

DISASTER & IDP CRISIS

Situation of IDPs

1.3 Million Houses Damaged By Floods, PM Told

Over 1.388 million houses have been damaged, standing crops on two million acres destroyed & at least 6.506 million people affected by heavy monsoon rains & flooding in various parts of Sindh. About 31,960 villages have been affected. Badin has been the most affected district where 382,562 houses have been damaged & over one million people affected. An area of 5.938 million acres had been affected. A total of 342 people have lost their lives & about 607 suffered injuries in rain-related incidents across the province. The government had set up 2,737 relief camps in the flood-affected districts where 482,899 people were being provided necessary facilities. So far 717,882 ration bags had been distributed among the affected people in various relief camps. The aid relief agencies were facing problems in installation of tents because several areas were still less than 6-7 feet of water. Initially people in seven affected districts would be provided financial help through the Sindh relief cards. Members of a parliamentary committee set up to monitor relief work, to address complaints about distribution of relief goods by holding meetings with elected representatives of the affected districts & PDMA officials. The affected people in Seraiki at the camp are homeless because of heavy rains. Government is making all-out efforts to rehabilitate the affected people at the earliest. The Baitul Maal, NDMA, PDMA & Sindh government were providing food, tents, water & other essential items to people at relief camps & other affected areas. The government was also trying to provide financial help to the rain-affected people & he had asked the agencies concerned to send medical teams to the affected areas.

[Dawn - September 18, 2011]

Floods Displace Families in Khyber Agency, Damage Houses

Recent flash floods on the eve of Eidul Fitr damaged houses in Samsai area of Loy Shalman in Landikotal sub-division of Khyber Agency. Samsai area of Loy Shalman is situated on the bank of River Kabul whose upsurge caused the water to flow into residential areas & fields. Flood in River Kabul also destroyed standing crops in Samsai area & displaced more than 25 families. Floods have badly affected more than 25 houses in Samsai area of Loy Shalman. So far the authorities did not approach or visited the area to ascertain losses caused to their properties. The government has requested to compensate all those who lost valuable standing crops, which were the only sources of income. The people also needed government's support for the repair & reconstruction of their houses that have been damaged in these floods. There was also a shortage of edibles in the area as most of the families have evacuated from the area to settle in safer areas. They requested provision of tents & other stuff so that they could meet their genuine requirements. When attempts were made to contact officials in the administration through cell phones, they could not be approached & hence their version could not be recorded till filing of this report. However, this has to be recalled that the political administration compensated those who had suffered casualties & those killed in floods on the main road in Khyber.

[Daily Times - September 06, 2011]

Death Toll Climbs As More Rains Predicted

Monsoon rains have killed more than 136 people in a month & destroyed crops & houses in the flood-prone south of the country. Some 2.2 million people have been affected & 300,000 displaced. Most of the victims were killed as a result of falling roofs, drowning in floodwaters & water-borne diseases. Since August 11, when the first spell of rains started, 46 people were killed while 90 more have died since August 27. The victims include women & children whose details are being gathered. Two senior Sindh government officials confirmed that more than 100 people had died as a result of the rains. The first spell of rain mainly affected seven southern districts of the province, while an ongoing second spell has hit the entire province, except its capital Karachi. Last year, the worst floods in Pakistan's history affected 21 million people & killed an estimated 1,750. Charities have accused Pakistan of since failing to invest in flood prevention measures. At least 40 mud houses were collapsed in Kalat district some 150 kilometres away from Quetta when heavy rain lashed the whole region & thousands of people had become homeless. Standing crops were destroyed, household belongings swept away & state infrastructure was damaged in the affected region. At least 40 mud houses collapsed in Mugalzai area & floodwater entered the premises of the Elementary Collage & assistant commissioner's house. Two dams are situated in Dhast Mugalzai where water is touching the peak level. People have evacuated the Mugalzai area & other small human settlements & moved towards higher grounds to save themselves from flash floods & gushing hill torrents. The rainwater also entered the premises of schools, government offices & hospitals. The flash flood also washed away roads, disrupting road link between the National Highway & several townships causing difficulties for rescue workers. Scores of people are spending their nights in open places without proper food & shelter. The government, particularly the local administration, was helpless, as it had no resources to come to the help of the affected people.

