribution to the emergency response.



- **£3.7 million spent in the first three months**

A total of £3.7m of DEC appeal funds has been spent by DEC member charities during the first three months of the DEC-funded response (32% of the Phase 1 budget the first six months of the response).

- **Expenditure by sector after three months**



“When you have lost everything even the slightest support makes a huge difference.”

– Muhammad Younas, Balochistan province. Muhammad and his family received shelter and hygiene kits from a DEC member charity.

- **Key achievements** in first 3 months of the response

- 6,500 households provided with shelter kits containing tents or tarpaulins and tools (such as nails, measuring tapes, ropes, hoe, and shovel)
- 2,300 households provided with household kits including bedding, mosquito nets, and kitchen items
- 2,900 households provided with emergency food supplies (lentils, rice, cooking oil, and tea)
- 3,700 households provided with multipurpose cash assistance to spend on meeting urgent family needs
- 14,000 households provided with hygiene kits (containing items such as toothbrush and toothpaste, soap, shampoo, water purification tablets)
- 69,500 women and girls provided with dignity kits (personal hygiene and sanitary items)
- 63,700 people benefitted from healthcare services such as maternal health and nutrition services
- 2,800 households provided with seeds and fertiliser for restoring agricultural livelihoods

In the immediate aftermath of the disaster, **shelter** was the priority for households with destroyed or damaged homes. Emergency shelters were urgently needed for the health, protection and security of families, particularly women and children. In the first three months of the response, DEC member charities have provided 6,500 families with temporary shelter items in the form of tents, tarpaulins, and shelter tool kits (bamboo poles, ropes, nails, hammer, handsaw, and shovel). 2,300 families have also received household items including mattresses, pillows, blankets, bedsheets, mosquito nets; and kitchen items including cooking pots, plates and cups, and buckets and jerry cans for collecting water.

Noor, who lives in Sindh, one of the worst-affected provinces, was nine months pregnant when her house collapsed in the heavy rains. She and her children escaped with the help of neighbours who came to rescue them. Her baby was born soon afterwards, at a time when the family had nowhere to live, no food supplies, and no income. She says:

“[The DEC member charity] provided us with the tent we’re living in now. You can see the rubble of my home behind this tent. [They] provided me with food rations that had lentils and rice, and that lasted for a month.”

Food was the other priority for families who had left their flooded homes with few belongings and no resources. According to an analysis by one DEC member charity, 73% of people lack purchasing power to buy food and other necessities due to their inability to work in the current circumstances. A significant majority of affected households (79%) have reportedly adopted negative coping strategies such as selling household assets (27%), buying food on credit (34%), using savings (22%), and borrowing money (10%). Meanwhile, prices are rising due to shortages and limited supplies. In the first three months of the response, DEC member charities have provided 2,900 of the most vulnerable households with emergency food supplies, such as lentils, rice, cooking oil, and tea.

3,700 households have also been provided with multipurpose **cash** assistance which families can spend on food and meeting their other immediate needs – and even to begin to plan for the future.

Safoora, a widow with four children, received a cash grant from a DEC member charity. She says:

“I had nowhere to go for weeks. I stayed on the roadside with my children and other villagers. They were such difficult times.

“I received a cash grant of PKR 25,000. When I had little in my hand, that money was a big support. I spent some of it on my treatment and the rest to buy some essentials for my children.

“I also purchased this baby goat as an investment. My children who had lost everything to floods play with it all the time. I plan to sell this goat when it grows. It will give us more revenue to build on.”

Significant damage to **water** supply infrastructure, lack of **sanitation and hygiene** facilities, and crowded living conditions surrounded by standing floodwater, means that the majority of affected people have limited access to safe drinking water and are at increased risk of illnesses and diseases caused by the unhygienic conditions. DEC member charities have rehabilitated or constructed 74 latrines and provided 14,000 households with hygiene kits containing water containers and water purification tablets, as well as personal hygiene items including toothpaste, soap, shampoo, bath towels and laundry soap. This has been accompanied by awareness-raising, carried out by both male and female staff, on good hygiene, health and nutrition practices.

