

## DISASTER & IDP CRISIS

### Situation of IDPs

#### **Pregnant Women in Rain-Hit Areas at High Risk**

According to a recent assessment by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), 8.9 million rain-hit people include 240,000 pregnant women and 1.36 million children. Torrential rains have rendered expecting mothers more vulnerable to malnutrition. They are high risk cases and senior gynecologists fear that maternal mortality rate might shoot up in Sindh this year because of the conditions these women live in. Under present conditions antenatal (during pregnancy) care of expecting mothers emerges as a big issue for health providers. Pregnant women with rural background even otherwise turn up in hospitals with symptoms of anemia, hypertension disorder and social neglect that put them at high risk usually. Recent havoc visiting these rural settlements has led to more complications in cases of expecting mothers. Malnutrition would haunt them seriously and they were not able apparently to handle it on their own unless a serious initiative was taken. 40 childbirths are reported daily at the hospital. Doctors feared that mortality rate in Sindh might go up this year because of serious complications among displaced women.

These mothers would not have access to skilled birth attendants in camps or in tent cities set up in different rain-affected districts. They need to be shifted to tertiary hospitals if possible. Medical experts and health indicators rate Pakistan among the countries having high maternal mortality rate. As many as 276 women die per 100,000 live births in the country. Some doctors claim the figure is even higher in remote areas. According to them, maternal mortality goes as high as 700-1000 per 100,000 live births in remote areas. Doctors describe postpartum hemorrhage (bleeding), malnutrition, infection and hypertension as main cause of mortality among pregnant women. The maternal mortality has also become a social issue that society seriously needs to look into. Expecting mothers continue to depend on medical assistance provided by mobile medical teams or any nearby health facilities, though most of the units are said to be dysfunctional. These mothers are hard pressed to fulfill their requirements of nutritional diet at this stage. Besides, their transportation to teaching or district-level hospital is a big issue. Such mothers, presently homeless, have a tough time in relief camps. Doctors fear a lot unsafe childbirth this year.

[Dawn – October 09, 2011]

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#### **Hunger Stares In Face Of Affected**

Immediate relief must be provided to millions of people hit by floods in Sindh or more lives will be lost of hunger. Number of flood affected had now reached 8.9 million but aid pledges were yet to be fulfilled and government along with relief agencies had not enough resources to cope with the deteriorating situation. There is the need to motivate the international aid agencies and the world community to fulfill their pledges of aid for the flood victims. The United Nations had warned that thousands of lives were in danger in flood-ravaged Sindh as the international body was running out of resources amid growing humanitarian needs. The international aid agencies should have been reacted promptly at that time, for, it is too late now. And if they did not come to rescue the affected, they would start dying of hunger. At present, children are suffering from malnutrition, affected' standing crops and other food resources have been washed away with the floods, their houses and agricultural land are still submerged in water, there are no means in sight to drain out the

floodwater from these areas and the aid agencies are finding it difficult to have access to these areas. In this situation if aid agencies do not come to rescue them, it would be disastrous and worrisome. It is the need of the hour that donor agencies and world community must be motivated to help the flood-hit people urgently. Two floods in a year has have greatly affected the flood victims' physical and medico-psychological capabilities to face the circumstances. Presently, 240,000 women are pregnant and 40 babies are being born daily. More than 10 million children are suffering from water-borne diseases like malaria and skin problems. They have no medical facilities available to them. Oxfam is providing potable water to 8.5 million people and focusing on water drainage from the affected areas because most of the ailments and medical problems originate from stagnant waters

[The Nation - October 03, 2011]

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### **9m Flood-Affected People Waiting For Relief, Rescue**

