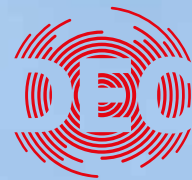


# PAKISTAN FLOODS APPEAL

Reporting back



DISASTERS  
EMERGENCY  
COMMITTEE

**Final programme report  
September 2022 – August 2024**

Published March 2025





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A woman, affected by excessive monsoon rains, gets registered to be provided a hygiene kit at a camp organised by a DEC member in Sindh province. Photo: © Insiya Syed/DEC

# FOREWORD

In the summer of 2022, Pakistan experienced some of the worst floods in its history. Many lost their lives, hundreds of thousands of buildings were destroyed, and more than 7.9 million people had to leave their homes. Around one in seven people in the country were impacted by the floods, and the UN described the disaster as a “climate catastrophe”. It was clear that urgent international humanitarian support was needed to save lives.

The DEC launched the Pakistan Floods Appeal on 1 September 2022, with televised appeals on all of the major national UK broadcasters. It was presented on the BBC by Adil Ray, and by Malala Yousafzai on ITV, Channel 4, Channel 5 and Sky. Appeals were voiced by various presenters across BBC radio, and by actor Art Malik on commercial radio.

The Pakistan Floods Appeal gained support from HM Queen Elizabeth II, and HM the King, as well as Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales. England cricket Captain Ben Stokes and comedians Guz Khan, Romesh Ranganathan and Tez Ilyas were also among those who lent their support.

As always, the UK public responded incredibly generously, and the Pakistan Floods Appeal raised a total of £50 million, including £5 million matched by the UK Government. DEC charities supported more than 3 million people\* over the two-year response period, and many of those communities are now stronger, more resilient and better equipped to face future disasters. Our member charities were able to respond immediately using appeal funds. 11 DEC charities delivered vital aid directly and through local partners across the country, including in Sindh – the worst hit area – as well as in Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab provinces.

In the first six months of the response, DEC funds provided emergency food, shelter, winter survival items and cash support to families who had lost their homes and belongings. Over the following 18 months, flood-affected communities also received support accessing essential facilities such as clean water and healthcare, as well as help to restore their livelihoods through tools, training and grants, with an emphasis on longer-term recovery.

More than 2,000 health centres had been destroyed by the floods, and DEC funds were used to set up mobile health clinics to reach people in remote communities left vulnerable to poor health and disease outbreaks following the disaster. In the second phase of the response, funds supported and rehabilitated 99 permanent health centres, to continue providing essential medical care.

There was also a focus on providing local communities with the infrastructure, skills and tools needed to rebuild their livelihoods and become more resilient to extreme weather events in the future. Agricultural workers were terribly impacted by the floods – 4.4 million acres of crops were destroyed, and hundreds of thousands of livestock perished. Through DEC member charities and their local partners, farmers were offered training in what is known as ‘climate-smart agriculture’, alongside seeds and fertiliser. Additionally, some families whose croplands were destroyed by the floods received support to diversify into small-scale animal farming.

A fisherman throws a net to catch fish in the floodwater, in Sindh province. Photo: Insiya Syed/DEC



DEC funds also enabled member charities to provide solar powered water tanks so people have reliable access to clean drinking water, nutrition support for children, and cash grants and training for women to set up their own small businesses. Pakistan’s government estimates that the damage from the floods was worth around £30 billion, and of course it will take time for the impacted communities to fully recover.

With the devastation still affecting many, monsoons and heatwaves remain a very real threat, and Pakistan has already seen more extreme weather over the past two years. This report provides details of the second, 18-month phase of our response, between March 2023 and August 2024, building on our previous six-month report. It highlights examples of our member charities and their local partners’ work, to show the crucial impact the UK public’s donations to our appeal have had on the flood-affected communities of Pakistan, some of whom have been able to rebuild their lives and communities to be more resilient.

I was able to visit the affected areas soon after the floods, alongside our Chair and Treasurer. We saw for ourselves the impact of the floods on communities, but also the incredible effort and good work of local people, DEC member charities and their local partners. Many of our members’ local partner organisations have also continued to support communities in their work beyond this appeal.

On behalf of the DEC, our member charities and their local partners, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to everyone who has supported the Pakistan Floods Appeal. Thank you for your continued support,

**Saleh Saeed**  
Chief Executive of the DEC

*\*While efforts have been made to avoid counting people more than once, some individuals may have received assistance from multiple member charities offering different types of support through a holistic approach.*



# OVERVIEW

Between June and August 2022, Pakistan experienced some of the most severe floods in the country's history.

There was a significant loss of life from flooding and landslides as well as the destruction of homes and villages. To date, over 2 million houses have been affected, comprising over 767,000 houses destroyed and nearly 1.3 million houses damaged. Nearly 33 million people were impacted by the disaster – one in seven of the country's population.

Acres of crops and agricultural land were lost and over 800,000 livestock perished, alongside infrastructure damage such as the destruction of roads and bridges. This caused a significant loss of livelihoods, as in addition to these direct agricultural losses, local markets were also highly disrupted. The widespread devastation pushed more than 8 million people into poverty.<sup>1</sup>

According to the UN, over 30,000 schools and 2,000 health facilities were damaged and needed to be repaired or entirely rebuilt. The lack of access to essential services, including safe latrines, clean drinking water, and health facilities, was a critical risk factor for the displaced populations.

Many communities who could return home found water supplies contaminated, forcing them to travel long distances for safe drinking water.

The government of Pakistan declared an emergency on 22 August 2022 and the DEC launched the Pakistan Floods appeal on 1 September 2022. Eleven member charities responded using DEC funds, working with national and local partners across the country's four provinces: Sindh, Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Punjab.

## The response

Every DEC-funded response has two phases. The first takes place over six months and is an emergency phase, and the second eighteen-month phase places greater emphasis on long-term recovery.

Phase 1 of the Pakistan Floods Appeal provided vital funds, with programmes focusing on assistance helping to save lives and support people to meet their needs in the immediate aftermath of the floods, through emergency shelter, clean water, food, and healthcare.

The second phase, which started in March 2023 and continued for 18 months, also sought to secure livelihoods, provide healthcare, and prepare people for future shocks.

In its entirety, the appeal raised over £50 million, of which £38.2 million came directly to the DEC, including £5 million matched by the UK Government. DEC member charities and their local partners have spent over £35.9 million reaching more than 3 million people affected by the floods.

