

## DISASTER & IDP CRISIS

### Situation of IDPs

#### **Funds Shortage Badly Affects Sindh Flood Victims**

Three months after the widespread flooding that has affected over 5 million people in southern Pakistan, shortage of funding and broad international disinterest has left millions of people at risk of illness, malnutrition and cold as the winter closes in. The Pakistan Humanitarian Forum (PHF), a consortium of 41 international aid agencies based in Pakistan, appealed to western governments for urgent donations to tackle this grave yet largely forgotten humanitarian crisis. A UN appeal for \$357 million in emergency funding made more than three months ago has been just 37 percent funded with donors saying that difficult economic conditions in their own countries prevents them from giving more. But a crisis of this magnitude cannot be overlooked. The floods have largely affected Sindh and parts of Balochistan. Three million children there are at risk of severe malnutrition and disease, 160,000 women are pregnant and require immediate healthcare and 44 percent of the total affected households are in urgent need of shelter assistance. After last year's disastrous floods, which drew a generous outside response, this year's crisis has been largely ignored. Local government agencies are overwhelmed by the scale of the disaster and require urgent international help to prevent death, disease and child malnutrition. According to the findings of the Multi-sector Needs Assessment, 4.3 million flood affected people are food insecure, with their plight exacerbated by massive loss of food stock and damage to standing crops. Three months into the floods, people are still desperately struggling to meet their basic needs. The approaching winter will aggravate their suffering. Hundreds of thousands of farmers will miss this winter cropping season because large swathes of land are still inundated. The sluggish response to the UN appeal has left millions of vulnerable people – women, children the elderly and those with disabilities – at great risk. Their immediate future is grim unless funding is not urgently stepped up. The flood waters are slowly receding.

[Pakistan Today - November 11, 2011]

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#### **Shah Stresses Agencies to Assist Flood Affectees in Sindh**

Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Qaim Ali Shah stressed agencies to assist the flood affectees in the province. A delegation of Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation called on him at the Chief Minister's House. Michael Gateway informed that the foundation has confirmed approval of \$500,000 as grant for cash transfer project for assistance of rain affected area. Shah appreciated and expressed thanks for such financial assistance for rain-affected people. Sindh province had suffered a lot due to floods last year and heavy rains during this year. He was informed that based on preliminary assessment information and assistance being provided by the Pakistan government and other sectors, the foundation's funding will be used as a cash transfer. It was informed that 4,200 rain-affected people would be provided cash grant at the rate of Rs 10,000 each through ATM cards, which will be generated through NADRA data-base of calamity affected areas. It was further informed that initially the affected district of Umerkot has been identified, while other districts like Sanghar, Nausheroferoz, Badin, Thatta etc will also be included.

[Daily Times - November 22, 2011]

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## **UN Report Says Floods Hit Women's Privacy**

A United Nations report has revealed that women's privacy and the sense of security among them have been affected adversely by floods in parts of Sindh. There have been many cases of violence against women, boys and girls. So far, 232 centers have been established in flood-affected districts of Sindh where 41,000 children and 5,000 women are receiving services. Training on protection principles and humanitarian coordination has been delivered while mass radio coverage with child safety and protection messages was continuing, completed by interpersonal community-based communications reaching 10,000 community members so far. Disappointed with the poor response from international donors to make contributions in cash and kind for flood-affected people in Sindh and Balochistan, the United Nations has decided to launch a revised response plan later. For this purpose data from the recently completed joint UN-government Detailed Needs Assessment (DNA) was being currently analyzed. The rapid response plan launched received only 27 per cent of the assessed funding requirements of \$357 million. The OCHA says some three million flood-affected people remain highly vulnerable and in need of immediate food assistance in Sindh and Balochistan. About 3.6 million people urgently require agricultural support to resume food production and income generation activities. The World Food Programme (WFP) which is providing food to the flood-affected people has announced to hold fund-raising events in Pakistan and Dubai. The events will help WFP raise funds and awareness since it was facing critical shortfall of funds for the flood operations in flood-affected areas.

[Dawn - November 11, 2011]

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## **Relief & Rehabilitation Responses**

### **Flood Commission Finds Rampant Corruption in Relief Goods Distribution in Sindh**

The federal and the provincial governments are violating international humanitarian standards of relief distribution failing to ensure equality and transparency in the system, says a report titled "Civil Society Flood Situation Report" issued by a civil society network, Peoples Accountability Commission on Floods (PACF). There is no proper beneficiary registration, issuance of token. On the contrary, flood relief items are handed over to influential people of the government party who are doing a favor to their own people and refusing to support the political opponents. The report has criticized the government's flawed early warning systems and what it has called political favoritism in the distribution of relief among the flood affected communities. In some cases government party people are collecting truck of flood relief and are distributing among their own people without keeping any record of distribution. There are many reports that influential people of government party are using the floods as political tool. Death incidents have multiplied due to food insecurity among flood affected communities in Sindh, while malnutrition and diseases have increased due to limited governmental and international humanitarian responses in the terms of providing basic relief support to flood affected people. According to the report, the international humanitarian support for the flood affected communities is very limited.