Over nine million flood-affected people in the districts of left bank of River Indus, including Tharparker, Umerkot, Badin, Khairpur, Shaheed Benazirabad (Nawabshah), Sanghar, Naushero Feroze, Tando Allahyar, Thatta and Tando Mohammad Khan have been waiting for relief goods, medicines and drinking water. Over 80 percent displaced people need shelters, relief goods and apt measures against water born diseases and gastro spreading among the affected people, whereas the federal and provincial governments have failed to provide them relief. The hapless people only receive tall claims and statements of grief. This was revealed in a survey conducted in various rain-hit areas including Tando Mohammad Khan, Khairpur, Shaheed Benazirabad and Badin. For over a month, the government could not provide relief to the helpless inhabitants who have been left to the mercy of their miseries. Social worker and resident of these district said that not a single official or elected representative had shown serious interest in rescuing hundreds of marooned villages in when they were inundated. Some of the villagers had rescued themselves on their own and moved towards safer areas. Thousands of affected people have still not been provided with relief goods, medicines and pure drinking water. The elected public representatives seemed to be reluctant in providing relief to them. An official of district administration informed on the condition of anonymity that the relief activity, including distribution of relief goods, was being rendered on political and personal basis. Water born diseases had also broken out in the rain-affected region, while health facilities were very inadequate. Badin district was worst-hit by rains. Although it was a natural calamity, yet it could have been controlled by taking proper measures but the officials. The poor coordination among administration regarding provision of food items to flood-ravaged people, as some were getting surplus items while most remained empty-handed. The disarrayed camps and mismanaged distribution of food might lead to an uncontrollable situation, as the government was not taking appropriate measures to address the situation.

[Daily Times - October 05, 2011]

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## **Relief & Rehabilitation Responses**

### **Donors Pledge \$150m for Sindh Flood Victims**

The international donors had so far pledged \$150 million for providing food, shelter, medicine and other facilities to the flood-hit people of Sindh. National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) out of the pledged amount, \$61 million had already been received by the NDMA for providing basic

amenities to the marooned people, adding that the NDMA was finalizing a comprehensive strategy to minimize the effects of future catastrophes in light of lessons learnt from the current disaster. A fully-equipped and well-trained Disaster Risk Management Force (DRMF) would be set up in each district of the country soon with the mandate to minimize the losses in future calamities. They will be imparted latest training in collaboration with civil defense and other related departments. During the time of emergencies, the volunteers would evacuate people, perform fire fighting and also distribute relief items in an organized way. Every year the services of volunteers would be utilized to cope with any disaster. The main purpose of establishing the DRMF is to link up the services of Rescue 1122, Civil Defense, volunteers, boy scouts and others.

[Pakistan Today – October 09, 2011]

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### **More Centres for Delivery of Pak Cards**

Deputy Chairman National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) said more distribution centres have been opened to expedite the process of issuance of Pakistan Cards to flood-hit families in Sindh. The Authority has set up total 31 Centres so far for issuance and processing of such Cards in nearly all-major flood-hit districts including Badin, Shaheed Benazirabad, Mirpur Khas and Tando Muhammad Khan while preparations are also underway for opening of additional sites in Tando Muhammad Khan and new centres in Sangarh. The basic purpose of opening more centres is to accommodate maximum affected and to issue them Pakistan Cards as early as possible so that they could buy their daily use items after getting cash from the banks. So far 115,000 Pakistan Cards to eligible heads of the rain-affected families in Sindh have been issued and the work was continuing in a smooth manner. The Authority was working with Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) and government of Sindh, adding that the relief aid beneficiary list is validated by PDMA which is carrying out registration of affected families with the assistance of district administration in calamity-hit areas. NADRA is technically assisting to ensure transparency in cash disbursement by using Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) and Facial Recognition System (FRS). Pakistan Card has a cash tab of Rs. 20,000 in two equal installments of cash Rs. 10,000 each.

Besides processing the Pakistan Cards NADRA is also processing the duplicate cards for those who have lost it in flood and new Computerized National Identity Cards (CNICs) for those who never had it. NADRA has so far processed approximately 9161 CNICs in lieu of fresh and duplicate cards free of cost on emergency basis. NADRA has also mobilized its mobile registration vans (MRVs) in rain-hit areas in case any flood victim does not possess CNIC, he/she could approach MRV to apply for the one free of cost. Only head of family belonging to the rain affected district should visit Pakistan Centres to avoid problems. The strict actions will be taken against those involved in taking money at the centres for token issuance. People should inform the authorities about such people so that they could be brought to justice. The culprits should not exploit the vulnerability of flood victims with meager offers against their cards or for issuance of token as severe actions will be taken against them. Flood hit people are warned not to commit identify fraud otherwise they will be handed over to law enforcement agencies. The flood affected people who lost or sold their cards by mistake, should contact the relevant banks to block their lost or sold card and get the new one as replacement on their CNICs.