The purpose of this report is to give an overview of the DEC appeal with a focus on the second phase of the response. Alongside member charity interventions, the report looks at some of the context at the time, the challenges that member charities, their local partners and communities faced, and learning for the future.

This report is dedicated to the tireless work of the communities, locally based staff and volunteers working with DEC member charities and partner organisations. Their life experience, skills and understanding of the environment, were crucial in saving lives in the early stages of the disaster and continue to be vital for future resilience and rebuilding.

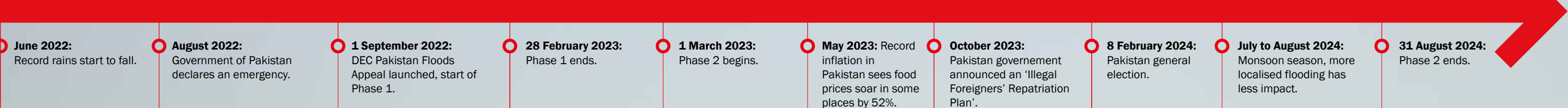


Homes and a mosque submerged in floodwater in Sindh province.  
Photo: © Insiya Syed/DEC

<sup>1</sup> According to the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) the floods damaged or destroyed more than 2.3 million homes and wiped out over 1.7 million hectares (4.4 million acres) of crops, while over 800,000 livestock perished, pushing more than 8 million people into poverty (UNOCHA)



TIMELINE OF EVENTS





# CHANGING HUMANITARIAN CONTEXT

Member charities, local partner organisations and communities worked together to develop a successful response that incorporated local leadership and priorities despite significant contextual challenges. Some challenges were pre-existing, while others were a direct result of the floods.

## Inflation

At the time of the disaster, the Pakistan government estimated the floods caused over \$30 billion (£23 billion) in damages, with reconstruction costs exceeding \$16 billion (£12 billion).<sup>2</sup> In 2023, the country experienced some of the highest inflation rates in its history with a 38% increase. According to Pakistan's Consumer Price Index, food prices soared reaching 52% in some rural areas where flood damage was most acute.<sup>3</sup>

Communities in flood-affected areas continue to struggle to restore their livelihoods. Loss of crops, tools, and other ways of making a living has left many farmers and daily wage workers without stable sources of income.

Partner organisations and member charities worked to navigate this carefully, recalculating budgets and using local markets and suppliers to source the most affordable seeds, crops tools, materials and services where necessary.

## Poverty

Two-fifths of the affected population still rely on humanitarian aid to meet their basic needs. According to a post-disaster needs assessment conducted by the UN, the floods pushed over 8 million people below the poverty line.<sup>4</sup> The challenge for many households is to build back a sustainable livelihood to meet their basic needs.

The DEC response in Phase 2 focused on supporting communities with ways of making a living that are more resilient to future shocks.

## Damaged infrastructure

Roads, bridges, and vital buildings such as healthcare centres still need repairs. While local partners have made significant progress in rehabilitating health centres and providing mobile health clinics, community members report that roads remain inaccessible during flood seasons, hindering physical access to basic services.

Displacement has further disrupted access to markets and employment. Damaged roads and irrigation systems have impeded economic recovery. Community members report exhausting savings or falling into debt to meet their needs. Member charities supported affected villages with livelihoods projects that enabled people to rebuild finances and save.

Many member charities supported recovery efforts with health centre rehabilitation as well as mobile health clinics for more remote communities.

## Seeking safety in Pakistan

Since the Taliban's return to power in Afghanistan in August 2021, there has been increased migration into Pakistan. In recent years, exacerbated by economic and humanitarian strain placed on the country following the floods, anti-refugee rhetoric has risen. In 2023, the Pakistan government announced a policy of forced return for undocumented people residing in Pakistan, irrespective of their nationality and country of origin. The law affected 'undocumented' refugees who didn't have a Pakistani visa.

Women walk back to their homes after a consultation at mobile health unit operated by a DEC member.  
Photo: © Insiya Syed/DEC



<sup>2</sup> World Bank, 2022: Pakistan-Floods-2022-PDNA-Main-Report.pdf

<sup>3</sup> Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Consumer Price Index, May 2023: CPI\_Review\_May\_2023.pdf

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/pakistan/revised-pakistan-2022-floods-response-plan-final-report-issued-15-dec-2023>

## 2023 and 2024 monsoon season

The 2023 and 2024 monsoon seasons put additional strain on recovery efforts. Repeated flooding has hampered rebuilding and emphasised the need for sustainable adaptation strategies.

DEC member charities and their local partner organisations have developed significant Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) activities during Phase 2 of the response such as: planting trees which make natural flood barriers, developing disaster plans, and supporting communities with diversified incomes.

To mitigate the impact of the floods, member charities developed build-back better approaches in accordance with the Government of Pakistan's strategic policy, the "Resilient, Recovery, Rehabilitation, and Reconstruction Framework (4RF)". The policy supports and strengthens long-term resilience to climate-induced disasters amongst communities.



Satellite photo: 4 August 2022  
© NASA Earth Observatory



Satellite photo: 28 August 2022  
© NASA Earth Observatory

Outside of the DEC support for member charities in Pakistan, the Pakistan Ministry of Climate Change and the UN in Pakistan launched a 'Living Indus Initiative'. This initiative aimed to revitalise the ecological wellbeing of the Indus River. At the time of writing, the initiative is a 'living menu' of 25 preliminary interventions agreed by the Pakistan government and led by chief ministers of all the provinces, private sector, industry experts, and civil society.