UN had issued an appeal for \$357 million. This appeal was made on September 18, in Rapid Response Plan led by UN Agencies. Despite passage of more than one and half months only 23 percent of the assessed funding requirements have been received. The limited support of shelter is provided to the flood affected people; i.e. 1.5 million houses that were damaged in the floods in Sindh. However, shelter support has been provided by the international community have provided tents and tarpaulins to only 374,827 which constitute only 35 percent of the shelter support

suggested in the Rapid Response Plan prepared for the flash appeal. It means 65 percent of the flood affected communities are still living under open skies. Almost all the tents are non-winterized, which means none of the tents would withstand winter season which would result severe cold resulting in increased deaths and diseases among the flood affected communities. As more than 90 percent of the flood affected communities are yet deprived of blankets, kitchen sets and mats etc. Three million flood-affected people remain highly vulnerable and in need of immediate food assistance in Sindh and Balochistan. High levels of malnutrition are being reported from the flood affected areas, compounding an already dire nutrition situation in Sindh. However, the support in food is very meagre in Sindh by the government and international humanitarian communities. Only 18 percent of the overall food security appeal amount has been collected resultantly the humanitarian agencies are facing problems in providing flood support to the affected communities.

According to report millions of flood affected farmers intend to cultivate winter crops especially wheat crop on the land where flood water has receded, however, despite announcements the federal and the Sindh government have yet failed in initiating distribution of seed and other inputs to the flood affected farmers. If the distribution of seed and other inputs is not initiated within week, the farmers would be unable to cultivate wheat crop which would further increase food insecurity in the province, the report warns. The report also expresses its concern on the government and international humanitarian community's limited support to floods in health sector despite sharp increase in diseases in the flood affected areas. With the passage of days, health related issues of flood affected communities are increasing as rain water is stagnant and winter is coming. The funding flow from the donor community is very slow for the lifesaving health services in the affected districts of Sindh and Balochistan as shown below where only nine percent funds received so far against the total appeal of \$45.911 million giving a gap of \$41 million, the report added. It says that relief support to the flood affected communities in water, sanitation and hygiene is also limited. It said 65 percent of the flood affected communities are not receiving safe drinking water and 76 percent have not received 76 sanitation facilities. The report says that the process of water receding from the flooded areas is very slow as the government has failed to import dewatering machines despite President's instructions.

[The News – November 05, 2011]

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### **Floods in Sindh & Balochistan: Revised Relief Allocations Opposed**

Sindh and Balochistan have disputed the sector-wise resource allocation aimed at meeting the immediate life-saving needs of flood-affected people as proposed by the United Nations on the basis of a revised needs assessment. The representatives of the two provinces had sought a couple of days to describe the exact needs after consulting the authorities concerned. He refused to divulge the proposed allocations, but said the size of an updated UN appeal for flood-hit areas would be around \$400 million. Mr. Qadir shared some parts of the proposed plan designed on the basis of a survey carried out by experts from the UN and the government and said the revised response programme would be ready by next week. The survey puts the number of affected people, which was earlier stated to be more than one million in Sindh alone, at 5.15 million — 4.82 million in Sindh and 332,000 in Balochistan. The estimated number of affected houses has decreased to 800,000 — 470,000 of them repairable and 330,000 destroyed. Mr. Qadir said about 85 per cent of the affected families had returned to their places of origin and only 15 per cent were living in temporary shelters. He said water had receded in 90 per cent of the affected areas and the stagnant water from the remaining 10 per cent would be drained in two weeks. He said 200 health facilities had been damaged or destroyed and 80 of them were currently non-functional.

