

17 August 2010

## How Irish agencies are already helping in Pakistan

Here is a quick update on what some of the Dóchas member agencies and their partners are doing in response to the catastrophic floods in Pakistan.

### Christian Aid

Christian Aid has released approximately €60,000 to help Act Alliance partners respond to the devastating floods. Focusing the effort on the five districts most affected by the flooding, ACT Alliance will focus its response on food distribution, shelter and health care and will be providing: food parcels to 5,000 families, tents and plastic sheets to 2,500 families, preventative and curative medical care to 2,500 families through three mobile health clinics.

ACT Alliance staff are currently visiting the affected areas to identify the most urgent needs so that they can begin distribution of food, water, tents, and emergency medical care to 70,000 people in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces.

### Concern

Concern released €500,000 from its emergency fund to kick-start its response. Concern is responding in the Province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK), which has been the worst affected. So far, Concern has helped 18,000 people. In the past days, Concern has distributed emergency packages to 800 families (6,400 people) in Charsadda district. These contain: plastic sheets, jerry cans, blankets, hygiene kits and debris removal kits.

The aid agency is targeting 10,000 families (70,000 people) by providing the following: kitchen sets and hygiene kits; clean water; temporary sanitation; and dry rations of food, including flour, oil and sugar.

### Irish Red Cross

The Irish Red Cross has sent €50,000 from its Emergency Response Fund. Together with the Pakistan Red Crescent Society, the Red Cross Movement has already provided food, tents and shelter materials to over 77,000 flood-affected people and medical teams have assisted 15,000 people. Red Cross teams are treating flood victims for injuries, skin infections and respiratory problems as well as helping those who have been displaced

Red Cross/ Red Crescent water engineers have been deployed to pump water from buildings and to restore community water supplies.

## **Oxfam Ireland**

So far Oxfam has reached more than 100,000 people with clean water and helped evacuate 80,000 stranded people. Oxfam is aiming to reach 650,000 people with vital water, sanitation and hygiene.

Oxfam, with the help of its partners, has mapped out the 13 most affected districts and is also providing rescue services where possible.

## **Plan Ireland**

Plan is providing direct aid, food and shelter assistance to 100,000 people in some of the districts worst hit by flooding in Pakistan - Layyah, Rajanpur, and Muzafargarh. Plan is raising approximately €3 million to fund work including food, water, tents and medicines in some of the worst affected areas.

Plan will put up emergency toilets in campsites and will include play and learning materials in the recreational kits for children.

## **Trócaire**

Trócaire is getting food, water, water purification tablets, cooking utensils, high-energy biscuits for children and sanitary supplies to survivors. Trócaire's partners began providing pre-cooked meals to over 300 families in Nowshera, in the northwest, the weekend the flooding began. In another area near the city of Peshawar, Trócaire's partners are providing food, water and sanitary supplies to over 1,500 families in four villages.

So far Trócaire's work included the evacuation of 8,000 people trapped in at-risk areas from the area surrounding Manchar Lake in the southern province of Sindh. In the northwest of Pakistan, Trócaire's already supporting another 10,000 survivors with food, water, water purification tablets, cooking utensils, high energy biscuits for children and sanitary supplies to vulnerable families.

Specifically, 5,700 families have received food packages; 4,500 families received packages containing blankets, plastic sheets for shelter and kitchen utensils; and 5,000 families have received hygiene kits.

## **World Vision**

On 11 August World Vision began distributing shelter kits, cooking implements and gas cylinders to 100 families in Pashtun Garhi in Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa Province (KPK). Distributions of floor mats, bedding and food kits containing flour, sugar, rice, beans,

tea, dates and oil to families in Charsada, Nowshera and Peshawar will start within a week. World Vision is responding with emergency health care and has already opened a clinic in Lower Dir, with plans for 6 more underway. Food and water has already been delivered to more than 7,000 people in Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa district, one of the worst-affected areas.

The aid agency will continue working to distribute water, emergency food items, and kitchen kits (with items like pots, bowls, spoons, and plates) and plans to reach 150,000 people over the next three months of its response.

**For more information, log on to [www.howyoucanhelp.ie](http://www.howyoucanhelp.ie)**