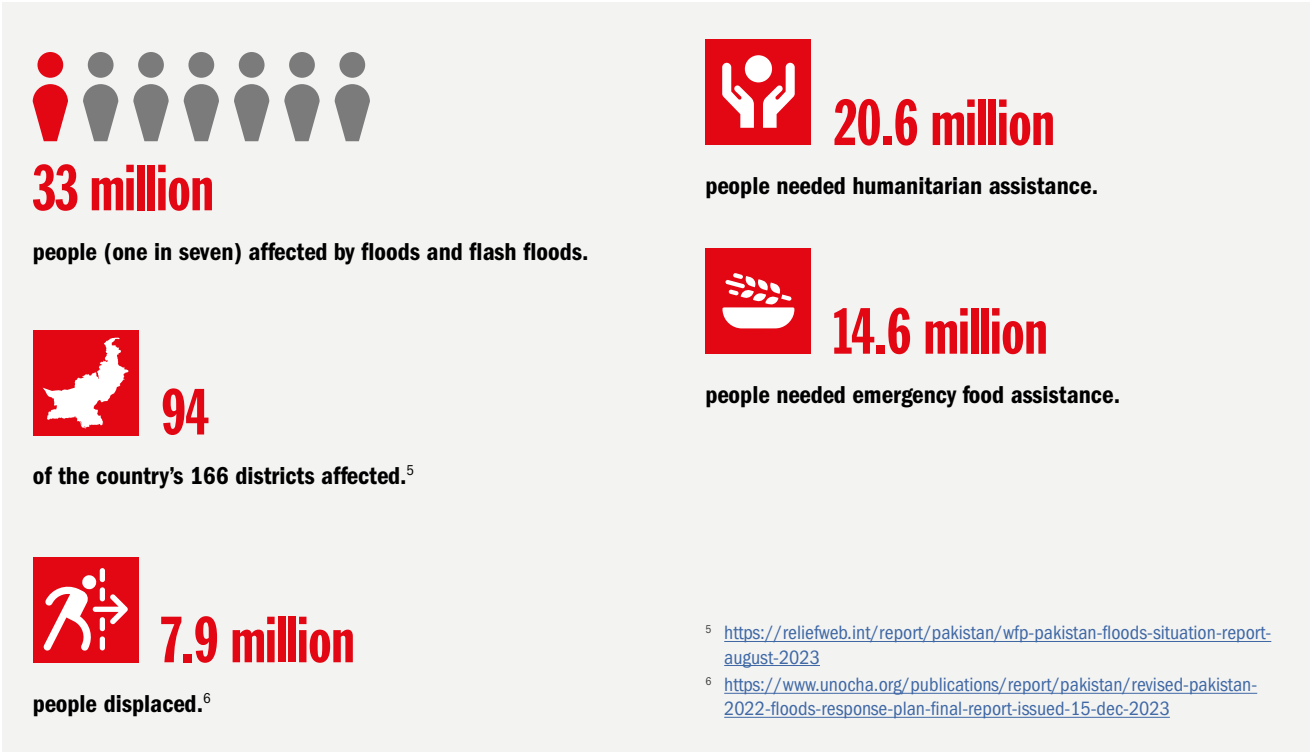
The interventions focus on green infrastructure and nature-based approaches driven by local communities. They include Indus protected areas and an Indus Protection Act – which aims to enshrine the status of the Indus River in law, urban forests along the Indus River, and a ban on plastic waste in cities along the Indus.

The Living Indus Initiative was a direct response to Pakistan's heightened susceptibility to climate change.



The situation at-a-glance

The scale of the problem in the immediate aftermath of the floods is noted later in this document under the ‘Challenges’ section. The following data gives a snapshot of the scale of the crisis in August 2022:



A mobile health clinic truck decorated with the stories of people supported by DEC charities continues to serve flood-affected communities in Sindh.  
Photo: © Zoral Khurram Naik/DEC

FUNDRAISING FOR THE APPEAL

The DEC launched the Pakistan floods appeal on 1 September 2022, with a live press conference and television and radio appeals. The televised appeals were broadcast after the evening news and were delivered by actor and presenter Adil Ray on the BBC, and activist and Nobel Prize Laureate Malala Yousafzai on ITV, Channel 4, Channel 5 and Sky. The radio appeal was voiced by various presenters on BBC radio, and by actor Art Malik on commercial radio.

The DEC carried out a multi-channel fundraising campaign for the appeal, with adverts appearing in national newspapers and news websites, outdoor billboards, the National Rail and Transport for London networks, commercial TV stations and on social media.

Thanks to the amazing generosity of the UK public and DEC corporate supporters towards the Pakistan Floods Appeal, it raised a total of £50 million, with £38.2 million coming directly to the DEC. This total also includes £5 million matched by the UK Government through UK Aid Match. The remaining £11.8 million was raised by DEC member charities through their own direct appeals to supporters, using DEC co-branding.

The Pakistan Floods Appeal received generous support from the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), and Sky Sports. The ECB matched donations made by England players – who were at the time touring Pakistan – and also went on to feature the Pakistan Floods reporting back campaign during The Ashes the following summer (June – August 2023).

Sky Sports played a key role in raising funds through text donations during their live coverage of the Pakistan v England series in September 2022. The appeal film appeared several times throughout the series and enabled the DEC to reach a captive audience aligned with the appeal.

Actor Adil Ray presented the BBC's DEC Pakistan Floods Appeal.



Comedians Eshaan Akbar and Aatif Nawaz with DEC staff at London's Hackney Empire where a lineup of comedians performed to support the DEC appeal.



Malala Yousafzai presented the DEC Pakistan Floods Appeal on ITV.





£50.1 million raised

DEC MEMBER CHARITIES

There were 11 member charities who worked on the Pakistan Floods Appeal. These are:

- ACTION AGAINST HUNGER
- Age International
- British Red Cross
- CAFOD Catholic Agency for Overseas Development
- CARE
- Christian Aid
- CONCERN worldwide
- INTERNATIONAL RESCUE
- ISLAMIC RELIEF
- OXFAM
- Save the Children
- tearfund

A member of a community affected by excessive monsoon rains waits inside a flood emergency camp organised by a DEC member. Photo: © Photo: Insiya Syed/DEC

HOW THE DEC HELPED

Thanks to the generosity of the UK public, the Pakistan Floods Appeal raised over £50 million, including £5 million from UK Aid Match funding.