Many **health** facilities were damaged by the floods and affected people are facing a lack of basic medical supplies and services. In the first three months of the response, DEC member charities have provided two mobile health units and established one medical camp. Thanks to these and other initiatives, 63,700 people have accessed basic health services, including provision of medicines.

Hameed Ullah lives in Balochistan province. He says:

“Our misery didn’t end with the destruction of our house. The sudden cold unhygienic environment has triggered viral diseases in the area. All our family members including myself have severe diarrhoea and there are no doctors accessible in the area. So, I have brought my daughters and niece to this medical camp. The good thing is that they are giving medicines and check-ups free of charge.”

Pregnant women, **mothers and children** are particularly affected by the lack of access to health services and support, and so their needs are being specifically targeted by the mobile health units serving the flood-affected districts of Khairpur. The units provide antenatal and postnatal care, and sexual and reproductive health services, alongside primary health care to other vulnerable people including older people and people with disabilities.

Dr Anila, a medic at one of the mobile clinics says:

“Pregnant women face significant challenges in these conditions. We try to provide them with check-ups, blood tests, basic medicines and supplements such as multivitamins.”

Dr Rabel, who works in a maternal and child healthcare centre supported by a DEC member charity and also does outreach work visiting communities living in tents who cannot reach the centre, says:

“Each day I see over a hundred women. We have delivered 147 babies in the last month. We are helping free of charge. These are very, very poor people. Shelterless, homeless. Their homes are destroyed. Nothing is left.”

Women and girls are particularly vulnerable in a crisis situation. In the first three months of the response, 69,500 women and girls received dignity kits containing sanitary and personal hygiene items. In addition, 18 safe spaces were established for women and children and 2,100 women and children benefitted from mental health or psychosocial support in protection programmes.

More than 3.5 million children’s **education** was interrupted due to the floods,¹⁰ with thousands of schools being closed because of damage or repurposed as emergency shelters. A DEC member charity is supporting children to return to education and has so far set up two temporary learning spaces and provided learning materials to 350 children. The member charity is working with affected

¹⁰ <https://reliefweb.int/report/pakistan/pakistan-2022-monsoon-floods-situation-report-no-10-28-october-2022>

communities to establish a total of 20 temporary learning centres, including hiring teachers and facilitators and providing learning materials. The project will run a back-to-school campaign to ensure all children in targeted communities can return to learning. This includes paying special attention to girls and children with disabilities, who are likely to be marginalised without specific intervention.

Millions of people have lost their **livelihoods** – particularly those in rural areas who relied on livestock and farming, or daily wage labour in the agricultural sector for an income. DEC member charities are developing early recovery projects to support people to rebuild their livelihoods, for example through the provision of agriculture inputs (seeds and fertiliser, tools, livestock and fodder) and support with land rehabilitation. Training in vegetable farming and cash grants for small shop-keepers, particularly women seeking to restart their small businesses, will also be provided.

4. Challenges

The nature of this disaster – the unprecedented scale of the floods; the severity of the damage to homes, roads and other infrastructure; and the huge numbers of people affected, including millions displaced from their homes – has presented a significant challenge to humanitarian agencies' ability to mount an effective response.

Overall funding for the humanitarian response is inadequate to meet the needs of everyone. According to OCHA financial tracking service information, the Floods Response Plan was 69% funded in 2022 and is currently 28% funded for 2023 requirements¹¹. The funding gap raises the potential for conflict between communities that do not receive assistance and those that do, and within communities between beneficiaries and those who are not identified for assistance. DEC member charities have involved a wide range of community representatives in their beneficiary selection processes. To manage the risk of people feeling overlooked or trying to influence the assessment process, DEC members have ensured that they are completely transparent about their selection criteria which are widely shared with the community during the process.

Access to affected communities remains a challenge, with some affected areas still submerged in flood water, and transport infrastructure and communication networks badly damaged. DEC member charities have had to be agile in adapting to the conditions: for example, severe disruption to access routes into several affected areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in the immediate aftermath of the flooding meant that one member charity had to mobilise boats in order to reach people in need. For the same reasons, affected people – particularly in remote and isolated locations – are often unable to travel to distribution points or to access health services. Member charities have been flexible in response, for example using volunteers to deliver supplies direct to families who cannot reach distribution points and setting up mobile health units to take services direct to the communities that need them.

