

This report is produced by OCHA Pakistan in collaboration with humanitarian partners and Government as of 02 Septemer 2020.





281,459 Recovered Cases



HIGHLIGHTS

COVID-19:

- The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Pakistan has risen to 296,590 as of 02 September.
- The most affected province due to COVID-19 pandemic is Sindh 129,615 followed by Punjab 96,921.
- The number of COVID-19 cases is showing a continuously deceasing trend in Pakistan.

Monsoon:

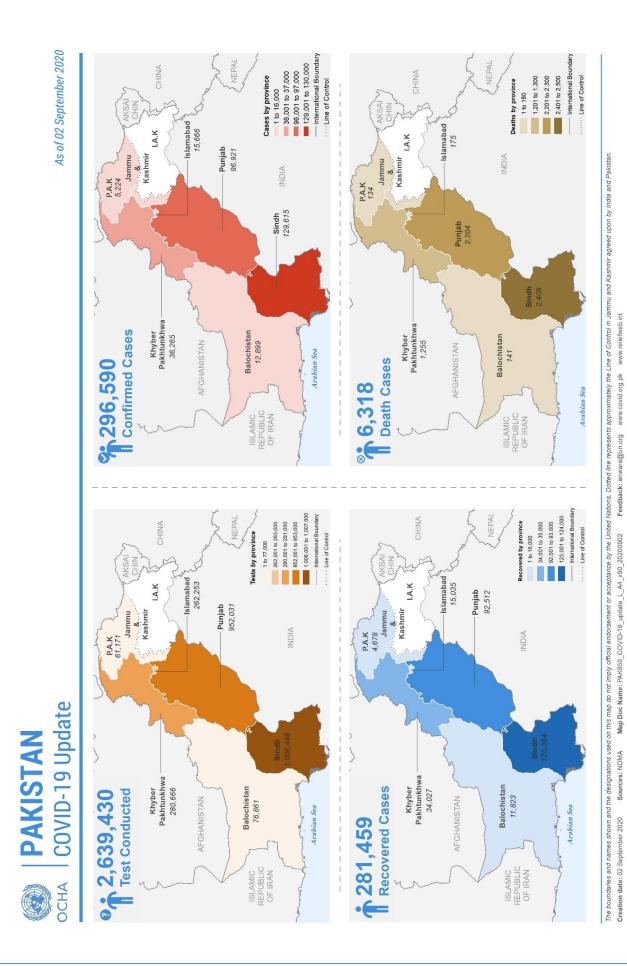
Monsoon rains continue to affect Pakistan and resulted in the death of 176 people and over 100 people being injured, according to the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) since the start of the monsoon rains, over 2,100 houses are fully or partially damaged. After heavy spells of rainfall and urban flooding impacted Sindh province and its capital Karachi, the Provincial Government declared 20 districts as 'calamity- Hit areas' (with an approximately population of 34.55 million been affected). PDMA Sindh has requested the United Nations Provincial Program Team (PPT) in Sindh to carry out a rapid need assessment (RNA) in 11 most affected districts of Sindh.

LOCUST:

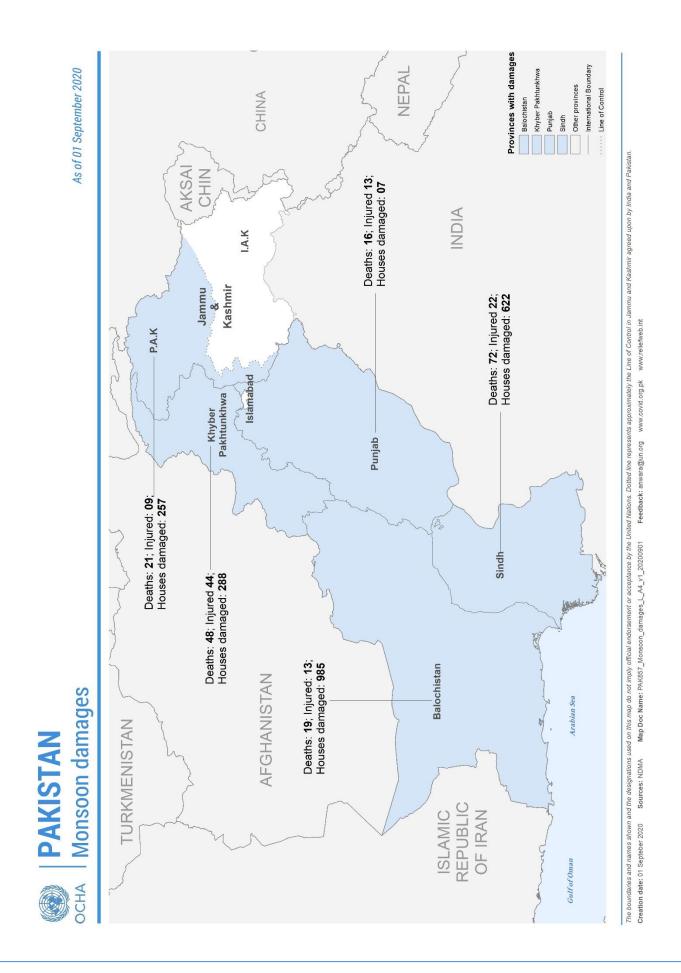
 Good progress is being made against the first generation of hopper groups and bands that have formed to a lesser degree in Tharparkar district in southern Sindh. This is the result of more than 1,000 teams, 750 vehicles and nearly 6,000 staff involved in the ground control campaign. The risk of swarm migration to summer breeding area has nearly subsided. However, substantial hatching and band formation are expected till early September and a second generation of summer breeding would start at the end of September