DEC member charities were one of the major respondents to the crisis, supporting communities in all four of Pakistan's provinces: Balochistan, Sindh, Punjab, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

In addition to continuing to support people to meet their emergency needs, the second phase of the response placed increased focus on long-term recovery, resilience, and healthcare. DEC funds provided multi-purpose cash transfers that allowed people to choose how they might spend their money. Additionally, funds supported the rehabilitation of water supplies, agricultural land and healthcare services, as well as disaster risk reduction (DRR) initiatives. Member charities and their

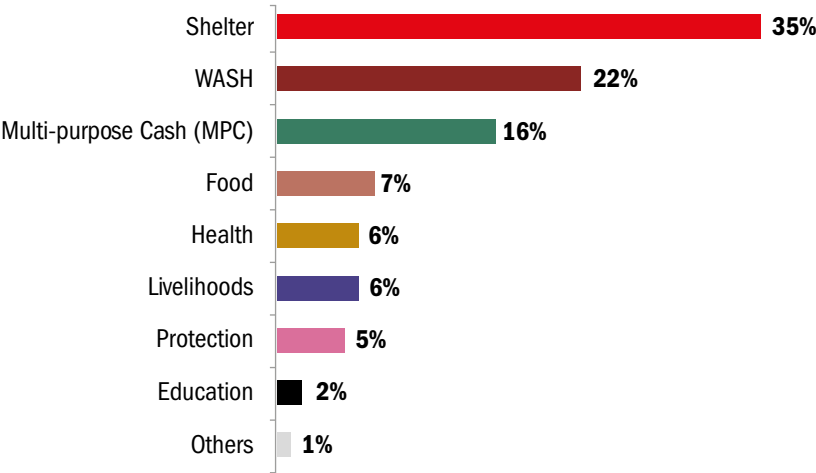
local partners focused on using solar power when rehabilitating mechanised community water supplies as well as providing energy for schools and healthcare centres.

DEC members and partners focused on delivering a locally led response. This included forming community committees comprising vulnerable groups, such as older people or women, involving their specific needs in disaster risk reduction plans.<sup>14</sup>

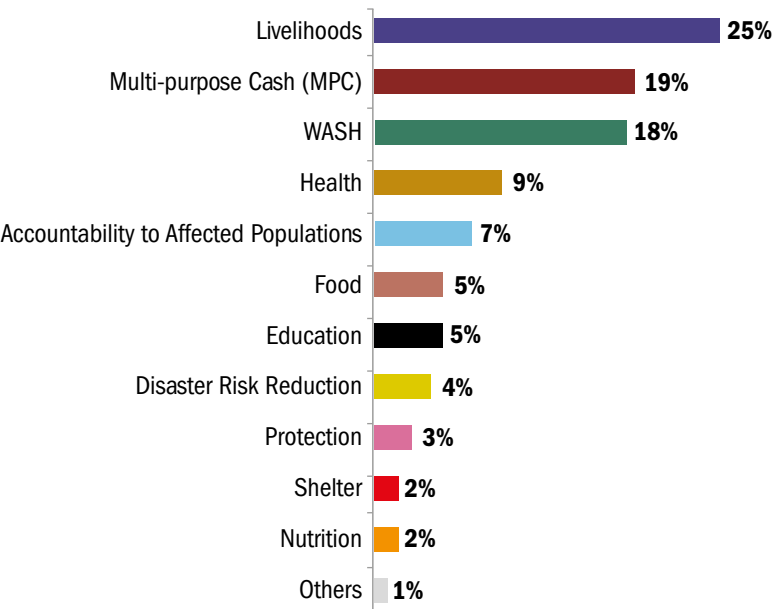
Communities reported that response interventions were timely and supported vulnerable groups such as women, older people and people with disabilities. However, there is still an ongoing need for shelter and longer-term livelihoods and disaster risk reduction support.

Expenditure by sector

Phase 1 sector expenditure



Phase 2 sector expenditure





## Key achievements Phase 1



158,000

people access basic **health services** including maternity services and immunisations.



123,000

people were provided with access to **safe drinking water**.



66,400

people were provided with **temporary shelter** such as tents, tarpaulins and shelter tool kits.



50,400

people received **food assistance** such as wheat, rice, sugar and cooking oil.



20,000

women or girls received **dignity kits** containing sanitary pads, underwear, and soap.



16,200

households were provided with **cash assistance** to allow them to meet their urgent needs.

## Key achievements Phase 2



More than  
899,000

people accessed **primary healthcare**, including through maternal and child health appointments, eye care, and other consultations.



More than  
300,000

people benefitted from improved access to **clean drinking water**.



163,000

people benefitted from **cash assistance** provided to them or their family members to meet their basic needs, and to restore livelihoods and businesses.



More than  
88,000

people were provided **practical support** to restore their livelihoods, through agricultural items, seeds, poultry and training.



207,000

trees planted, helping to strengthen the environmental landscape against future flooding, and 264 community-based **disaster risk reduction** plans have been developed at the local village level.

**Funds allocated**

Funds raised by the DEC were allocated to the 11 DEC member charities to this disaster. They worked both directly and through local, national and other partners.

**Pakistan expenditure by DEC members and partners**



Category	Percentage
DEC members direct spending	44%
Through local / national partners	39%
Through other partners	17%

**£35.9 million**

- DEC members direct spending
- Through local / national partners
- Through other partners

*\*These include international partners. For example, British Red Cross gave funding to the International Federation of Red Cross*

People affected by floods in Sindh province wait inside a Flood Emergency Response camp.  
Photo: © Insiya Syed/DEC

16

17



HOW WE HELPED: LIVELIHOODS

**DEC-supported communities and households had improved access to food and nutrition services in the aftermath of the flooding.**

The scale of devastation to rural livelihoods from the floods was vast. Member charities listened to communities and developed plans to rehabilitate farmland, replace livestock, and provide sustainable sources of income that respect the environment.

Member charities introduced climate-smart livelihoods and agriculture projects and supported families to restore or improve their livelihoods through cash grants, training, tools, and support for livestock renewal. Initiatives also promoted poultry farming, kitchen garden kits, and climate-resilient seeds, crops and trees.

With DEC funds, British Red Cross provided 1,120 households across eight districts with livestock and carts. Farmers were targeted with cash to buy livestock, equipment and seeds.

DEC member charity, CARE, provided agriculture and livestock training sessions as well as cash grants for livelihoods. Experts in climate-smart practices led sessions on topics such as making bio-pesticides, compost production, and sowing crops in ridges to make best use of land and water.

Concern incorporated climate-smart adaptation into their livelihoods programming with high-quality, climate resilient seeds, planting urban forests and trees that improve soil quality.

Some member charities provided cash for work to rehabilitate agriculture, as well as to replace livestock, acquire tools or seeds, and buy poultry for income.

DEC member CARE provided cash assistance to 1,639 affected households to support small businesses and households with business development plans. In particular, this positively impacted 300 women entrepreneurs who were supported under the initiative. They reported increased earnings as well as an improved sense of wellbeing and confidence. The initiative was praised by the community, district government, and Minister of Women's Development Ministry Sindh.