DEC member charities have also had to overcome some specific challenges to aid distribution. For some vulnerable people, the unavailability or expiry of their computerised national identity cards presented a challenge with registering them for multipurpose cash assistance. In these cases, member agencies offered alternative arrangements, including by providing an electronic cash transfer ID to the beneficiary to enable payments to be made through other verified and trusted family members. In another instance, changes to the cash delivery mechanism introduced by the

¹¹ <https://fts.unocha.org/appeals/1108/summary>

state bank, including making biometric verifications of beneficiaries mandatory, led to delays in delivery of cash assistance. One member charity responded by liaising directly with the financial service provider to minimise any delay in distributing multipurpose cash assistance to recipients.

5. Improving humanitarian programme delivery

Including people with specific needs

At the onset of the crisis, many DEC member charities conducted a Rapid Needs Assessment to confirm the humanitarian needs of flood-affected people and identify people who were particularly vulnerable. One member charity contacted 1,446 respondents in carrying out its assessment, of whom 55% were female, 34% were people with disabilities, 31% were people with medical conditions, and nearly two-thirds were over the age of 60. The charity's project team also collaborated with a network of Older People Associations in Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to ensure that they identified the most vulnerable older people, including older people living alone or bed-ridden people, and people with disabilities. The charity also set up community meetings to inform people about project details and eligibility criteria for assistance, and followed this up with door-to-door visits to ensure that vulnerable people in need of assistance were not overlooked.

DEC member charities ensure that the most vulnerable people and families are included by training project staff on inclusion guidelines and selection criteria, and making sure that these are shared with community members. For example, one member charity prioritised households headed by women, children, older people, or people with disabilities or chronic illnesses, and made sure that its selection criteria were explicitly explained to community members seeking assistance.

DEC member charities work through local partner organisations and/or hire local staff who know their communities, are aware of cultural sensitivities, and are able to communicate in local languages. All DEC member charities ensure that female staff are available to support women and girls – for example, using female enumerators to collect information from women and girls through door-to-door surveys, and creating 'female only' spaces where women and girls can access information and assistance. Distribution points are set up at safe and accessible locations, and people who are unable to reach distribution points (for example, older people, people with disabilities, or vulnerable women) can receive relief items at their household location, delivered through volunteers. One member charity aimed to include representatives of vulnerable groups throughout the implementation process: from beneficiary selection, through management of distribution sites and processes, to post-distribution monitoring and feedback and complaints mechanisms.

Being accountable to communities

DEC member charities and their partners work directly with local communities and are committed to involving them in decisions that affect their lives.

All DEC members set out clear criteria for selection of beneficiaries. Both male and female participants are asked to identify any barriers or risks to receiving assistance and are consulted on mitigation mechanisms. One DEC member charity, working through its local partner organisation, hired social mobilisers from flood-affected communities to serve as a bridge between the

organisation and the community and to ensure that community members were involved in decision-making at all times.

All DEC member charities have wide-ranging feedback and complaints mechanisms that are designed to be accessible to all community members, including the most vulnerable and marginalised people. This includes distributing information on the feedback and complaints mechanisms to people receiving assistance through cards and posters, providing complaint/suggestion boxes, and setting up hotlines. In order to eliminate cultural barriers for women and to encourage them to access its feedback and complaints mechanism, one member charity ensured that women assistants were available to receive calls directly from women participants.

Another DEC member charity conducts monthly feedback meetings with project participants to discuss positive and negative impacts of project activities, identify unintended impacts, and gather information on the unmet needs of people not yet reached. Individual meetings are also held with community members to get their feedback on project implementation and activities which directly or indirectly affect them.

DEC member charities routinely conduct post-distribution monitoring through, for example, exit interviews at distribution points, follow-up surveys, household visits and community meetings. Key questions relate to the relevance and effectiveness of the support, accessibility of the distribution points, safety – particularly for women and children – and cultural appropriateness.

