



**PAKISTAN PEDIATRIC ASSOCIATION**  
Association of All Child Specialists of Pakistan

## **Emergency Appeal**

### **for**

## **Children and Families Affected by Floods in Pakistan**

The severe flooding in the northwest of Pakistan is one of the worst floods globally in recent history. According to the United Nations, the number of people suffering as a result of these floods could exceed the combined total of those affected by the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami, the 2005 Kashmir earthquake and the 2010 Haiti earthquake.

More than 1,400 people have already died as a direct result of the flooding with hundreds more reported missing according to the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA). The floods have left nearly 14 million people—almost 1 in 10 Pakistanis—in need of urgent help, including 6 million children (UNICEF). These numbers are expected to increase as the flooding is predicted to continue with more rains in the forecast.

Rains have blocked access to many areas, including health and sanitation facilities, and have destroyed homes and livelihoods. Thousands of people, many with small children, continue to be urgently evacuated to temporary shelters in the northwest of Pakistan. However, a lack of food, safe drinking water and limited sanitation means outbreaks of water borne diseases like cholera, diarrhea, dysenteries and hepatitis are inevitable. Children are particularly vulnerable to these diseases and, with the disruptions to family and community support and protection structures, the affected children can become even more exposed to disease and other threats to their health and safety.

While international organisations are working on larger logistical operations, significant day-to-day work on the ground is being undertaken by local organisations. The relief, recovery and reconstruction processes related to this disaster will require their long-term and sustained support. It is imperative that they are provided with assistance to take up this role. The Pakistan Pediatric Association (PPA) is a network of such organizations, professionals and groups with experience and credibility in the effected communities to take up the immediate and long term work.

### **The Pakistan Pediatric Association (PPA)**

The Pakistan Pediatric Association (PPA) is a National representation association of Pediatricians of Pakistan. It seeks to improve the academic and social advancement of pediatricians, to achieve the optimum health, growth, and development of all the

children of Pakistan irrespective of their diversified backgrounds, and to promote the protection of children from abuse and neglect.

The PPA is highly experienced in working in disasters areas involving complex humanitarian emergencies. It was the first national organisation to respond to the devastating 2005 earthquake in Kashmir and Northern Pakistan. It was also actively involved in providing medical and other humanitarian relief to the 3.5 million people who were internally displaced as a consequence of Pakistani Government's military action against the terrorists in 2009. In addition to providing humanitarian relief to families, the PPA has also been instrumental in advocating child protection initiatives during emergencies. As a result, the PPA established more than 50 child-friendly spaces for children living in relief camps in Pakistan.

The Child Rights and Abuse Committee of the PPA (CRAC-PPA) has a mandate to promote children's rights and to protect children from all forms of neglect, violence, abuse and exploitation.

**Dr Tufail Mohammed**, the Chairman of CRAC-PPA is an established child rights leader based in Peshawar, the capital of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) province. He has extensive experience of relief work having led initiatives during the 2005 earthquake in the country and has subsequently worked with the large internally displaced population. He has received two meritorious service awards from the government of Pakistan for his work with children. Currently he leads a team that is actively involved in flood relief in KPK - which has been one of the worst hit areas.

"The situation on ground is extremely grim and depressing. We must save lives as the future of our children is in great jeopardy from the dire combination of destruction, displacement, death and disease"

"This is a disaster of epic proportions, not only in the region, but in the world. We need to act with full force, with a specific lens on the vulnerability of children in these situations".

"It is a race against time, as the scale and gravity of the tragedy is unfolding so fast. What we have learned from past experience is that children need targeted interventions that include protection measures. These are urgently needed now"

"These unfortunate, but resilient, people have braved one disaster after another—earthquake, internal conflict, terrorism—and now unprecedented destructive floods. The world needs to stand up for them, particularly the children, who are the most vulnerable at this time".

It is anticipated that the funds raised by this appeal will cover expenses related to the following activities in three geographical cluster groups.

- Child protection and outreach workers who will work to establish child-friendly spaces in emergency camps and clusters and will identify, monitor and assist children who have become severely affected and are in situations of distress.

For example, children who have become separated from the adults responsible for them, are injured, are displaced.

Cost: USD 5,000 per worker (salary, equipment, travel). It is anticipated that two workers will cover each geographical cluster group.

- Preventive and curative medical services for injured or sick children.

Cost: USD 10,000 per geographic cluster.

- Supplies for nurses and community health and outreach workers to assist women and children.

Cost: USD 10,000 per geographical cluster group.

- Child psychologists to provide assistance to children affected by the disaster.

Cost: USD 10,000 for two psychologists who will accompany outreach and medical team interventions to provide relevant child services based on needs identified by the team.