[Daily Times - September 06, 2011]

NDMA Believes Over 400 Dead in Rains, Floods

Pakistan's recent torrential floods, triggered by heavy monsoon rains in different parts of the country, killed at least 412 people & injured 1,172 others besides affecting over 8.2 million more. Floods damaged an area of 7.987 million acres & swept away standing cash crops in the affected areas of the two provinces Sindh & Baluchistan. At least 389 people, including 209 men, 93 females & 87 children, were killed & 745 were injured in the country's southern province of Sindh while floods killed 23 & injured 427 others in southwestern province of Baluchistan. The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) revealed that 2.7 million children are among the affected flood victims & have been facing many challenges. According to NDMA, floods have affected about 41,334 villages in all the 23 districts of the Sindh province & completely damaged a total of 630,457 houses while another 848,412 houses have suffered partial damage. More than 87,608 livestock have been perished by floods in Sindh while crops like cotton, banana, dates, chili & sugarcane on 2,800,000 acres have been destroyed or severely affected. An estimated 709,452 people have been living in some 3,342 makeshift temporary relief camps, including schools & public buildings, across the Sindh.

[Pakistan Today - September 26, 2011]

1.6m Children, Pregnant Women Hit By Flood

There are 1.36 million children & 240,000 pregnant women among over 8.8 million people affected by the recent rains & floods in Sindh. The total number of women affected by the floods was 4.13 million. About three million patients had consulted the medical facilities in the affected areas. If it is assumed that many of the patients had a repeat visit to the medical facilities, the number of flood victims suffering from various diseases would be between 1.5 million & 2 million. Over 20 per cent of the patients are suffering from acute respiratory infection. 17.6 per cent of the patients are suffering from skin diseases & 11.8 per cent are suspected for malaria. Suspected cases of measles & meningitis represented less than one per cent. In children aged up to five years, skin disease (19.2 per cent) is the most reported illness, followed by acute diarrhea (17.2 per cent), upper respiratory tract infection (16.5 per cent), suspected malaria (11.6 per cent) & lower respiratory tract infection (4.1 per cent). The diarrheal diseases constituted 18.2 per cent & acute respiratory infections 20.6 per cent of reported cases in the group. 48 emergency health kits — each catering for a population of 6,000 for one month — & 57 diarrheal disease kits — each sufficient for 1,000 people for a month — had been distributed. 1.4 million Water purification tablets, 1,132 hygiene kits, 6,000 anti-snake venom doses & 5,811 rapid diagnostic test kits for malaria had also been distributed.

[Dawn - September 27, 2011]

One Year Later: In Swat, The Water Is Long Gone, But Victims Are Still There

The summer of 2010 produced the worst floods in the country's history, killing hundreds of people & causing widespread destruction. Amid the monsoon rains, the rising water of the Swat River swept away several areas along its both sides, destroying village after village. The Bahrain Valley was the worst hit region of Swat, where over 200 houses were washed away, besides large-scale destruction of infrastructure. Soon after the floods, several humanitarian organizations stepped forward to help the flood victims. A relief camp was set up to provide temporary accommodation to families who were left homeless by the floods. However, one year later, most affected families are still residing in the relief camps, where they face several problems. Larger families living in small congested rooms are particularly disturbed by the 'temporary' setup. The authorities had repeatedly assured them that their houses would be rebuilt. However, none of the promises have turned out to be true. However, the children have not lost hope & believe they will soon return to their homes. The government had not provided any assistance to the victims. However, some non-governmental organizations (NGOs) had approached them & offered to build single-room houses for them. When asked about the children's future they replied that this is their present & future.

