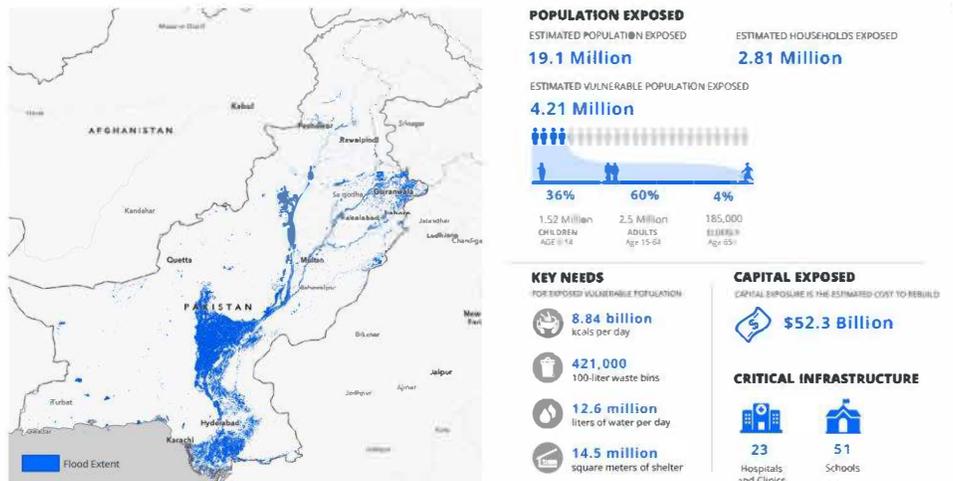


2022 PAKISTAN FLOODS

Situation Report #01
02 September 2022

Overview

Since mid-August, Pakistan has been experiencing its worst monsoon flood since the devastating emergency of 2010. At the moment, 70% of the country has been or is currently affected by flooding, at least 1,200 people have killed and nearly 5,000 injured. More than a million homes have been damaged or destroyed. The situation as at 31 Aug was as follows:



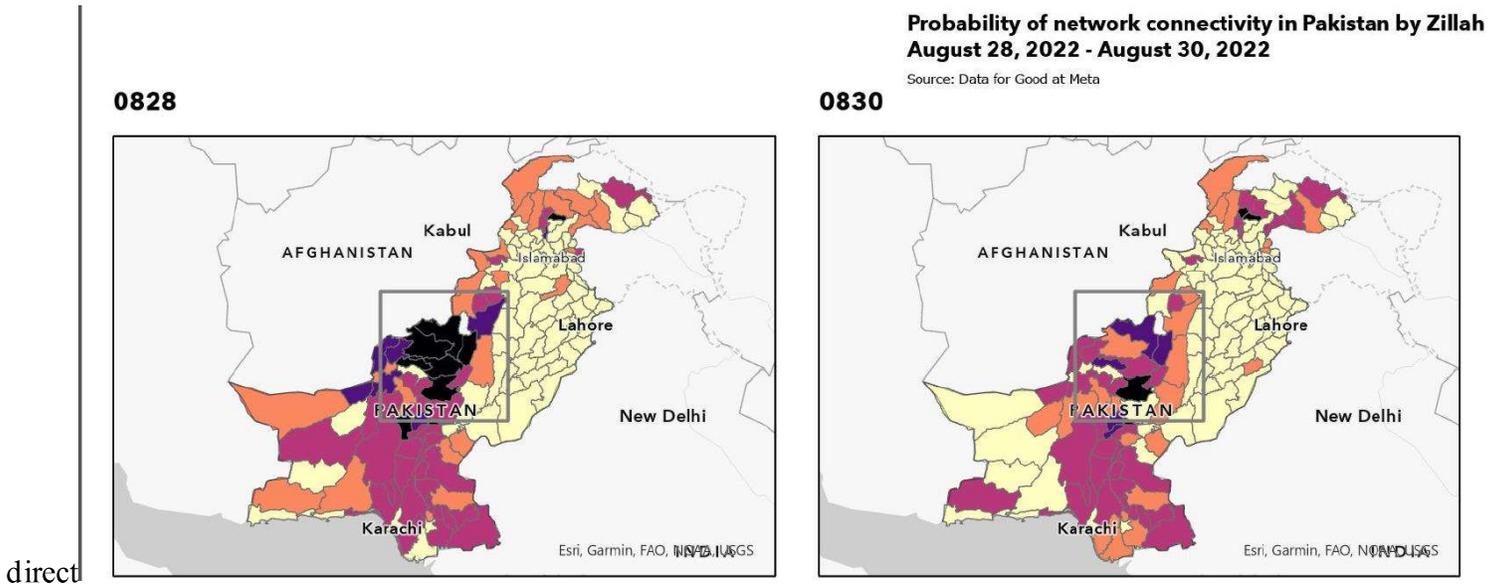
Credit: Pacific Disaster Center DisasterAWARE Pro® (<https://disasteraware.pdc.org/>)

NetHope understands that the damage to infrastructure has been very significant:

- Power distribution networks have been badly damaged, causing major power outages;
- Power outages have hit the mobile network – mobile cells are running on auxiliary power;
- In the telecoms sector fiber feed rings and last mile connectivity are badly hit – this and the power outages have resulted in major communications failures.
- Over 5,000 km of road is damaged, and 243 bridges have been destroyed;