**What does 'climate-smart' mean?**

Climate-smart livelihoods and climate-smart agriculture are methods communities use to meet their basic needs without harming the environment. Climate-smart initiatives in the Pakistan floods response sought to reduce vulnerability and build resilience to the short-term and long-term effects of climate change.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



More than  
**69,000**

people reached with cash assistance to support livelihoods, including small business grants and cash for work initiatives.



More than  
**54,000**

people supported through vocational training or other training aimed to support livelihoods.



**21,017**

animals owned by flood-affected community members received veterinary services, to ensure that livestock remain healthy and can support livelihoods.



**2,492**

small businesses supported, providing new income for people who are recovering from the floods.



A man waits to collect aid at the emergency response point provided by a DEC member.  
Photo: © Akifullah Khan/DEC

ABDUL REHMAN'S STORY



Farmer Abdul Rehman tends to his crops after a better harvest than he had hoped for.  
Photo: © International Rescue Committee

When the floods hit Sindh, one of Pakistan's four regions, thousands of people lost their livelihoods because of the destruction of farmland and animals. Many people faced severe, long-term food insecurity as they had no reliable source of income.

In response to the floods, Concern Worldwide and its local partner SAMI Foundation supported farmers to rebuild their livelihoods with climate smart agricultural practices. Partner staff collaborated with the Pakistan Agricultural Department to implement Farmer Field Schools.

Local farmers learned about crop rotation to ensure the soil remains fertile, moisture conservation through mulching, bed-based crop sowing to protect seeds from flooding and 'companion planting' – planting crops that are mutually beneficial to each other. Farmers also received Certified Seeds which they can use each season rather than having to buy seeds every time they need to plant.

Abdul Rehman is a farmer who benefited from the support. "The floods hit us hard," he said. "We lost everything – our crops, our animals. It felt like we might never recover."

**“The seeds Concern and SAMI provided, along with their guidance, made all the difference. Our harvest this time was better than we could have ever hoped for.”**

Abdul Rehman



A man on his boat near homes that have submerged due to flood water, in Sindh province.  
Photo: © Insiya Syed/DEC



HOW WE HELPED: WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

DEC-supported communities were protected against waterborne diseases through access to safe drinking water and adoption of safe and dignified hygiene practices.

Even before the floods, many rural populations in the four provinces targeted by the DEC response faced a shortage of safe drinking water. Some communities relied on groundwater that was unsafe and salty. The lack of safe water sources was exacerbated by the 2022 floods after many handpumps were destroyed or damaged.

In the second phase of the response, member charities, through their local partners, rehabilitated water points for communities, provided water filters, built new pumps, provided latrines, and installed rainwater collection systems. Some responses also focused on rehabilitating existing solar pumps to ensure reliable water supplies in villages dependent on groundwater. There was also health and hygiene training for some communities.

CARE provided 250 health and hygiene promotion sessions that helped flood affected communities to protect themselves from malaria and other epidemic diseases and promoted healthy handwashing practices. The charity also set up water committees to ensure the maintenance of the water supply is kept in the community.

Member charity Tearfund constructed water storage tanks with 500 litres of water storage capacity, which fill with solar-operated motor pumps. Additionally, in an interactive project, local partners led theatre performances to inform and educate communities about hygiene and sanitation.



A distribution by a DEC member charity provides flood-affected families with hygiene kits including toothpaste, towels, sanitary towels and jerry cans. Photo: © Insiya Syed/DEC

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

More than  
**139,000**

people were provided with hygiene kits containing items such as from hygiene kits provided to individuals and families, containing items such as soap, towels, combs, and period products.

**5,874**

latrines constructed or rehabilitated.

**2,351**

water points constructed or rehabilitated.



Deen's family's health has improved since having better access to clean water. Photo: © International Rescue Committee

One of the critical issues many families faced throughout the response was accessing clean, safe water to drink.

Before the 2022 floods, 45-year-old Deen Muhammad's family relied on a nearby stream for their water, but after the disaster, it became contaminated and unsafe to drink.

Without access to clean water, the family faced serious health risks, especially the children who were falling sick. One of the members of the family had to walk long distances to collect safe water, leaving the children behind who said they felt vulnerable.

International Rescue Committee (IRC) worked with their local partners to provide safe drinking water in the village by rehabilitating the existing water supply system.

“We no longer have to walk miles to fetch water, and it's safe for us to drink. My children's health improved, and we felt less worried about them getting sick from contaminated water.”

Deen Muhammad



Local community members collect hygiene items from a DEC charity distribution point. Photo: © Insiya Syed/DEC



HOW WE HELPED: HEALTH

DEC-supported communities were helped with mobile clinics, rehabilitated health centres, health kits, and malnutrition treatment.

The floods had a profound impact on community health because rural and remote communities struggled to get adequate healthcare. The effects are still being felt today.

During the floods, reports indicated that 2,000 health facilities – one in ten of all health facilities in the country – were either damaged or destroyed.<sup>5</sup>

Communities already grappling with health issues such as malnutrition were hit especially hard. Damage to roads, bridges, and health centres, meant communities further struggled to access the healthcare they urgently needed. There was an urgent need for health services in more remote areas, especially for vulnerable groups such as pregnant and lactating mothers.

With DEC funding, member charities provided a variety of support, including rehabilitating health centres, providing mobile health units for more remote communities as well as ensuring teams contained dedicated female doctors and healthcare workers. Additionally, local partners trained frontline workers, distributed health kits, and provided malnutrition treatment as well as eye and cataract screening, raising awareness around key health issues, and organising medical camps.

The International Rescue Committee rehabilitated 15 health facilities, eight of which were given medical supplies to meet the urgent needs of 329,097 people.

Action Against Hunger provided an invaluable learning platform for over 8,700 caregivers, training them to provide life-saving medical care for communities in affected areas.



A mobile health truck provides essential medical services to people who struggle to access health clinics after the floods.  
Photo: © Insiya Syed

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



More than  
**500,000**

people received improved access to healthcare facilities, through the provision of supplies or rehabilitation of health centres.



**99**

vital health centres supported and rehabilitated to provide life-saving care and help for many remote, rural families.

<sup>5</sup> WHO Emergency Appeal: Health Crisis in Flood-Affected Pakistan (September 2022 - May 2023) - Pakistan | ReliefWeb

SULTANA’S STORY



Sultana and her daughter, Ayra, supported by DEC member charity, CAFOD and their local partner, Community World Service Asia (CWSA)  
Photo: © CAFOD

The floods in 2022 caused widespread food shortages that meant Sultana and her husband struggled to feed their children. Their eight-year-old daughter Ayra faced such severe acute malnourishment that she would regularly faint at school. Fortunately, she was able to get free life-saving treatment when a mobile health clinic supported by DEC member charity, CAFOD and its local partner Community World Service Asia (CWSA), reached her village.