[The Express Tribune - September 06, 2011]

Medical Relief Work: It Will Get Much Worse Before It Gets Any Better, Says PMA

The situation in the flood-affected areas of Sindh will get much worse. While no lessons are learnt despite the recurrence of natural disasters in Pakistan, the need at this point is to help the victims, the association's office bearers said. They also warned that it may be too late already to stop the rapid spread of diseases. Standing water as deep as seven to eight feet, which has not yet been drained in many areas, can result in the spread of gastroenteritis, malaria, typhoid, as well as skin & other waterborne diseases. Increasing reports of snake bite are another cause for concern. Doctors of the PMA who had returned from flooded areas also shared their experiences. One doctor said that in six PMA mobile medical camps in Badin & Golarchi, over 200 pregnant women with low hemoglobin were treated daily. A doctor, who gave an idea of the challenges ahead, said that 100,000 pregnant women needed to be looked after by trained birth attendants. But expectations

among those affected are low. Doctors think that most of the NGOs leave them on their own in a week or two after arranging photo sessions. However, they need interminable support for a period of three months, at least. In these circumstances, the PMA has decided to play an active role to help the victims. The association's mobile medical camps have been providing effective medical relief in 17 districts of Sindh. Government as well as national & international NGOs are appealed that the extent of the calamity was so great that no single organization would be able to cope on its own. Government or any other organization does not have a plan despite the fact that such natural disasters are a recurring feature in Pakistan. Instead of learning from our lessons & taking precautionary measures for the future, we like to move in circles. It is indeed lamentable & as a professional body we too accept the responsibility that each year when a calamity befalls, we go out to ask for donations. However, at present, we need to help the victims of floods anyway.

[The Express Tribune - September 23, 2011]

Flood Victims Sell Possessions, Beg

The family of 12 was relieved when an army boat rescued them from flood waters a week ago. But the hardships have only piled up at a makeshift camp. The few family possessions saved from the roaring waters have been sold to buy food. The children have picked up potentially fatal diseases but can't afford to rest. & the government is nowhere to be found. The children have been begging in the market to get food, & from the passing cars one of almost two million people displaced by floods which has ravaged Sindh. They just need two things — food & a tent to protect their children from the sun & the rain. That's what they need there. Nobody has gone to even look & they don't know where the relief camps are, & nobody had told them about any aid being delivered anywhere. They are still waiting for someone to come. It could be a while. Pakistan's cash-strapped government has been slow to respond to the floods, which have killed over 300 people & damaged or destroyed about 1.2 million houses since monsoon rains triggered the crisis in late August. It's a repeat performance of last year, when authorities failed to ease the suffering of millions hit by epic floods in July & August, prompting the military to take charge. Some 800,000 families hit by that calamity remain homeless. The army is active again, travelling across kilometers of flooded farmland in boats to rescue people who have just the clothes on their backs. But that hasn't eased the anxiety of families who are stuck on barren land beside a petrol station. They lost their goats, which were used for milk or food & were their only assets.

[The Express Tribune - September 19, 2011]

Relief & Rehabilitation Responses

Every Displaced Person to Be Resettled: PM

Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani has said the government will ensure that each person displaced by the rains in Sindh gets rehabilitated. Addressing in Seraiki language to flood-affected people, he said that he had cancelled his foreign tour & come to see his brothers & sisters who were in distress. The prime minister said relief & rehabilitation is the responsibility of the government & it would perform its duty, while the opposition was busy in just issuing statements. The government knows very well what to do. Assuring all facilities that would be made available at each & every relief camp. He said that current monsoon rains caused floods & people were displaced due to a natural calamity but, he added, the government was with them at this time of agony. Gilani said all departments of the government were playing their due role & the rehabilitation of the affected people was our priority. He said the flood recovery process comprised two phases; first shifting of

the affected persons to relief camps, providing them food & health facilities & secondly the rehabilitation. About the relief & rehabilitation activities, Gilani was informed that recent rains & floods destroyed around 1,300,000 houses throughout Sindh, 32,000 villages have gone under water, total of 5.6 million people were affected, while 345 people lost their lives. The prime minister directed the authority for all out relief assistance & said that he would personally visit each district of the province & monitor the relief work.