Depending on feedback, some member charities have made changes to their distribution mechanisms or to the items provided as part of assistance packages – for example, one member charity distributing agricultural inputs (seeds and fertiliser) was asked to deliver these directly to targeted households that were unable to attend the distribution site.

With the scale of the need far outstripping the capacity of the humanitarian response, several member agencies received requests to increase the amount of assistance being provided and requests to expand assistance to more locations. In response to these requests, project staff explain the limited resources available, share the selection criteria used to promote transparency and understanding and, where appropriate, refer people to other agencies that may be operating in their area and able to reach them with assistance.

Supporting a locally led response

Most DEC member charities in the Pakistan floods response are delivering aid in collaboration with local partner organisations. Where possible, project staff are hired from affected communities, providing them with a livelihood and building local capacities to work in the recovery phases of the response. Member charities provide local partner staff with orientation (for example, on Core Humanitarian Standards¹²), training (for example, on identification and selection of beneficiaries, operating procedures for distribution, and data collection tools) and capacity building. For example, one member charity is strengthening the capacities of its three local implementing partners on targeting, distribution, financial system strengthening, warehousing, and establishing feedback and complaint mechanisms. These system-strengthening activities will benefit local partners in the long run and are backed up and reinforced by regular mentoring of staff at the field level. In the coming

¹² The Core Humanitarian Standards is a globally recognised voluntary standard that sets out Nine Commitments that organisations and individuals involved in humanitarian response can use to improve the quality and effectiveness of the assistance they provide.

months, the member charity will also conduct training courses for field staff and local partners on cross-cutting issues such as gender and disability inclusion, protection and gender-based violence awareness, and safeguarding policies.

Coordination

During the initial weeks of the humanitarian response, coordination was challenging as it was being led at national levels and not all stakeholders were actively participating. This led to some overlapping and duplication of activities. However, government-level coordination mechanisms at the provincial and district levels were soon significantly improved, with both provincial and district disaster management authorities organising monthly coordination meetings for all organisations participating in the flood response. These meetings enable organisations to share information on progress and challenges, avoid duplication and identify gaps in aid delivery. Staff from all DEC member charities and their local partners participate in these meetings. Member charities report that an effective coordination mechanism is now in place, with provincial authorities and district administrations taking a very proactive approach in sharing information, coordinating activities and supporting flood-affected communities. This enables DEC member charities and their partners to ensure they are reaching and assisting the most vulnerable and at-risk communities.

Adaptive programming

DEC member charities adapt their response plans on the basis of ongoing needs assessments and community feedback. One member charity identified the provision of winterisation kits to communities as an urgent need not originally included in its response plans. These kits, which include items such as sleeping mats, blankets, and warm clothing such as shawls and wool hats, are required to help people whose belongings were destroyed in the floods to survive the approaching winter season. The charity immediately began a procurement and distribution process for 6,600 winterisation kits.

Two member charities adapted their livelihoods programmes after the sowing season was missed due to the persistence of standing floodwater in the targeted areas. In one case, local farmers identified rehabilitation of the spate irrigation system as a priority, and funds intended for the purchase of seeds and fertilisers will instead be used to pay for a total of 9,000 tractor hours which will enable the rehabilitation of 6,000 acres of agricultural land, benefitting 1,500 farmer households. In another case, funds are being repurposed to support farmers to prepare for the next season for sowing vegetables (February-March) through the provision of agricultural inputs and land rehabilitation costs. This support will be in the form of direct inputs (seeds and fertiliser), farming tools, labour costs (to pay for the time of household members) and transportation costs.

Protecting the environment

Given that the severity of the rainfall that led to these catastrophic floods was a direct consequence of climate change,¹³ there is an even greater incentive for DEC member charities to seek to minimise their carbon footprint in delivering aid and to protect the environment in their response planning.

Some DEC member charities have carried out environmental assessments to identify potential negative environmental impacts from proposed activities and develop strategies to address them. During this first phase of the emergency response, which focuses on providing immediate support, member charities have sought to minimise their environmental impact through, for example: procuring relief items as locally as possible; focusing on reusability and recyclability of items in relief kits (such as reusable cotton bags rather than plastic bags for hygiene and dignity kits); considering long-term uses of items, such as providing tarpaulins for shelter that can be repurposed as floor mats; ensuring safe management of medical waste at health centres and by mobile health units; and promoting local leadership and minimising staff travel.