Malaria and diarrhea were the most common medical problems but said there is no threat of them assuming the proportion of an epidemic. The NDMA chief said 2.28 million acres of crops and 116,557 cattle head had perished in Sindh. He said there had been a 10 per cent decrease in the number of people getting water from protected sources and five per cent decrease in water supplied through pipelines in affected districts. The rains destroyed or damaged 9,781 schools, affecting over a million children. Dr Qadir said 1,800 schools had been turned into shelters in Sindh. He said a decision about the children who had lost about five academic months would be taken at a different forum. According to Quoting Sindh government officials, a sufficient quantity of seeds is available for the Rabi Crop. Dr Qadir said proposed projects in the affected areas which were not cost effective would be abandoned. He said a maximum management cost of 15 per cent would be allowed to the executing agencies, including the UN. As much as 25 to 40 per cent had been charged as management cost in the past, he said.

[Dawn - November 24, 2011]

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### **Saudi Envoy Distributes Relief Goods among Flood Victims**

The Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan, Abdul Aziz Al Ghadeer distributed on Friday relief goods among inhabitants of Juddo Taluka in Mirpurkas, which is one of the worst affected districts in the lower Sindh during the torrential rains of the current year. The Ambassador handed 4,000 food packets, 2,500 blankets and 1,000 tents to 1,000 hapless families of the Taluka at a program organized at the Town Committee of Juddo. All relief goods were distributed under the banner of King Abdullah Relief Foundation. The food packets comprised 10 kg rice, 5 kg sugar, 5 kg lentils, 5 liters of cooking oil, 2 kg of powdered milk besides salt and tea. Saudi Ambassador on the occasion said relief goods were distributed on special instructions of King Abdullah, who was very well informed about the extent of destruction in the area. He said Pakistan and its people are very close to the heart of the people of Saudi Kingdom and it was, therefore, his country had always come forward to assist Pakistanis at the time of their need. The present dispatch was Eid gift for the affected people. He appreciated the Government of Pakistan for its relief efforts and assured of providing further assistance during the current phase of rehabilitation. The Government of Saudi Arabia had strongly supported Pakistan in response to its appeal for assistance through the platform of the UN.

[The News - November 12, 2011]

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### **UN Raises Winter Funds Alarm for Flood-Hit Areas**

The United Nations expressed increasing alarm over sluggish funds for the country 21 million flood victims, appealing to donors to act swiftly to stave off a new winter emergency. Only 39 percent of a record appeal for nearly \$2 billion - about \$760 million - has been received and almost another \$8 million pledged. The World Bank and Asian Development Bank estimate the damage at \$9.7 billion and the Red Cross warned this week that millions of Pakistanis affected by the calamity will need humanitarian assistance for the next two years. Winston said large tracts of land were still under water in Sindh province in southern Pakistan and warned the emergency was far from over. Latest imagery from certain areas of Sindh showed 20-kilometre stretches of land still under water. The displaced were unable to return to homes inundated by waters three or even six feet deep that could linger for at least three months. It was a serious emergency and that was what had to convey to the world - that Pakistan cannot be forgotten, that people are still very much suffering. The funds

are needed and the support and resources to reach people in need so that they can go home and they can rebuild their lives. Fresh data from the government showed that the number of damaged houses had risen to more than 1.7 million in Sindh and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa.

[Pakistan Today – November 04, 2011]

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## Water Crisis

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### **0.1m People Die Annually Due To Poor Water, Sanitation in Pakistan**

Pakistan's under Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)) is committed to supply 93 percent of the population of the country with safe water and 64 percent of the population with adequate sanitation by year 2015, as World Health Organization (WHO) estimated that 97,900 people die every year in the country due to poor water and sanitation. The new report 'Off-track, off-target: Why investment in water, sanitation and hygiene is not reaching those who need it most', released by the international charity Water Aid, shows that unless urgent action is taken, the Pakistan Government will fail to meet the MDG pledge they made to halve the proportion of people without sanitation by 2015. This has massive consequences for child mortality in the country as 54,000 children under the age of five die from diarrhea caused by poor water and sanitation every year. The report calls on off track countries in South Asia to spend at least one percent of gross domestic product (GDP) on providing sanitation services. The report also calls on donor countries to double global aid flows to water, sanitation and hygiene by prioritizing an additional \$10 billion per year. The report also identifies that it is South Asia's poorest people who are being left behind; poor people in South Asia are 13 times less likely to have access to sanitation than the rich. According to Water Aid, governments should tackle this inequity through better targeting of water and sanitation resources and services to the poor. Every year thousands of children die in Pakistan due to a lack of adequate sanitation and clean water. This is the true cost we bear from the failure to ensure basic water and sanitation services. The Government must demonstrate political and institutional leadership especially after the passage of 18th Amendment more clear roles and responsibilities are required at the federal and provincial level. Government also must increase the level of spending on water and sanitation, and donor governments increase the share of aid they spend on water and sanitation.

[Daily Times - November 19, 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]

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## **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 them. 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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