



An International Medical Corps health worker registers patients following consultations in a flood-affected community in the Mirpur district of Sindh province.

Six months after the deadly floods wrecked havoc in Pakistan, an estimated 5 million people are living in close proximity to flooded areas, according to UN satellite imagery. Exposure to contaminated floodwaters and a lack of adequate shelter, tents, latrines and food items, including safe drinking water, is increasing the vulnerability of affected communities.

Cases of acute respiratory infections, typhoid and painful skin conditions are increasing in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh provinces. This is combined with prevailing low stocks of essential medicines and medical supplies, meaning health facilities are unable to adequately treat those in need. According to field reports, even oral rehydration salts are unavailable in remote communities, despite high prevalence of diarrheal diseases due to open defecation and consumption of contaminated water.

According to United Nations Population Fund, about 5.1 million women in affected areas are of childbearing age, with more than 400,000 women currently pregnant and more than 100,000 expected to give birth over the coming months. According to reports from International Medical Corps doctors running mobile medical teams in flood-affected areas, there is a need for multivitamins, particularly iron tablets for pregnant women, due to high levels of malnourishment.

Estimates say that about 14.6 million people will require emergency food assistance from December 2022 through March 2023. According to the latest National Nutrition Survey estimates, almost 1.6 million children in Balochistan and Sindh are at risk of malnutrition and will require treatment. Stunting rates among children are forecasted to rise if more assistance is not provided.

International Medical Corps Response

International Medical Corps is supporting the Department of Health in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh provinces by providing medical assistance through consultations and essential medicines for a variety of conditions, including diarrhea, acute respiratory infections, malaria, skin and eye infections, snake bites and typhoid. We are also providing water purification tablets to thousands of people in both districts. We have also begun gender-based violence (GBV) and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services in affected communities in Balochistan and Sindh.

We have deployed 11 mobile medical teams (MMTs) in severely affected districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh that are providing emergency medical assistance and essential medicines to underserved and displaced community members. Eight of the teams are working in Sindh, targeting Dadu, Jamshoro and Mirpur Khas, while the rest of the teams are carrying out operations in the Charsadda district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Our MMTs have reached 95,422 people in both provinces since the onset of the floods. During December, we reached 8,055 people in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and 31,259 in Sindh, conducting 39,314 consultations. Furthermore, our teams

Fast Facts

- Since the deadly flooding in June 2022, more than 1,700 people have died and more than 200,000 people remain displaced in Balochistan and Sindh provinces.
- International Medical Corps has deployed 11 mobile medical teams, which have provided 95,422 consultations in severely affected districts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh provinces.
- In Sindh, International Medical Corps has worked with a local partner to deliver 3.2 million liters of potable water to the affected population via water trucking, and 77,195 liters through our solar-powered mobile reverse-osmosis plant, which converts contaminated floodwater into safe drinking water.

have reached 10,614 people through general health and hygiene awareness-raising sessions. We also reached 12,565 people through 220 awareness sessions we conducted on GBV and MHPSS.

In the Dadu and Mirpur Khas districts of Sindh, we are collaborating with our local partner, the Association for Water, Education and Renewable Energy, to carry out water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) initiatives through the following activities:

- **Water supply.** We have provided more than 3.2 million liters of potable water to affected populations in Dadu and Mirpurkhas districts. In December, we provided 77,195 liters through our solar-powered mobile reverse osmosis plant, which converts contaminated flood water into safe drinking water. We also provided 1,000 aqua tablets to people during the same period.
- **Pit latrines.** We constructed 37 pit latrines in December for flood-affected communities around Roshanabad, Mirpur Khas district, Sindh province, helping 1,835 people.
- **Hygiene sessions and kits.** During the reporting period, we conducted 239 hygiene sessions that reached 5,140 people in different communities in the affected areas. Moreover, we distributed 600 hygiene kits, reaching 3,019 people.



Women and children gather outside our mobile health facility, which provides much-needed healthcare services to the flood-affected communities of Charsadda district, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Gaps and Needs

Gaps and needs identified by humanitarian actors working in the field include:

- shortages of essential medicines and medical supplies;
- a lack of health services for nearly 150,000 pregnant women;
- weak health systems, training gaps for health workers and midwives, and limited access to quality reproductive health services;
- a lack of safe drinking water;
- ways of curbing open defecation, including latrine construction;
- awareness-raising about proper handwashing, and hygiene kits containing soap for handwashing; and
- cash-for-work activities, to provide communities with a source of income to support families and reduce stress levels through engagement in work.



An International Medical Corps WASH team performs a quality test of reverse-osmosis plant-treated water that we provide to flood-affected communities in Mirpur Khas district, Sindh province.