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UPDATES FROM THE SECTORS:



FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURE:

Response:

FAO:

- Radio Outreach: In KP, FAO developed COVID-19-specific radio 'promos' of 60 seconds, each with tomato, maize and targeting criteria for various interventions, separately in the male and female voices, to be broadcasted 10 to 12 times per day starting 9:00 in the morning to 8:00 in the evening, on these four radio channels: FM Koram e Panra, RP Peshawar AM 540, RP DI Khan AM 711, and FM 91.6 Tehzeeb Radio.
- Engaging Farmers: FAO organized nine FFS sessions in Orakzai, Kurram, North and South Waziristan districts of KP; six for men and three for women which were attended by 77 male, 35 female and 15 children under strict adherence to COVID-19 SOPs, which besides improving the 'know-how' and 'do how' of the participating farmers on best cultural practices, enhanced their awareness, too on COVID-19 precautionary measures.
- Publication of weekly price bulletins on the evolution of prices of major food items and stocks information on major food items (cereals, pulses, meat etc) since the outbreak of COVID-19.
- FAO is providing day-to-day support to Locust Control Room set up at the Department of Plant Protection (DPP) Headquarters in Karachi for the surveillance and control of desert locusts in all the provinces of Pakistan.
- FAO and WFP would roll out Desert Locust Losses and Needs Assessment in September collaboration with federal and provincial line departments and FSAWG partners.

GAPS:

Majority of affected people due to COVID 19, locust, drought, flood/snowfall and conflict have not received
assistance yet in parts of Sindh, Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtukhwa and Punjab. In addition, current monsoon rains
and flooding situation in several districts across Pakistan is likely to have adverse impact on physical
infrastructure including agriculture related infrastructure, standing crops, livestock, livelihoods and food security of
households. Urban flooding in Lahore, Karachi and Hyderabad and several other small cities has also impacted
livelihoods of people.

CHALLENGES:

- The massive scale of emergency considering the large vulnerable population
- Lack/limited funding for the coordinated response
- Delay in implementation of response and field activities due to COVID-19 movement restrictions and insecurities in parts of NMDs and Balochistan



HEALTH:

- Launch of Pakistan Health Facility Ready Assessment Report for Covid-19
- To assist Provincial Health Authorities KP, WHO-Pakistan has supported technically and logistically a rapid casecontrol study, which focus is to assess the demographic and background characteristics, assess the prevalence of co-morbidities and to identify mortality or survival rate of COVID-19 patients who have been admitted to hospitals.
- In Balouchistan, WHO conducted training of Head of Institutes, Senior Teachers and Administrative Staff on COVID-19 SOPs before opening Schools
- Establishment of Infection, Prevention and Control Unit at PIMS

- Launch of Certificate Course on IPC in Lahore
- Handing over of VTM to Health Services, Sindh to enhance surveillance of COVID-19 cases



RESPONSE:

- Vitamin A Supplementation was successfully administered to more than 31 Million children between the age of 6-59 months through polio SNID held in 130 districts.
- Through Radio Media Campaign on breastfeeding in COVID Context, 6.6 million people reached through 25 local Radio channels.
- More than 2,900 Nutrition sites provided lifesaving Nutrition services across Pakistan in the reporting period.

CHALLENGES:

- 3 Divisions of Sindh are declared as flood and heavy rains affected areas with 90 Health facilities being affected. Initial reports indicate that 5 Nutrition facilities in Sindh province and 5 nutrition facilities in KP province are reported to be damaged by heavy rains and flash floods, likely to affect nutrition services.
- Shortage of RUTF in Punjab is impacting SAM services.



