The monsoon floods of 2010 began on 21 July. However, by 28 July, it was clear that both the scope and scale of the disaster were massive. The floods affected an area stretching from Gilgit Balistan close to the Chinese border, to the Indus Delta on the Arabian Sea on Pakistan’s southern coast. Much of Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkwa (KPK) and Balochistan were under water. This monsoon disaster came on the heels of the ongoing conflict in Pakistan where military operations both in KPK and in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) had displaced millions of people since 2009. At the time of the floods, 1 million people remained displaced and 2 million who had returned to their homes were affected by the floods and lost everything. Many people were impacted twice, first by the conflict and then by the floods, thereby drastically increasing their vulnerability. The agricultural heartland of the country was devastated and there was very significant damage to public and private infrastructure across the affected area.

**Major priorities for Humanitarian Aid**

- Shelter & basic household equipment: A major concern due to the extensive damage to infrastructure. The population was in dire need of temporary shelter (tents, plastic sheeting)
- Food assistance: this was vital as food accessibility was a major problem. Crops were destroyed and the food distribution system broke down in many regions. Women, young children, the elderly and the disabled were particularly vulnerable.
- Health: There was a lack of access to health services in general, particularly for the displaced. Health facilities were damaged or destroyed in many cases and major repairs, equipment and supplies became urgently needed. Skin diseases, malaria and diarrheal diseases were a major concern given the lack of hygiene.
- Water and sanitation facilities were scarce or inexistent, and there was a critical lack of drinking water particularly in Sindh province.
- Protection: The loss of identity papers and land-ownership documents was and remains a major problem. An unknown number of children were separated from their families.

**Major challenges for delivering Aid**

- Pakistan is a country with a complex social and political arena and at times it was challenging to independently deliver humanitarian assistance to the people most in need, irrespective of their political or religious affiliation, gender or age.
- Physical access was problematic: infrastructure, roads and bridges were destroyed or damaged which hampered the delivery of relief to many areas.
- The affected populations were scattered often in isolated pockets across the country.
- The scale of the crisis was huge as were the numbers of people affected.
- Security was an important constraint in many areas, and growing civil unrest and criminality in flood-affected areas was problematic.

**Facts & figures**

- Number of deaths: 1,985
- Total amount of land under water: 3.4 million hectares
- Total number of homes damaged or destroyed: 1.7 million
- Total number of people affected directly & indirectly: 20.5 million
- Total EU (European Commission + Member States) humanitarian aid for crisis in 2010: € 423 million
EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

- **Field presence:** Teams of humanitarian experts were in the field very rapidly throughout the affected region in order to provide on-the-spot assessments of the needs. The ECHO field office in Islamabad was reinforced.
- **Funding:** €30 million funding decision on 30 July was adopted to address the humanitarian needs of both the conflict affected and the flood affected populations. An additional emergency decision of €10 million was adopted on 11 August and reinforced by €30 million on 1 September. By the end of the year a total of €150 million had been allocated. Additional funding of €76 million has been made available for 2011.
- **Outreach and coordination with humanitarian partners:** Commissioner Kristalina Georgieva travelled to Pakistan on 24 & 25 August to meet with senior members of the Government of Pakistan including the Prime Minister, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the head of the National Disaster Management Authority of Pakistan, the donor community, international financial institutions, the UN family, the Red Cross/Red Crescent movement and non-governmental organisations. Commissioner Georgieva witnessed for herself the destruction inflicted by the floods during a field visit to Northern Pakistan and pledged European solidarity with the flood affected population.
- **Delivering the aid:**
  - Actions included measures to ensure that affected populations had full access to protection and humanitarian assistance, with particular attention to beneficiaries who did not possess identification documents
  - Appropriate measures were encouraged at community level to prepare for and reduce the impact of disasters
  - All interventions took into account the particular needs of the most vulnerable, including women, children, the elderly and the disabled
  - All interventions considered and took into account the appropriate measures to ensure the safety and security both of those delivering and those receiving assistance.

In addition to the European Commission's allocation, EU Member States also provided €273 million in humanitarian aid, bringing the total EU (European Commission + Member States) contribution to the crisis to €423 million in 2010. For 2011, the total EU contribution to date is €88 million.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S CIVIL PROTECTION RESPONSE

The EU Civil Protection Mechanism was also activated following Pakistan's request for assistance from the international community. The Monitoring and Information Centre (MIC) within the European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO) coordinated the response of the 31 participating states. In addition to in-kind assistance (water purification tablets, emergency health kits, hygiene kits, tents, water tanks, generators, etc.), EU civil protection experts and a MIC liaison officer were deployed to the area to facilitate the coordination of civil protection assistance and to liaise with the UN agencies on the spot.

ONE YEAR ON

Humanitarian challenges continue to confront Pakistan one year after the catastrophic floods. Just prior to the first anniversary of this disaster, the deteriorating food situation was also becoming a major concern to ECHO and the humanitarian community. Self-sufficiency is still very low and the risk of malnutrition especially among children remains very high, particularly in northern and southern Sindh with Global Acute Malnutrition rates of 23.1% and 21.2% respectively. In order to avoid asset depletion and the further indebtedness of the flood-affected community, the European Commission increased its allocation of €70 million for 2011 by a further €6 million in June. This funding will help fight food insecurity and malnutrition in areas which were severely affected by the floods.

The impact and repercussions of the floods will be felt for several years. It is important to work towards reducing the underlying vulnerability of people to disaster and increase their coping capacities. The fundamental challenge now is to help people re-build their lives and to regenerate resilience. ECHO is coordinating closely with other services of the European Commission and other donors in order to ensure a fully consistent and effective linkage between the relief, rehabilitation and development phases.

With the new monsoon season beginning this month, ECHO continues to monitor the situation very closely in order to react rapidly and effectively if the need arises.