DEC member charities are also working to address groundwater and soil contamination caused by the floods through the rehabilitation of water sources and irrigation channels. Sanitation and agricultural livelihood initiatives will ensure that further groundwater contamination does not take place through management of solid waste and careful selection of fertilisers in the agricultural inputs distributed. One member charity forged alliances with environmental groups and provincial and local-level networks to foster climate-smart land and water use practices, especially for the mitigation of floods through comprehensive watershed management. Their teams are also in close coordination with district forest departments to undertake a tree planting campaign in February 2023, mobilising youth from community organisations in the affected villages.

During Phase 2 of the response, recovery activities will include a focus on community-based disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, and environmental rehabilitation and protection.

6. Next steps

DEC Phase 1 programmes are being completed in February 2023. DEC member charities are also preparing for Phase 2 of the response which starts in March 2023.

DEC has commissioned an external, real-time response review of the of the Pakistan Floods Appeal, taking place between February and April 2023. The review will consider the effectiveness of the DEC response and identify learning from the response to be applied in the DEC Phase 2 programmes.

The devastating and widespread impact of the floods continues to be felt by families and communities in Pakistan, with millions of people still coping with inadequate shelter, lack of access to safe drinking water, poor hygiene conditions and inadequate healthcare provision. As of February 2023, millions of people continue to face an acute food and livelihood crisis, with over 7 million children and women estimated to be in need of nutrition support¹⁴ and families unable to provide

¹³ A study by an international team of climate scientists into the record-breaking rainfall experienced by Pakistan from June-August 2022 found that “climate change could have increased the rainfall intensity up to 50%”, <https://www.worldweatherattribution.org/climate-change-likely-increased-extreme-monsoon-rainfall-flooding-highly-vulnerable-communities-in-pakistan/>

¹⁴ OCHA, Pakistan: 2022 Monsoon Floods Situation Report No. 14, 6 February 2023, <https://reliefweb.int/report/pakistan/pakistan-2022-monsoon-floods-situation-report-no-14-6-february-2023>

for their own needs due to the destruction of the agricultural and livestock-based livelihoods on which they relied.

While DEC member charities will continue to provide shelter, food and multipurpose cash support to the most vulnerable families, the main focus of Phase 2 of the Pakistan Floods response (March 2023 to August 2024) will be on community-level rehabilitation of water supply and sanitation infrastructure, provision of healthcare support, and recovery of livelihood and income generation activities. Prior to the floods, the majority of rural communities relied on small-scale agriculture and livestock farming for their livelihoods. DEC member charities will support communities to rehabilitate their agricultural lands, rebuild their livelihoods using climate-smart agricultural techniques, and develop resilience to future climate shocks through disaster risk reduction and community-level adaptation and mitigation strategies.

In Phase 2, among other activities, DEC member charities will:

- support the construction of shelters for the most vulnerable homeless families
- provide cash assistance for food, and nutrition screening, treatment and support for vulnerable families
- provide multipurpose cash assistance to families
- work with communities to rehabilitate village water supply systems and to construct disaster-resilient latrines
- support communities to rehabilitate community infrastructure through cash-for-work projects such as cleaning and desilting of irrigation channels, repairing and cleaning drainage systems, and road construction
- support the restoration and strengthening of livelihoods through provide seeds, tools, and training on climate-resilient agriculture, cash grants to support livestock and other income generation activities
- support communities to develop and implement disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation plans and strategies, including supporting tree-planting initiatives to mitigate future flood impacts
- rehabilitate flood-damaged health centres, supporting mobile health units and training medical staff to provide primary healthcare, free medicines, and neonatal and child health care
- set up safe spaces for women and children including providing mental health and psychosocial support
- set up temporary learning centres, rehabilitate damaged schools, and train teachers.

Provisional DEC Phase 2 budget by sector