[The News - September 18, 2011]

UWT Announces £1 Million Relief for Flood Victims

Ummah Welfare Trust, a United Kingdom, based charity organization has announced emergency relief package worth £1million (One million pounds) for the victims of devastating floods in Sindh this year. Under the relief package five thousand tents & 10,000 food packages will be distributed among the flood victims. The food package will comprise a 20 kg bag of wheat flour, 5-kg sugar, 5-kg rice, 1-kg tea, 2-kg salt & matches. Keeping in view the urgent needs of the flood victims, around 5,000 kitchen sets will be distributed among the victims. While every flood-affected family will be provided with six suits for women & men each & six pairs of shoes. The organization will serve the flood affected people till the rehabilitation of each & every person in Sindh. He also appealed to the philanthropists to extend their all out cooperation for flood relief activities.

[The News - September 18, 2011]

United Nations Calls On World to Help Flood-Hit Pakistan

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon has formally called on the international community to help Pakistan respond to the humanitarian needs of the more than five million people in flood-hit areas. The generous response of the international community to his appeal to assist Pakistan during the devastating floods of last year, the secretary general further calls for continued solidarity of the international community in support of disaster management & risk reduction in Pakistan. The statement followed the secretary general's discussions with Pakistan UN Ambassador Abdullah Hussain Haroon on the worsening situation in Sindh & Baluchistan, & his consultations with concerned UN officials. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has put the toll of death & destruction following the heavy monsoon rains in Pakistan at 230 people killed, more than 300,000 displaced & 1.1 million homes destroyed or damaged. Some 4.5 million acres farmland has been inundated, major roads damaged & water contaminated. European Commission announced a 10 million euro emergency aid to the victims of the monsoon floods in Pakistan. The EU's executive body said in a statement that the aid is provided solely on the guarantee of full independence, unlimited & full access to the areas & people in need, & the possibility of independently assessing, controlling & monitoring any project being funded. Last year, floods killed some 2,000 people in Pakistan & submerged about a fifth of the country, affecting 20 million people.

[Daily Times - September 17, 2011]

FAO Seeks \$18.9 Million for Pakistan Flood Relief

A UN food agency launched an appeal for \$18.9 million to help farmers in southern Pakistan hit by floods it said were even more disastrous than last year. The Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO) said the money was needed to address the most time-critical needs of millions of rural families in Sindh & Baluchistan provinces. The call for funds is part of the latest UN appeal for Pakistan, & aims to provide emergency livestock support & critical agriculture packages to more than 300,000 needy families, it said in a statement. Heavy monsoon rains that began in mid-August destroyed or damaged 73 per cent of crops & 67 per cent of food stocks in affected districts of Sindh province, & have killed nearly 78,000 head of livestock. Millions of people are destitute & face an uncertain & food-insecure future. The agency said the disaster struck before families affected by last year's flooding were able to even start recovering, especially as Sindh did not receive as much assistance as other provinces in 2010. The floods & rain deepen the risk of losing more vital livestock assets and, for some, missing another opportunity to plant wheat & other essential crops. The FAO said the top priority was to prevent further losses among at least 5 million cattle & other livestock at risk, by supplying them with feed & treating them against diseases & worm infestations. Around 80 per cent of people in the affected area depend on agriculture, including livestock, for a living. These animals often represent a family's entire life savings. In addition farmers needed critical seeds & fertilizer, in time for the upcoming winter planting season, along with repair of irrigation & drainage infrastructure. The destruction of crops has wiped out farmers' present & future sources of food & income, with spiraling humanitarian consequences unless immediate assistance is provided. Delayed assistance will lead to heightened food insecurity, increased public health threats, loss of land tenure agreements due to farmers' inability to pay their debts, population displacement & longer-term dependence on food aid.