[The Nation - October 09, 2011]

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### **Government, Donors Asked To Take Steps for Bonded Labors**

With the government and international organizations preparing to enter the rehabilitation phase in flood-hit areas of Sindh, a plan should be made that include special measures to provide relief to bonded laborers in those areas. Bonded labour is wide spread in certain parts of Sindh and a big part of that area including Omer Kot, Mitthi, Tharparker and some places of Thatha and Badin have high concentration of such laborers. These people are most oppressed and a good number of them belong to minority groups. They have no land and no house of their own. If they are preferred in rehabilitation phase and are provided some land or a place to live, it can completely change their life and can end this inhuman practice from this area. A lot can be done for bonded laborers during early recovery and rehabilitation phase if their vulnerability is realized and addressed in the registration process. They do not have identity cards or any other document to prove that they belong to a specific area, a condition that is essential to get Watan Card or to qualify for any other facility. Bonded labour is wide spread in Pakistan. The International Labour Organization assesses the problem of debt bondage in Pakistan as one of the worst in the world. Majority of bonded laborers belong to marginalized groups. They usually face cruel and inhuman treatment including physical punishment and detainment. According to Pakistan Institute of Labour, Education and Research (PILER) estimates of year 2000, the total number of sharecroppers (Haris) in debt bondage in Pakistan was over 1.8 million. If the number of those who work as beggar is included in this figure, the total number of people kept in bondage amounts to more than 8.6 million. The two most prominent sectors characterized by a significant use of bonded labour are agriculture and brick kilns.

[The News - October 03, 2011]

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### **UK To Provide Flood-Resistant Homes**

United Kingdom (UK) will provide emergency shelter and flood resistant new homes to more than 0.25 million people made homeless by this year's devastating monsoon floods in southern Pakistan. According to a press release, this new support from the UK government includes emergency shelter and blankets that will be shipped in directly from DFID's warehouse in UAE, as well as help to rebuild flood resistant homes for 40,000 people where water has receded. Recent announcement came in response to the United Nations Pakistan Floods Rapid Response Plan 2011. The flooding in Sindh, southern Pakistan, is of deep concern to many British people. That's why today the UK will provide vital shelter to more than 255,000 children and adults who have lost their homes in southern Pakistan. UK support for people affected by the floods will continue till 2012. This reflects the deep friendship and longstanding bond between the UK and Pakistan. Both countries are closely tied through family, business, history and culture, and will always stand by and support each other. UK had already anticipated possible further flooding in Pakistan this year and over the last few month's pre-positioned 5,000 family tents, 10,000 tarpaulin sheets, 35,000 thermal blankets, and tens of thousands of hygiene kits, water bottles, and other emergency items in 12 locations across Pakistan. In addition, the UK helped provide emergency shelter to 37,440 families, 2,000 solar lamps, and 1,000 sleeping mats to try to avoid major outbreaks of health epidemics. The UK also funded training for rural communities on how to prepare for and cope with flooding. And UK funding is supporting cash for work projects to repair flood protection barriers, irrigation channels and other community infrastructure. This helps reduce vulnerability to future disasters and at the same time provides opportunities for people to earn money through creating employment.

[Daily Times - October 07, 2011]

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### **Lethargic Response: Donors Fear Fudging Of Flood Data, Says UN**

The United Nations has attributed the sluggish response of donor countries to its emergency appeal for flood assistance in Sindh and Balochistan to real or imagined concerns that the government figures are exaggerated and do not reflect the ground reality. The UN has informed about the less than lukewarm response to the \$357 million flood appeal and the reservations that donor countries supposedly have about pledging money and materials. Official figures indicate that some eight million people have been affected and 600,000 homes totally destroyed by the flooding. UN agencies say the rains have destroyed 73 per cent of the two provinces' crops and 67 per cent of food stocks. The lethargic response to the \$357 million appeal is also put down to issues such as visa restrictions, lack of direct access to beneficiaries and concerns over the lack of accountability, according to a secret diplomatic cable sent last month by Pakistan's permanent representative to the UN in New York. The UN official, according to the cable, spoke of the concerns that donor countries raised such as visa restrictions for aid workers intending to visit the flood-hit areas. She also told the foreign minister that donors had voiced doubts about the lack of accountability for bilateral in-kind assistance received last year and media reports about unutilized money. Concerns raised by donors reflect the low credibility of the PPP-led government in Pakistan. The diplomatic cable says the foreign minister called for better coordination of UN relief agencies with the authorities in the country. While there seemed to be clarity at the headquarters level, the OCHA country team's tendency was to set their own priorities. The UN relief coordinator said the appeal process was led by the government of Pakistan and therefore, the process of [damage] needs assessment had been identified along with it. In order to seek donor confidence and promote accountability, we may alleviate donor concerns on bilateral in-kind assistance and media reports on unutilized sums [of aid money].