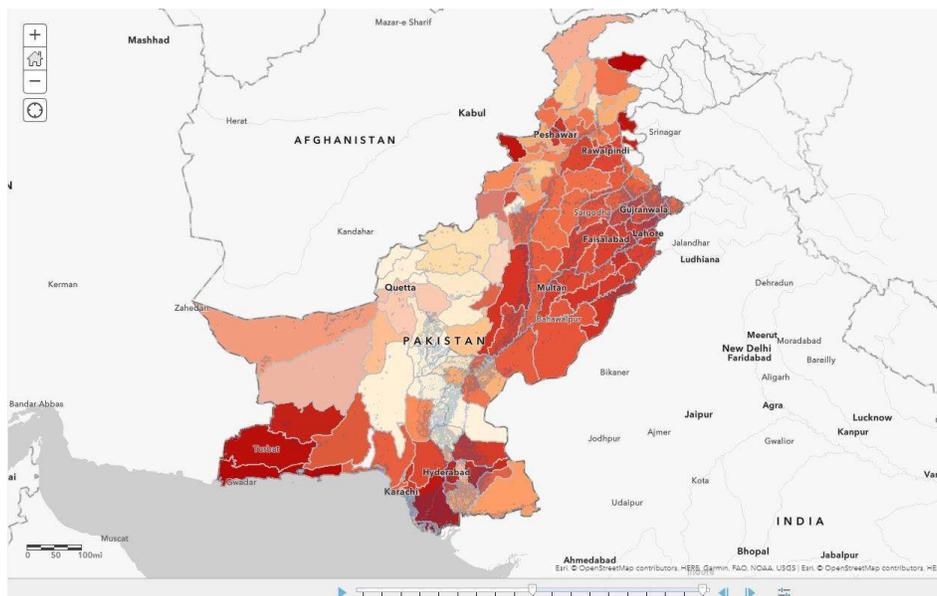
Challenges with Connectivity & Power

The connectivity situation is shown graphically below. The darker the shading, the greater the change (i.e. the reduction) in network connectivity from normal, between August 28th and August 30th. Very large areas are still affected.



Credit: Direct Relief based on Data for Good at Meta

The following map of population movement reveals that the population has moved away from the most flooded areas to districts which are less affected. In the map the darker the shading, the higher the population above the norm:



Credit: Direct Relief based on Data for Good at Meta

The need for power and connectivity is clear and urgent. NetHope is currently considering its options for supporting the 31 Members present in Pakistan, most of which have programs in flood-affected areas, where nearly half a million people are still taking refuge in a variety of temporary shelters and centers. NetHope is also considering how to deploy equipment needed to restore critical ICT services, particularly for the disaster recovery operations, which will clearly be major and long-lasting.

Member Call (1 September 2022)

NetHope hosted its first member call on September 1st. Seven NetHope Members participated.

All the members already actively engaged in programs in Pakistan, have been impacted by the floods. A few are considering sending assessment teams, but more of them have been responding since the situation first developed in the mountainous Northwest of the country in July, and they are providing relief particularly in the provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK), Baluchistan, Punjab and Sindh, where millions of people are directly affected, including 11 million children.

The main relief response by NetHope Members are cash transfers, food, non-food items including clothing, shelter materials, and fodder for cattle, these being a major source of livelihoods. The standing water in some places is becoming stagnant, raising health concerns, and there is also fear of another round of riverine flooding still to come, particularly in Central Punjab and Sindh. Although the members have been very active, operating directly and through local partners,

The assessment and response teams of the member organizations have not themselves experienced major ICT impediments to their work, but they have noted that some rural areas are still cut-off and without power and connectivity – the former often being the cause of the latter, but there is also damage to fiber optic cable rings. Many mobile towers are reliant on auxiliary power. For the population themselves, the widespread and prolonged power outages are making a difficult situation even harder. Those who can rely on solar power and generators, but they are in the minority.

One member noted that portable solar-powered lamps would be much appreciated by the population. They also pointed to their limited capacity for GIS-based analysis to support more targeted critical decisions about their relief efforts. NetHope will follow-up to try to address it through the relevant partners.

NetHope actions

NetHope surveyed its members concerning their understanding of the situation, the response to date, and the connectivity and other ICT needs they perceive. The most revealing thing the members that did respond said was that they expect the humanitarian situation to worsen, if as the floods go down.

NetHope hosted a partner call on September 2nd to present the impact of the flooding and identify in general terms the sort of resources that would support

the relief and recovery efforts of NetHope Members on the ground.

NetHope is currently reaching out to specific members and partners with a presence in Pakistan to conduct a remote assessment and is looking into sending a small 2-person team to Islamabad, to ascertain what more concrete assistance it could provide, to support overall humanitarian efforts to alleviate the situation.

Next Steps

NetHope will host another member call on Tuesday, September 6th (1400 UTC). If you are a Member but unable to join the call, please send feedback via email to emergency@nethope.org. In your email, please include detailed information about what response your organization is conducting, any ICT needs you have, and how NetHope could support you.

Questions or Comments

If you have any questions or comments, please reach out to:

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