



UAE Response to Pakistan Flood Disaster

Upon witnessing the hardship an estimated 23 million Pakistani people are facing in the wake of the recent flood disaster, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) government and charitable foundations rapidly mobilized to deliver food, shelter and other emergency relief supplies.

Consistent with the country's track record as a major humanitarian aid donor and contributor to global relief efforts following disasters, the UAE was one of the first countries to respond to the tragedy in Pakistan. UAE organizations continue to work day and night to help the millions of people affected by the flooding.

According to a report issued by the UAE Office for the Coordination of Foreign Aid and other sources, UAE assistance given to support international relief efforts in Pakistan includes:

Monetary Assistance with Flood Relief Efforts

- The UAE Red Crescent Authority's (RCA) telethon raised more than \$23 million in donations so far to assist the flood victims.
- The UAE government pledged \$5 million to the UN's Pakistan flood relief fund.
- The Sheikh Khalifa Foundation provided \$3.5 million in food, tents, blankets, and medical supplies.
- The UAE Red Crescent Authority donated \$1.3 million toward emergency relief efforts, including a \$1 million private donation by HH Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak.

Food & Supplies for Impacted Peoples

- The UAE's contribution to relief and rescue operations includes: 50,000 blankets, 12,000 tents, 220,000 food packets, 6,000 mineral water bottles, food utensils, 227 tons of dates and medicines during the second stage.
- The Red Crescent Society set up two makeshift camps in the Punjab region, and distributed 534 tons of relief supplies in various parts of Pakistan.
- Three additional relief aircraft loaded with 120 tons of dates were dispatched from the UAE to Pakistan.
- The Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian and Charity Establishment sent an aircraft carrying 11 tons of cover sheets and 4 tons of ready meals.

Medical & Health Care Assistance

- Two teams of UAE doctors are working in Peshawar and Jacobabad, and are vaccinating 6,000 women and children in coordination with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).
- Medical teams sent by the UAE RCA started a drive to vaccinate the inhabitants of Nowshera City, which was hit particularly hard by the recent floods. The vaccination campaign, implemented in cooperation with UNICEF aims to immunize children against measles and women of childbearing age against tetanus. During the first days of its presence, the medical team vaccinated over 3000 persons, according to Nazirullah Khan, a UNICEF official overseeing the campaign.

Logistics & Airlift Support

- UAE Army assistance, through daily aid missions by Chinook helicopter crews, is helping evacuate flood victims and airlift relief supplies to flood-engulfed areas that cannot be reached by land.
- The relief forces stationed in Punjab's Multan City moved truck-loads of food, medicine, pure drinking water and other essential supplies to different flood-hit areas across the country. The relief supplies sent by various UAE charity and humanitarian organizations continued to arrive in Pakistan via the air bridge.
- UAE aircraft are carrying relief assistance offered by friendly countries from main airports to locations of internally displaced persons (IDPs).

UAE-Pakistan Flood Relief Cooperation

- The UAE Ambassador to Pakistan Ali Saif Sultan Al Awani has been in constant communication with Pakistani officials, receiving briefings on the current situation in the flood-hit areas and the relief efforts on ground. These meetings have resulted in stronger coordination of the UAE's role.
- General Ashfaq Parvez Kiyani, Chief of Army Staff, Pakistan, visited the UAE rescue and aid team. General Kiyani commended the role played by the UAE team in assisting the Pakistani people during their hardship and appreciated working alongside the UAE army during his country's crises.

A Longstanding Commitment to Pakistan

The UAE's emergency assistance to Pakistan is conducted in the context of a long-standing aid relationship between the two countries, dating back to 1975 when the UAE Government extended a loan of \$100 million dollars to support development programs in the country.

In 2009, the UAE pledged support of \$300 million at the Pakistan Donors Conference in Tokyo. Additionally, the UAE contributed generously to the relief effort following the 2005 earthquake in Kashmir.

On 6 July 2010, the government of the UAE and Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) signed a partnership agreement to support vital humanitarian operations in Pakistan. The agreement – signed on the UAE's behalf by the Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Foundation – provides for the needs of internally displaced people, mainly women and children, living in precarious conditions. The partnership

includes procurement of basic relief items such as tents, blankets, sleeping mats, plastic sheeting, mosquito nets and kitchen sets to displaced Pakistani families living in some 21 refugee camps or with host families. It will also help facilitate the voluntary return of displaced people in the north-west of Pakistan, where there are more than 2 million displaced people in the North West Frontier Province and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas.

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