[The Express Tribune - October 10, 2011]

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### **WFP Funds for Flood Victims to Run Out By Nov End**

More funds are urgently required to ensure continued life-saving food distributions as current fund would run out by the end of November. The WFP has received \$27 million in support of emergency food assistance activities for the current floods. The current funding, provided by Australia, Japan, Luxembourg, the USA and the private sector, which will continue till end of November. More funds are urgently required to ensure continued life-saving relief distributions for the most vulnerable victims. Malnourished or undernourished children are a serious concern and recent floods aggravated the situation. The overall response of the world donors to the flood affected has not been very generous this time and funding remained very slow. When asked that why Pakistan has not been provided funds, that only donors could reply to the question. UN official said that Pakistan should urgently improve its disaster prevention system. UN had been assisting Pakistan and had provided some equipment also. The issue of funding has been a particular concern of the UN since the launch of appeal for \$356 million to help the Pakistani flood affected people. There were reports recently that the world's slow response to Pakistan's flood crisis was partly due to fears of mismanagement in funds raised last year.

[Pakistan Today – October 17, 2011]

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## UN Marks 64 Years of Partnership with Pakistan

Pakistan Floods 2011 Rapid Response Plan seeks \$357 million to enable the United Nations (UN) and its humanitarian partners to support the government in addressing emergency needs of food, water and sanitation, health care and shelter for up to 5.4 million people. The Rapid Response Plan is currently funded at only \$70 million and this \$287 million funding gap will have to be filled urgently. The mission of the United Nations is to build a better world, to leave no one behind, and to stand for the poorest and most vulnerable in the name of global peace and social justice. In Pakistan, United Nations works together in solidarity with the people of Pakistan through 19 UN agencies and offices and with 3,000 national staff, addressing both development and humanitarian issues. The UN programmes in Pakistan support national efforts to end poverty, address socio-economic challenges, and achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Promotion of human rights and equality cuts across all UN programmes. The UN works closely with the government, civil society organizations and humanitarian partners on the ground to help save lives affected by natural disasters, to assist those men, women, boys and girls displaced, and to equip and empower them to prepare for future calamities, including support to Afghan refugees. All UN work from relief to recovery and development is done alongside the people of Pakistan. National organizations, both governmental and non-governmental, implement many UN supported programmes, with strong ownership of the Pakistani people. Pakistan plays a crucial role in South Asia to facilitate regional cooperation for economic growth, peace and coexistence. On this UN day the United Nations renews its commitment to the people of Pakistan to work together in responding to crisis, support recovery from crises and rebuild communities, as well as support equitable and inclusive development. The United Nations calls for the global community to extend necessary support to the Pakistan Floods 2011 Rapid Response Plan that seeks \$357 million to enable the United Nations and its humanitarian partners to support the government in addressing emergency needs of food, water and sanitation, health care and shelter for up to 5.4 million people. The UN estimates 1.4 million women and girls of childbearing age in the 8 most severely affected districts in Sindh would require immediate access to lifesaving health services as well as psycho-social and protection support. The Rapid Response Plan is currently funded at only \$70 million. This funding gap will have to be filled urgently.

[Daily Times - October 25, 2011]