[The Express Tribune - September 23, 2011]

'Disaster, Civic Agencies Given Task to Drain out Rainwater'

The government has directed de-watering agencies, including Water & Power Development Authority (WAPDA), Irrigation Department, and National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), to drain-out rains/ flood water spread over millions of acres of crop land of the province to make it cultivable for sowing 'Rabi' crops. Pakistan armed forces help is also asked for draining out this huge quantity of water. The chief minister said that it would be very difficult to support around 8.1 million people affected by recent torrential rains & flood in the province for long if the vast crop area inundated by flood is not cleared before the start of Rabi season. Almost entire Sindh, especially 13 districts are worse affected. Kharif crops on 2.164 million acres were destroyed. Over 80 percent cotton, 60 percent rice & 45 percent sugarcane have been destroyed. The loss in terms of money is Rs 217.944 billion adding that loss of livestock is also huge. The CM informed the media that PPP Sindh Council deliberated upon especially two items rains/ flood situation, the emerging challenges, PPP role played & the expectations of the people & the process of upgrading the voters' lists in the province. He said that provincial & federal government was doing their best for relief & rehabilitation of 8.1 million flood victims. The government has provided food & shelter to 70 percent of these affectees.

President Asif Ali Zardari & Prime Minister Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani have made detailed visits of the affected areas of Sindh. The president has been personally monitoring the relief work. Sensing very tough situation after the flood & governments' limited resources, the president also appealed to international donor agencies & international community to come forward. Government machinery, NDMA, Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) & other related agencies are mobilized to prepare for the situation & they did the job. But the situation turned otherwise & became out of

control. The land is already saline & it cannot absorb more water. This huge quantity of water is to be drained out to make the land cultivable for the next crop. Sindh government has distributed Rs 22 billion among the rains/flood-affected people. Rs 20,000 to each family were given through Watan cards. This amount is in addition to the amount being spent on food, medicine etc. The government would give Rs 80,000 to each family in two installments through Watan cards. Federal Government would give Fifty percent of this amount. On the directives of the president, the government has decided to provide flour or wheat to the affectees till the next crop is ready. The stock of 0.4 million tones of wheat meant for the export would now be utilized for this purpose. The government would provide seed to the growers holding up to 25 acres land. The estimated cost on this account would be Rs 4.3 billion. The Federal Government would share 50 percent of this amount as well.

[Daily Times - September 26, 2011]

How Beekeeping Pulled a Woman from the Edge

Shahi Bakhta has single-handedly steered her life & those of her children out from the depths of poverty & managed to economically stabilize her family. Bakhta, 38, lives with her five children in Nehrabad village in Swat's Kabal town. She was widowed in May 2009 at the peak of the Swat insurgency when her husband, Mohammad Rashid, was hit by a stray bullet in crossfire between the security forces & militants. In that one moment, Bakhta's life changed & she was left to provide for her three sons & two daughters alone. She has seen some tough & very bitter days in life. Her children would ask for bread & she had nothing to offer to them. Sorely disappointed, she made many suicide attempts. But her children's innocent faces stopped her. Rashid worked as a laborer but also operated a business on the side, where he bred honeybees. After his death, desperate for financial assistance, Bakhta decided to take over the business. She sold all the equipment of honeybee keeping arranging for money for her children. She also sold poultry & other things one by one for survival. She would do odd jobs from dawn till dusk but not earn enough money to make ends meet. Almost disillusioned with life, Bakhta was on the verge of giving up when the Sarhad Rural Support Programme, under the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), reached out to her. She got detailed training of honeybee keeping for productive & sustainable use of it & learnt basic tools & techniques of honeybee keeping with proper nourishment of boxes. She was also paid Rs. 33,000 to start her own business. With this training, Bakhta now runs her business with scientific methods. The UNDP, with support from the Japanese government, has implemented a Peace & Development Programme in conflict-hit areas, such as Swat, in which cash grants are given to entrepreneurs for small businesses.