The truck, which was beautifully decorated like many in Pakistani culture, served as a mobile health clinic and saved many people’s lives after the flood, including Ayra.

“Ayra had become so weak that she would faint while sitting in school and had lost her strength to walk,” said her mother, Sultana. “I would carry her to school in my arms because I didn’t want her education to suffer.”

As well as access to medical care, DEC member charity CAFOD and its local partner Community World Service Asia (CWSA) supported Sultana’s family in multiple ways, providing an integrated response to meet the community’s many needs. They received tools, seeds and fertiliser to plant their own crops and a cash grant so they could prepare the land, which means they are no longer in debt like they used to be every year.

“This really made a huge difference. Whenever I think of the people who sent us aid and assistance, I just want to say thank you to them and I send my prayers to them for helping us.”

The interconnected nature of support like this enables people to meet their hopes and ambitions.

“This really made a huge difference. Whenever I think of the people who sent us aid and assistance, I just want to say thank you to them and I send my prayers to them for helping us.”

Sultana



A doctor writes a prescription for a patient inside a mobile health unit operated by a DEC member.  
Photo: © Insiya Syed



HOW WE HELPED: MULTIPURPOSE CASH ASSISTANCE (MPCA)

DEC-supported communities regained control over essential, day-to-day decisions in the aftermath of the floods with cash transfers.

Two critical challenges for households following the initial phase of a disaster are meeting daily needs and becoming self-sufficient. Regaining control over essential day-to-day decisions – such as choosing what food to eat, accessing medicine and saving money – is a priority for people in the aftermath of any crisis.

MPCA supports households and communities by giving them the power to choose how they use money to rebuild their lives. As opposed to giving food, or other essential items – which can be lifesaving in critical situations – control and decision making around the means of support is handed back to the recipient. It is also an efficient and cost-effective means of assisting people in a crisis because community members ultimately have knowledge of markets where they might buy food, clothes, and other essential supplies.

Another benefit of MPCA is that it boosts local economies because people are more likely to spend cash in their communities.

In the second phase of the Pakistan floods response, member charities worked with communities to identify households that would benefit from MPCA to support them with a variety of needs. This included suitable foods, medicines, and fuel for heating. MPCA also has lower shipping and administration costs and has a lower carbon footprint than traditional in-kind distributions.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



More than 62,000

people reached with multipurpose cash assistance to support them to meet their basic needs such as food, clothing, and hygiene items.



Lakshmi's village now has a solar water system after the village committee identified it as a priority, especially for women who had to walk 2km to the nearest hand pump. (April 30, 2023)  
Photo: © International Rescue Committee



35 year old, Lakshmi (centre), is a local resident of a village in Sindh province where she lives with her husband and seven children.  
Photo: © Khaula Jamil/DEC

When Lakshmi returned to her village with her family, she found very little left. What few belongings she could salvage, from the devastation of the floods, were strewn among the remains of her home.

However, the task of rebuilding was not only an individual struggle for Lakshmi, but one for the entire community. “Everyone was so devastated by loss,” she said. “The distinctions between us were erased. We had to come together as a community to take care of ourselves.”

DEC member charity, IRC and its local partner provided MPCA to Lakshmi and other families in the community. This financial support was pivotal in giving people agency over their recovery, allowing them to invest in rebuilding their homes, purchasing essentials, and finding sustainable ways of making a living.

Thanks to the community's hard work and IRC's input, Lakshmi and other families like hers were able to transform their lives.

“Our girls will not have to deal with the same situations that we had to, and we are grateful for that.”

Lakshmi



HOW WE HELPED: DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (DRR)

**DEC-supported communities are better prepared and informed to act in advance of future disasters.**

In Phase 2 of the response, member charities prepared communities with disaster risk reduction planning and other initiatives. A wide range of impactful projects helped to develop crop diversification among communities, which provides farmers with greater security in the event of a disaster because they are not as reliant on a single crop. Local partner organisations also supported communities with high-yield seeds and bio-fertilisers ensuring farmers can grow more food in a shorter space of time for their homes. They also provided ‘Certified Seeds’ which farmers saved and reused, reducing dependency on hybrid varieties that often require heavy fertiliser use, which can degrade soil.

Communities were involved in draining stagnant water around villages. This helped to ensure the integrity of soil and existing vegetation which means that farmers can grow crops on fertile land.

Local partners helped to establish community groups that engaged in a variety of activities focused on climate adaptation and reducing the risk of future natural disasters.

Save the Children supported the rehabilitation of irrigation channels and ponds enabling farmers to restore their livelihoods and increase their climate resilience. During the last six months of the project, six irrigation systems that were partially or completely damaged during the floods were rehabilitated, benefiting 21,226 people.

Oxfam’s local partners organised eight climate events with federal and provincial government to promote and incorporate DRR planning at a higher level. British Red Cross also held training on DRR with local communities, establishing 1,444 emergency responders, and providing first aid education and disaster action plans.

Age International also promoted DRR, through the Older People’s Associations they supported. Through these, Climate Change Resilience Groups were formed in communities, which looked into potential vulnerabilities and promoted activities to build climate resilience at a local level.

Age International trained 5,413 people on climate adaptation and developing community action plans. They also planted 108,000 trees which will significantly reduce future flood risks by providing a natural barrier for villages that will reduce the speed and amount of water flowing into a community.

Through a climate change conference and DRR training, Tearfund’s local partners helped a Village Development Committee in Balochistan to gain the support of a new government official. The Committee asked the official to advocate for protective walls to mitigate flood damage. The official pledged approximately GBP £43,000 in his upcoming development budget.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

More than  
**207,000**  
trees planted.

366  
training sessions covering topics related to disaster risk reduction were delivered, reaching more than 8,500 participants.

264  
disaster risk reduction plans developed at the local community level.

**Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)**

“Disaster Risk Reduction is work conducted to make disasters less likely to happen, or less damaging when they do happen,” says Jerome Combes, Grant Manager for the DEC Pakistan Floods Appeal. “Agricultural training for farmers has helped teach climate-friendly methods of growing crops, helping to reduce the impact of drought and future flooding.”