Response:

- In partnership with the Ministry of SAFRON and Pakistan Post, UNHCR's emergency cash-based initiative (CBI) continued, with 35,835 refugee families comprised of approximately 197,010 refugees and asylum seekers having received vital humanitarian assistance to date. Phase 1 of the assistance program has been completed and Phase 2 has now formally commenced, with more than 72,223 vulnerable families enrolled into the KOBO data collection tool. The program is set to target up to 70,000 vulnerable households. Afghan refugees are the vast majority of refugees in Pakistan and they make up 99.7 % of individuals receiving CBI assistance . Non-Afghan refugees make up 0.3 % of those receiving assistance (from Iraq, Islamic Republic of Iran, Myanmar, Somalia, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen). The Commissionerate for Afghan Refugees (CARs) and UNHCR teams continue to work closely with refugee community structures to identify the most needy families for inclusion in the emergency cash assistance program;
- A total of 3,065 social workforce professionals (1, 591 women and 1,474 men) have been trained in psychosocial support and stigma prevention in all provinces through a training package developed by UNICEF, including 294 trained in last two week (145 female and 149 male in Balochistan and KP). The trained workforce is providing psychosocial and counselling services to affected children, their families and communities;
- A total of 49,788 parents, caregivers, children and individuals (3,137 girls, 3,365 boys, 22,397 women, 20,889 men) received Psychosocial support and services by trained social workforce professionals in Punjab, KP, Sindh, Balochistan and GB with 8,611 reached within the reporting period. This includes 208 Individuals (22 Girls, 16 Boys, 85 women and 85 men) who received specialized counselling sessions in Sindh, KP, Punjab and Balochistan;
- Women's friendly health spaces for Afghan refugee settlements and hosting communities in Balochistan, KP and Baluchistan continue to remain functional, providing GBV response services to women and girls during the COVID-19 pandemic situation through case management, referral services and basic GBV and sexual reproductive health services, including care for pregnant women, safe deliveries including emergency obstetric and new-born care,

postpartum care, family planning and prevention of sexually transmitted infections. Over 4,200 women and girls have benefited from these services while 919 women/girls have received dignity kit;

• Around 30,000 men and women received reproductive health/family planning and gender-based violence information and awareness in the catchment population;

GAPS:

- Response, rescue and referral pathways for GBV survivors have been jeopardized due to the pandemic situation. Access and availability of the pathways needs to be further prioritized.
- Pre-existing vulnerabilities of "at risk" groups in Pakistan, including refugees and TDPs, were further aggravated by the related stressors, including family anxieties, the disruption of means of income generation and daily subsistence activities due to social distancing and government lockdown measures.
- There is significant impact on the large number of home-based workers especially women, whose bargaining ability has been further reduced.
- Compromised incomes in the informal sector and quarantine measures have increased spousal and family tensions, added to the discrimination against women and risks an increase in gender-based violence. This is aggravated by an increased lack of access to information and protection services for people who most need it, such as persons with disability and women headed households.
- The need for mental health and psychosocial services (MHPSS) have increased for families coping with elevated levels of anxiety and stress.

CHALLENGES:

- The economic impact of COVID-19 has had a significant impact on the most vulnerable groups in Pakistan, including refugees, migrants and TDPs and their host communities, due to sudden and extended loss of income, restricted movement, reduced access to markets, inflation and a spike in prices.
- Public movement directives of the Government resulting restrictions and social distancing will challenge the
 monitoring, implementation and assessment of the project assistance. Extended closures of main border crossings
 with Afghanistan, now closed for several months have impacted voluntary return of ACC holders and undocumented
 Afghans; Since the borders have temporarily reopened, it is feared there will be large scale COVID-19 infections in
 Afghanistan as a result of the scaling up in spontaneous returns;
- Striking the balance between delivering an urgent and effective pandemic prevention and response program, while
 securing the economy of the country and the livelihoods of the most vulnerable and at the same time maintaining
 social harmony within communities, is a great challenge. This challenge must be considered within the overall
 comprehensive response of all actors. Addressing the social protection issues of the most vulnerable members of
 society lies at the center of this unprecedented health pandemic.

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WASH:

- Under the coordination of MOCC, sector partners, including UNICEF have provided WASH services to 924 HCFs (73 new) reaching to more than 3.9 million people (1.2 million new) with WASH services
- To date installed 1,841 handwashing stations (183 new) have been installed. Over 20.59 million people (6,390,000 new) have been supported with hygiene promotion services including COVID-19 prevention and control information.
- The mobile application allowing for two-way communication with the Clean and Green Pakistan champions has been approved and the platform is used to engage with the youth (18 years and above) by 119,000 youth

registering 119,000 and 50,000 acknowledging the messages on COVID-19 related social and behaviour change communication around hand hygiene.

• A total of 80 schools have been so far provided with IPC-WASH facilities in preparation for safe schools opening.

GAPS / CHALLENGES:

- Resource mobilization is a challenge because WASH-IPC is perceived as a Health intervention
- Extension of programmatic focus to schools reopening —challenge of assessing WASH needs in schools while they are not in session