## 2011 Sindh Rains & Flood

### Zardari Orders Measures to Help Flood-Hit Farmers

President Asif Ali Zardari directed the government to set up a committee to recommend measures for meeting the seed requirements of farmers in flood-affected areas of Sindh and another committee to suggest steps for reserving the command area of Gomal Dam for cultivation of cotton. The decision to form the committees was taken during a briefing to the president on the state of agriculture in the flood-hit areas. The first committee will comprise agriculture secretaries of Punjab and Sindh and other committee will consist of the agriculture secretary of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and representatives of the All Pakistan Textile Mills Association. The president had also called for providing seeds for growing canola, sunflower and cotton and soft loans so that the flood-hit farmers could make a fresh start. Mr. Zardari said the large-scale destruction of food and cash crops and livestock in Sindh had seriously affected the agricultural economy. He said one of the top priorities was to help the farmers reclaim their agricultural land and to prevent further loss of livestock. The president was informed that the flood had damaged two million bales of cotton,

over 75,000 tons of chili, 0.2 million tons of rice, 0.33 million tons of onion and 70 thousand tons of tomato. Keeping in view the upcoming Rabi planting season, Mr. Zardari said, rapid measures needed be taken to assist the farmers by timely providing seed and fertilizer. He said cash-for-work schemes were needed to help create much-needed income opportunities for the affected communities. The meeting also reviewed the fertilizer availability and the president said a cost-benefit analysis should be carried out to decide between the option of importing more fertilizer and providing more gas to local fertilizer factories. While reviewing the cotton production situation, the president said better management of existing technology and introduction of new technologies were essential to maximize national cotton production and to control various viral diseases.

[Dawn - October 6, 2011]

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### **‘Germany to Provide 5.6m Euros for Flood Victims’**

Germany will support emergency aid measures for the victims of the current floods in the Sindh and Balochistan provinces with 5.6 million Euros. After the devastating floods last summer, millions of people are again heavily affected by this year’s flooding in southern Pakistan. Once more, Germany is on the side of the people of Pakistan and is supporting the emergency operation of the World Food Programme and non-governmental organizations with 5.6 million Euros of which 4.6 million Euros are coming from the Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development whereas 1 million Euros are coming from the Federal Foreign Office. The measures of the non-governmental organizations supported by Germany are particularly focused on cash-for-work programmes for women. Women play a fundamental role in the economic and social situation of families, particularly in the disaster context; especially want to strengthen their capacity to act. The current and last year’s floods illustrate how severely Pakistan is affected by natural disasters. Germany will remain a reliable partner of Pakistan and its people, also in the context of natural disasters. But this is also the time to recall that intensified efforts by the government of Pakistan are needed for disaster prevention and management. Together with two NGO partners, the German federal government is continuing its efforts in support of the restoration of livelihoods and social infrastructure as well as disaster prevention in north-western Pakistan.

[Pakistan Today - October 06, 2011]

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### **3m Sindh Children at Risk Due To Floods**

The lives of at least three million children in Pakistan are at risk from malnutrition and disease because of a huge shortage in emergency funding needed to help families left destitute by the flooding in Sindh. Only 9% of the \$233 million required by the UN’s emergency appeal has so far been raised, prompting fears that millions of people will be left without food and water if more money is not found. The UN says that food and water supplies could run out in within weeks and is warning that a third of those affected could be without medical care in a month’s time. Emergency shelter supplies will run out in the next few weeks, according to the UN. At least 5.5 million people have been affected by the flooding after torrential rains caused riverbanks to burst and overflow in late August. The disaster left 1.8 million people displaced and forced many to flee to roadsides, railway tracks and schools in search of shelter. Children are distressed and are living in desperate conditions with families barely able to feed themselves. Their stocks of food have been wiped out by flooding and they don’t have the money to buy food. Some people are still completely cut off from help. While the charity is on the ground trying to save children’s lives, the need is huge. The world has to face up to what is happening here and fill the funding gap so aid agencies can reach

millions more people. Save the Children is one of a few international agencies that are currently delivering aid in Sindh. The children's aid agency is reaching almost 250,000 people with food, healthcare, shelter and basic household goods, as well as establishing safe play areas to help children recover from the distress caused by the disaster. With most aid agencies focusing on the delivery of supplies to the districts of Badin and Mirpurkhas, Save the Children is also the first to start reaching out to communities in new areas such as Sanghar where 900,000 people have been affected, according to local authorities. The children's charity has delivered food rations to 5,000 families in the district of Sanghar. Only 145,000 people of those affected in this district are receiving assistance in camps and the rest are fending for themselves. The charity has launched a \$20 million flood response for lower Sindh. Save the Children aims to provide support to one million people, including 600,000 children in four of the worst hit districts: Badin, Mirpurkhas, Sanghar and Tando Allahyar.