“DEC charities have focused on enhancing the resilience of communities in Pakistan through an integrated response, working with local partners, community-based organisations, local authorities and government ministries.

“This planned development means villages are able to organise themselves - as well as long-term infrastructure – and I can feel that people are not afraid for this project to end.”

Shahbaz watering a shrub following tree planting sessions.  
Photo: © Age International

SHAHBAZ’S STORY

Age International supported local partners to mobilise village groups to build natural barriers to protect their community as well as improving soil quality. In total, 108,000 trees were planted including mango and guava. The trees provide shade, absorb carbon dioxide and improve air quality acting as natural barriers against soil erosion and flooding.

Shahbaz Khan is 55 years old and lives in Nowshera. He attended the tree planting sessions: “The training sessions taught me invaluable lessons on how to protect the environment,” he said. “Now I understand the importance of sustainable practices and even how small actions can make a big difference. Planting these trees has been a rewarding experience – it is a gift for the next generation and a crucial step towards combatting climate change. I feel proud to contribute to the future of our community and the planet.”

“The training sessions taught me invaluable lessons on how to protect the environment,”

Shahbaz Khan

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HOW WE HELPED: **FOOD**

**DEC-supported households and communities benefitted from greater access to a variety of healthy food in the aftermath of the flooding.**

After any disaster, ensuring that affected communities have access to food immediately and for the long term is vital.

In Phase 2 of the Pakistan floods response, member charities supported communities to develop sustainable sources of nutritious food. There was a focus on vulnerable groups such as people who were sick, older people, very young children, and pregnant mothers.

In areas where markets were accessible or operating, DEC member charities were able to provide cash assistance for food and essential needs. In the second phase, there was a focus on women-headed households, providing them with cash to buy essentials as well as supplying food vouchers.

Member charity, CAFOD, through local partners, helped households that were severely impacted by flooding and needed food urgently. Thanks to much-needed cash assistance, 6,111 households in total were supported.



Yureed\*, a 32-year-old fisherman, sells his catch at the roadside in Sindh province.  
Photo: © Insiya Syed/DEC

**KEY ACHIEVEMENTS**



**In the first six months of the response,**  
**50,400**

**people received food assistance such as wheat, rice, sugar and cooking oil.**

**MAULA DINNO'S STORY**



Maula Dinno tends to his fields that were once barren but have now grown cotton crops after a DEC charity provided him with saplings, cotton seed and fertiliser.  
Photo: © Zorai Khurram Naik/DEC

The floods submerged fields, washed away crops and killed livestock, leaving people who relied on the land without food or an income.

Maula Dinno, a farmer from Sindh province, lost his food stocks, crops and animals in the floods.

Thanks to donations to the appeal, SAMI foundation, DEC Concern Worldwide's local partner, helped him start regrowing crops that will help support his family with food using new climate-smart techniques.

"It became impossible to earn a living after the rains," said Maula Dinno. "We came back to an utterly devastated place. There was no cultivable land as it was all inundated and we could not grow any crops for the season. Some days we would eat just one meal, and often we could not even manage that.

"They [Concern Worldwide and SAMI foundation] brought fertiliser and seeds and set up a farmer school for men and women so we could learn about better techniques and have a bountiful harvest. They taught us so much. They supported us when we could not stand on our own.

"I am so glad that I am ahead of the crises. Yesterday I carried mountains of troubles and trials on me, but now I am relieved. I can feel my emotions releasing for the happiness I feel with the hope that my life will improve."

**“It became impossible to earn a living after the rains,”**

Maula Dinno



In Sindh province, women learn how to identify and eliminate parasites during a training session to improve their farming techniques and resilience at a Farmer Field School supported by the local partner of a DEC member charity.  
Photo: © DEC



HOW WE HELPED: PROTECTION

DEC-supported communities accessed safe spaces and services that provided protection, support and care.

In Phase 2 of the response, member charities ensured their programming further prioritised vulnerable groups, including women, children in all their diversity, older people, and people with disabilities.

With DEC support, member charities provided community-based interventions, including psychosocial sessions to help people process trauma that they have experienced, dignity kits (which included sanitary pads, soap and other essentials), and safety audits which set up committees to identify protection issues for women in villages. They also created safe spaces with activities for women, young people, and children.

A vital component of the protection work was ensuring participants weren’t placed at risk when taking part in audits, or when giving feedback or reporting issues. Supporting individuals and families with information and support to take the lead on protection approaches across their communities was also essential. Member charities conducted community awareness sessions that highlighted the importance of child protection and gender-based violence as well as the importance of protecting vulnerable people against abuse. Community-based protection committees were also formed, including women and girls who received specialist training. They can now play a key role in village level protection plans, addressing and mitigating identified threats, and contributing towards their own safety and protection.

Member charity CARE established women’s committees in 35 villages, with each committee comprising five members. The committees were trained by a gender and inclusion specialist and a gender protection officer on how to conduct safety audits in their villages. Subsequently, safety audit committees conducted site visits to villages, where they performed a ‘transit walk’ to identify gender-related protection issues and unsafe locations. As a result of the safety audits and subsequent meetings and further interviews with different groups, two safe houses were rehabilitated to provide women with protection. The purpose of the safe houses is to offer an immediate, confidential and dignified response to survivors of sexual and gender-based violence and other vulnerable people.

International Rescue Committee established child protection units (CPU) in relevant district and central government units. Although challenging, they managed to establish CPUs in Rajanpur and Badin districts. This pilot scheme led to significant changes, including improved child growth outcomes.

Oxfam trained 1,000 women and girls on gender-based violence. This training included forming and strengthening community-based protection committees, creating action plans, developing referral directories, providing information, and supporting communities with civil documentation. Protection and safeguarding were integrated and made part of WASH interventions.

Oxfam also assisted with civil documentation, focusing on registering computerised national identity cards for women. This was crucial because it allowed more rural women to access government services, banking facilities, legal support, voting rights, and land applications.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



Over  
**24,000**  
people accessed mental health and psychosocial support.



**20,000**  
children accessed child-friendly safe spaces established in healthcare centres.



More than  
**1,900**  
women received training on gender-based violence and protection concepts, as part of the establishment of community-based protection committees.