[The Express Tribune - September 26, 2011]

World Donors Pledge \$127m for Sindh Flood Victims

The international donors have so far pledged \$127.44 million for providing food, shelter, medicine & other facilities to the flood hit people of Sindh. Out of the pledged amount various countries have already given \$14 million to the NDMA for providing basic amenities to the marooned people. So far a total of 280,136 tents & 1.738 million food packs have been provided to flood hit people of Sindh, he said. People are also being provided cash help through Pakistan Cards in collaboration with National Database & Registration Authority (NADRA). Various surveys were being conducted in flood-hit areas in collaboration with provincial government to assess their needs to enable them to stand on their own feet after the floods. A committee has been mandated to assess the expenditures on rehabilitation of infrastructure devastated during the floods. The services of United Nations

experts are also being hired to accurate assessment & ensuring complete rehabilitation of the flood victims, once water recedes, he said. During the rehabilitation phase, the top most priority of the NDMA would be to make schools, hospital & government buildings fully functional. & clean drinking water facilities would also be restored there as soon as possible. PM's Committee on Flood Relief headed by Senator Nayyer Bukhari will undertake a visit of the flood-hit areas of Sindh to obviate the complaints of flood-hit people & ensure across the board distribution of relief items.

[The News - September 30, 2011]

2010 – 2011 Floods Aftermath & Preparedness

Sindh Floods Impact Business in Capital

With floods playing havoc in parts of Sindh & transport getting engaged in the relief work, supplies of different goods to the capital city have been affected. One major market of the capital city – Blue Area – which is also a hub of technology business is severely affected because of delayed supplies from Karachi. Computer accessories are not reaching from Karachi on time since the floods have created logistical problems for transportation. There is delay in supply of computer hardware goods & accessories from Karachi. The technology hardware business owners were informed by their main suppliers in Karachi that logistical problems would take some more time to be end. The technology market will further feel the heat if the problem is not resolved by the government. Hardware accessories of laptops & new technology products of iPhone & android tablet of multinational companies were also in short supply from Karachi. Other than floods, law & order situation also played a critical role in delaying the logistical supplies of hardware mainly from Karachi Port. This matter had been raised at several forums but the government was not paying any attention to the concerns raised by the local IT market. The official in the ministry of IT said that the matter was more related to private business concerns & the chamber of commerce was the appropriate forum to raise such issues with.

[Dawn - September 24, 2011]

Floods 2011: 'Crops, Food, Livestock Completely Destroyed'

A disturbingly bleak picture has been portrayed by initial surveys conducted by UN agencies in large pockets of Sindh, where most people have completely lost their livelihood. The rapid assessment aims to judge damage caused by the floods on an urgent basis, while long-term assessment is to be carried out by the World Bank (WB) & the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The flood waters have, overall, wiped out 73 per cent of crops, 36 per cent of livestock & 67 per cent of food stocks in the 13 worst-affected districts of the province that will have an impact on the lives of flood victims in the region for years to come. In spite of the gargantuan proportion of damage already assessed, much of the havoc wreaked by the floods has still not come to the fore – especially the devastation caused in areas that are still cut off from communication networks because of continued inundation. UN affiliated bodies, including the World Food Programme & the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, with the help of Pakistani authorities, have compiled a 'rapid assessment' report based on field surveys. For unknown reasons, most of the information in this report has not been made public.