[The Express Tribune - October 06, 2011]

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### **Rains Inflict Rs. 457bn Loss on 21 Districts: Sindh CM**

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Qaim Ali Shah has said that the recent rains inflicted Rs. 457 billion losses in 21 districts of the province, which were Rs. 13 billion higher than the damages suffered during the last year's floods. He said the government, as well as the international community, were making efforts for the resettlement of the rain victims and providing them relief and food. He said that the Pakistan Cards were being given to the rain victims and the Sindh government would not leave them alone. He said Rs. 4 billion have been allocated for the provision of agriculture inputs to the affected growers for the Rabi crop. The Sindh government has hired the services of the NSUSC in some districts under the Sindh Cities Improvement Project to improve the sewerage, drainage, and clean drinking water supply systems. He said that the Asian Development Bank has provided the funds to the Sindh government for the project in the shape of financial assistance. NSUSC adviser briefed the CM about the corporation's working and informed the meeting that modern machinery has been purchased with the cost of Rs. 40 million.

[The News - October 05, 2011]

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### **UN Allocates \$17.6 Million for Sindh Flood-Hit People**

The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) has allocated US\$17.6 million (PKR 1.54 billion) to thousands of families devastated by floods in Pakistan with the aim to provide water, food, shelter and healthcare facilities. The assistance will target the most vulnerable families living in temporary settlements in the eight hardest-hit districts of Sindh, in southern Pakistan. Many of them had not recovered from Pakistan's record-breaking floods of 2010. IOM, UN Habitat, UNHCR, WFP, FAO, UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA will deliver the assistance in support of Government-led relief and recovery efforts. \$4.9 million (Rs428 million) would help provide 96,000 people with emergency shelter materials, blankets and kitchen sets. Another \$2.9 million (Rs253 million) will help feed about 270,000 people, and \$800,000 (Rs69 million) will help families keep their livestock alive, to ensure continued milk production and a return to agricultural activities as soon as possible, he said. Besides, \$3.8 million (Rs322 million) will provide emergency primary health care for 1.3 million people, who face malaria, dengue and cholera, while \$3.1 million (Rs270 million) will respond to critical water, sanitation and hygiene needs. The appeal has received only 15 per cent of \$357 million (Rs31 billion) needed to urgently reduce suffering and save lives. Families are in a fight for survival. Much more is needed now. The CERF was established by the United Nations General

Assembly five years ago this month, to make funding for humanitarian emergencies faster and more equitable.

[Daily Times - October 08, 2011]

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### **Unless Sanghar's Stagnant Street Water Is Cleared up, Disease Will Persist**

A month on from the devastating rains, water levels continue to remain unnaturally high in Sanghar, with some locals and officials pointing the finger at politicians and landowners for reportedly worsening the crisis. Roads in the district overflow with water, mixed with sewage, as the sewage system in the main town has been destroyed. Flood survivors here themselves claim that landowners around their villages have manipulated the canals and irrigation systems in such a way that when floods come, their own lands are protected while areas surrounding their fields are inundated. The unnatural flooding of Sanghar town was caused by the manipulation of the Sim Nala by landowners. The water isn't really supposed to head for the city, which is higher than the surrounding areas. Additionally, resources were allocated to strengthen the nala with concrete so that when water pressure went up, it would be able to take the pressure. But the money was "never used by the local authorities". What happened, as expected was that the mud embankments collapsed. The people living in the area have noticed all of this even if they aren't able to do anything about it. One of them is Ali Baksh, who was displaced from his village of Sonay Fakir Kotto to a makeshift camp run by DevCon and the International Organization of Migration. Ten minutes from the camp is a World Food Programme distribution centre working in collaboration with Save the Children. All six district need to be provided for within their limited funds, people within each district are left without food. Another problem is that buses carrying food get looted, so that by the time they reach their destination they have nothing at all. Only 6% of the UN appeal has been met [so far]. The reality is that all government stocks for flood victims will be depleted by October 10. Meanwhile, the destroyed sewage system is worrying doctors. The most widespread diseases in the area are scabies, malaria and diarrhea. And this problem will persist until the stagnant water in the streets is cleared. The suction pumps are constantly promised by Sanghar's DCO but never come. Another problem with the spread of diseases is that there are no labs where people could be properly diagnosed, especially when it comes to differentiating between malaria and dengue.

[The Express Tribune - October 04, 2011]

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