



PEOPLE AFFECTED

Lasbella district

40 000 affected (*estimated*)

1 500 displaced

Killa Abdullah district

55 000 affected (*estimated*)

Turbat district

150 000 affected (*estimated*)

250-300 displaced

15 health facilities damaged

Pishin district

120 000 affected (*estimated*)

8 000 displaced

Khuzdar district

60 000 affected (*estimated*)

HEALTH IMPACT

Health impact

- Limited access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene;
- Limited access to health services due to damaged health facilities, long distances, human resource, transport availability;
- Increased risk of water and vector borne diseases
- Increased incidence of vaccine preventable disease as a result of overcrowding and high proportion of unvaccinated population;
- Frequent outbreaks of communicable diseases.

Map: Flood affected districts of Balochistan

Source: UNOCHA Pakistan



Disclaimers:
The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Background

A recent storm caused a spell of heavy rainfall in Lasbella district and adjoining areas, which resulted in extreme flash floods on 20 February 2019. These flash floods were sudden and unexpected at this time of the year and affected 40 000 catchment population, with the loss of property and livelihoods.

The floods affected the three Union Councils of the district Turbat including Tump, Nasirabad and Dasht, displacing 250 to 300 people who are currently residing in temporary camps provided by the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Balochistan on special instructions by the Chief Minister. These camps are established in the suburbs of the city in schools and basic health units (BHUs). The BHUs and tertiary health care facilities in these Union Councils are within the perimeter of ten kilometers.

Current situation

The flood in the district of Lasbella has affected 100 000 people and impacted access to emergency healthcare, and safe drinking water, increasing the risk of water borne illnesses. Twenty health facilities, including basic health units, rural health centre, and civil dispensaries have been damaged.

Medicine requirements:

- Anti-rabies vaccine
- Anti-snake venoms
- Treatment for scabies
- Disposable items i.e. syringes, cannulas, I/V solutions
- Acute Respiratory Illness Kits
- Cholera Kits

FUNDING

WHO

Total required: **US\$ 3.5 million**

Total received: **US\$ 1.1 million** (through WHO CFE¹ & CERF)

Health Sector requirement

Total required: **US\$ 12 million**

Total received: **US\$ 1.6 million** (through Pakistan Humanitarian Pool Fund)

CONTACT

WHO Country Office:

[Dr Ni'ma Saeed Abid](#)

Head of WHO Office, Islamabad, Pakistan

Tel: +92 51 9255183

Email: abidn@who.int

[Dr Michael Lukwiya](#)

Health Emergency Coordinator

WHO Country Office, Islamabad, Pakistan

Tel: +92 51 9255184

Email: lukwiyam@who.int

WHO Regional Office:

[Alfatih Suliman](#)

Health Emergency Officer

WHO Regional Office for Eastern

Mediterranean

Cairo - Egypt

Tel: +202 227 65711

Email: sulimana@who.int

[Misbah M. Sheikh](#)

Manager External Relations

WHO Regional Office for Eastern

Mediterranean

Cairo - Egypt

Cell: +20 1212 733 994

Email: sheikhmi@who.int

This has exacerbated the health condition of populations already affected by drought. The flood has caused further damage to existing infrastructure, and impacted road conditions, transportation, health facilities, and the supply of essential medicines. Already deprived health facilities are facing acute shortages of skilled human resource. This critical situation has placed the poor communities of affected Union Councils at risk of communicable and water borne diseases. Immediate emergency relief interventions are required and requested by the provincial government.

Lasbella has already reported around 5 000 cases of Leishmaniasis in 2018 and high prevalence of acute respiratory tract infections (ARTIs) in the region. The proportion of fully immunized children at 24 months is at just 29% in Balochistan (PDHS 2017-18). Cases of water borne disease are also on the rise as indicated in Outpatient Department (OPD) records which states that over 20% of the patients suffer from diarrhoea.

There is a high risk of post flood disease outbreaks such as gastroenteritis, malaria, skin infections, snake bites, ARI (due to winter season), leishmaniasis (through sand fly bite) etc.

Provincial government response

Emergency relief and medical camps:

On 2 March 2019, the health department of the Government of Balochistan declared "Health Emergency" across the province, instructing all hospitals to be on high alert ensuring 24/7 medical relief services.

The district health administration, along with other departments, has deployed resources to mitigate the effects of flash floods and provided relief to the affected population including medical camps and clean drinking water.

Two emergency medical camps have been established with Out Patient Departments (OPD), vaccination, malaria screening, treatment for Acute Respiratory Tract Infection (ARTI) and skin cases. In addition, 2000 tablets were provided for water purification (sufficient for 20 000 liters of water). Health education and psychotherapy sessions were also conducted for affected communities.

Health partners response

Peoples' Primary Health Initiative (PPHI) along with the District Health Department have provided adequate emergency relief and medical

¹ Loan from the CFE

WHO priority interventions

1. Improving access to quality essential emergency healthcare services through provision of medicines and medical equipment, pre-positioning of essential medicines and medical supplies, support to laboratory, supporting outbreak investigations human resources, capacity building of healthcare staff, standards/guidelines etc.
2. Monitoring health status of the drought affected population through training of healthcare workers, provision of surveillance tools
3. Coordination of health response through provision of information for planning, mapping of actors, development of response strategies and plans, resource mobilization, advocacy etc.



Flood relief assistance by WHO in Balochistan

services to the affected population and averted the immediate escalation of any adverse health situation.

The emergency relief operation has put an extra burden on the health department with its already limited resources. Emergency medicines are required on an urgent basis to avert disease outbreaks and control future post-flood medical emergency situations.



WHO response

WHO is using the existing coordination structure established for drought to support coordination of the flood response in close collaboration with the Provincial Department of Health, District Health Administration, and PDMA.

WHO has successfully completed health facilities' assessment in the flood and drought affected districts of Balochistan. Findings of the assessment are being compiled and the final report will be available for dissemination by mid-March 2019.

32 000 aqua tabs have been distributed to flood affected populations in Lasbella and 16 000 each for Pishin and Khuzdar districts.

International emergency health kits (IEHKs) are being procured from WHO's hub in Dubai for response to vector borne and water borne diseases.

WHO is in the process of establishing an early warning disease system in the drought and flood affected districts.

Gaps

There is a need to urgently provide medicine kits, water purification tablets (aqua tabs) and support to community mobilization to improve hygiene practices.