According to the report, Badin, Tando Muhammad Khan and Tando Allahyar are among the worst-affected districts. Badin, for instance, has lost 96% of its crops. As the assessment itself is a first step, it is highly likely that figures relating to damage mentioned in the report are going to

swell. Against the backdrop of the alarmingly high level of damage is the paucity of the government's credibility, severely hampering the inflow of funds for flood relief. The UN, WB's & ADB's involvement in flood reports has much to do with the fact that the government needs external assessment to reassure international donors of the legitimacy of its cause. Many are reluctant to donate, fearing the misappropriation of funds. Highlighting the devastation caused by the floods across Sindh, Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani called upon national & international relief agencies, as well as the media, to portray the severity of the situation to the world. The scale of devastation this year is not less than what this nation experienced last year. Millions of people require shelter, food, healthcare & sanitation.

[The Express Tribune - September 25, 2011]

'Flood Losses Greater Per Square Kilometer This Year'

Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani made a national appeal for assistance to the flood affected people in Sindh province. He said the greatest damage was done on the left bank of Indus River. He said NDMA had been prepared for the 10 percent above normal rainfall forecast but actual rainfall was more than forecasted. He said rainfall was 72 percent above normal in July & 142 percent above normal in August. He said the NDMA had taken measures based on initial forecasts but when rainfall exceeded the forecast, NDMA could do nothing as Pakistan has a three-day weather forecast capacity. Detailing the flood losses, he said 132 people had died, 60,000 to 100,000 livestock perished & 4 million acres of land was under water. He said crops spread over 7 million acre land had been totally or partially damaged in the current floods. He said around 4 to 5 million people were affected & the federal government had spent around Rs 1.5 billion on relief, excluding provincial expenses. The NDMA chairman said the PM directed the Cabinet Division to immediately activate the National Health Emergency Response Unit to help the provincial government. He said the PM launched a national appeal for the assistance of flood victims. He said losses sustained in the current floods were greater than last years in terms of damage per square kilometer. He said over 2.3 million bales of cotton was estimated to have been lost in the floods. He said the federal government had provided around 0.6 million ration packs which were distributed among affected people. He said the NDMA had initially assessed the full capacity of the Utility Stores Corporation & Canteen Stores Department but was now planning to involve the private sector. He said the government purchased the entire tent-making capacity of the country for 20 days & 10,000 new tents would be made available shortly. He said the NDMA had provided 40,000 tents so far. He said 8.5 million aqua tablets & one million sanitation tablets had been distributed. He said the NDMA would dispatch two teams after water receded in flood affected areas to assess the losses suffered by flood victims.

[Pakistan Today - September 6, 2011]

Water Likely To Recede In Upper Sindh within Two Weeks: NDMA

Water is likely to recede in a few weeks in some parts of Upper Sindh while the worst-hit areas could take months to clear. The government is trying its best to cater to the challenges which emerged as a result of the floods this year. Since the rains have stopped the stagnant water has decreased by two feet. Water is likely to dry up soon in areas of upper Sindh, including Sukkur, Khairpur, Ghotki & Naushero Feroze. On the other hand it might take around two more weeks in other areas such as Dadu & Nazirabad. However, in worst-hit areas, including Mirpurkhas, Tando Allahyar, Thatta and Badin, water will take up to two months to dry up. NDMA has said that some six million people in all districts of Sindh have now been affected by the floods, with 824,000 people

displaced. Approximately 5.6 million flood victims are living in tents while 352 people have died so far. One million more tents are needed for relief efforts. Funding remains sluggish even after the appeal launched by the UN even after this much severe conditions. With a serious lack of resources, the NDMA has yet again made an appeal to the international community to step up. Meanwhile, Tennis player & United Nations Development Programme Goodwill Ambassador Aisamul Haq made an appeal to the people of Pakistan to contribute generously. Aisam said that he was trying his best to collect funds from the international community. The star player has collected items belonging to Tennis celebrities & plans to auction them to generate funds.

[The Express Tribune - September 23, 2011]

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