SYEDA’S STORY



A teacher conducting a class in a tent school set up by Save The Children and Legal Rights Forum after their classroom was destroyed due to unprecedented heavy rainfall and floods during the monsoon season in Sindh province. Photo: © Khaula Jamil/DEC

The Sarhad Rural Support Programme (SRSP), with member charity Save the Children formed child protection committees at the community level. They also established children’s clubs in schools to raise awareness of child protection issues and children’s rights.

Syeda joined her local child protection club. She said, “I, along with other women in my village, was invited by SRSP team to join an awareness session on the rights of children and how to protect our children from abuse and neglect. I really liked the session and wanted to learn more; therefore, I joined the women’s child protection club in our village. I am so happy my daughter is now attending school and learning. As child protection committee members we now have a say in the protection and education of our children.”



A DEC member distributes aid to people living in one of the areas worst affected by the floods in Mirpur Khas, Sindh province. Photo © Akifullah Khan/DEC



HOW WE HELPED: SHELTER

DEC-supported households and communities benefitted from temporary shelter.

Safe shelter is one of the most important aspects of any recovery programme. Not only does it protect community members from harsh weather, but it also provides families security, privacy and dignity.

According to the National Disaster Management Authority, over 7.9 million people were displaced, and 2.3 million homes were damaged or destroyed in the floods.<sup>6</sup> Communities in each of Pakistan’s provinces today report an ongoing need for lasting shelter.

In response to the floods, the World Bank and Pakistan government pledged \$450 million to build 410,000 houses with more to come. Though needs relating to safe shelter remain, DEC member charities were able to prioritise other long-term community needs.

In a community-led approach, Islamic Relief’s partners helped to provide construction materials for 429 one-room shelters which helped 2,910 people. The shelters were occupied mostly by vulnerable families.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



In the first six months of the response,

66,400

people were provided with temporary shelter such as tents, tarpaulins and shelter tool kits.



2,900

vulnerable individuals provided with one-room shelters.

<sup>6</sup> Revised Pakistan 2022 Floods Response Plan Final Report (Issued 15 Dec 2023) | OCHA



Saeeda, her husband and three children.  
Photo: © Islamic Relief



Photo: © Islamic Relief

Two years on from the disaster, while communities are rebuilding their livelihoods, health and food sources, many still need shelter. Somewhere to live that is secure, and gives a family privacy, is vital to ensuring people can live in dignity.

Saeeda and her husband live in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, one of the most affected regions in the country. They lost their home in the floods. They say the community chose them to receive help from Islamic Relief because they needed it most.

One of their most pressing requests was for a home, Saeeda said, “We were at risk to all kinds of problems such as harsh weather and health problems.”

“Islamic Relief supported us by rebuilding our shelter that was affected by floods in 2022,” she continued. “After the floods, we lived in a tent for almost two years until Islamic Relief helped.”

“We were at risk to all kinds of problems such as harsh weather and health problems.”

Saeeda



HOW WE HELPED: NUTRITION

DEC-supported communities and households benefitted from improved nutrition in the aftermath of the flooding.

Before the 2022 floods, 2.14 million children in parts of Pakistan were suffering from acute malnutrition.<sup>7</sup> This serious condition increases children’s susceptibility to disease, lifelong stunting, cognitive impairment, and death.

In the aftermath of the disaster, health facilities reported a sharp rise in cases of infants with severe malnutrition in affected provinces. According to the UN, more than one in nine children under five admitted to health facilities in flood-affected areas of Sindh and Balochistan were found to be suffering from severe acute malnutrition.<sup>8</sup> The floods devastated the livelihoods of communities who were already struggling, worsening malnutrition among young children.

Member charities supported affected communities with ready-to-use therapeutic food, treatment for malnourished children and feeding support for mothers.

With DEC funds, Action Against Hunger (AAH) piloted a project at four healthcare facilities in Balochistan to support malnourished infants under six months and their mothers. The findings were shared at a national event including Pakistan’s Health and Climate Change ministries as well as UN, INGOs and nutrition experts. Moreover, AAH provided life-saving treatment to 2,161 SAM children in Balochistan and 851 in Sindh through four OTP sites in Balochistan and two in Sindh, ensuring access to essential nutrition services.

Member charity CARE provided 2,875 malnourished children under the age of five with ready-to-use therapeutic food.



A nutrition officer packs one month’s worth of ready-to-use therapeutic food for a severely malnourished child after examining her at a medical camp run by a DEC member charity.  
Photo: © Khaula Jamil/DEC

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

More than  
**305,000**  
children screened for malnutrition.

More than  
**185,000**  
people received information and guidance on topics relating to infant and young child feeding and nutrition.

More than  
**30,000**  
children treated for malnutrition

<sup>7</sup> See surveys pre-2022 in this paper: IPC\_Pakistan\_Acute\_Malnutrition\_Mar2023\_Jan2024\_report.pdf  
<sup>8</sup> Reliefweb, October 2022: More than 1 in 9 children in flood-affected areas of Pakistan suffering from severe acute malnutrition - Pakistan | ReliefWeb

SUMERA’S STORY



Sumera with her daughter Amina\* at home in Sindh, Pakistan, after DEC funds helped treat Amina for malaria and malnutrition after the floods. The family also received 5 chickens and a rooster to help sustain their household as her husband has been unable to find work.  
Photo © Khaula Jamil/DEC

Twenty-seven-year-old Sumera saw children die due to hunger after the floods in 2022 created severe food shortages in her village. Crops were destroyed, all livestock perished, and her husband was unable to find work or purchase food for the family. Her own daughter caught malaria and started to get progressively weaker as time went by.

Eventually with Action Against Hunger and their partner’s timely help, Sumera was able to provide food and supplements, purchase necessary medications, and afford medical treatments which ended up saving her daughter’s life. Now, Sumera hopes for the same assistance for other children of her village too.

Sumera said: “Thanks to them (AAH partners), I was able to save my daughter’s life. Slowly and gradually, she returned to her normal self and is much healthier now.”



Fariha\*, 50, sits with her husband Rayan \*, 60, inside their makeshift tent, after their village in Sindh province was flooded.  
Photo: © Insiya Syed/DEC



HOW WE HELPED: CAPACITY BRIDGING

**DEC-supported partner organisation staff and volunteers to develop skills and access tools and equipment in the aftermath of the flooding.**

With expertise from communities, local partners, healthcare institutions, and the government, local partners worked together to improve systems to respond to future disasters and strengthen capacity to respond to future disasters in a variety of ways in Phase 2 of the response.

Age International, with DEC funds, worked to ensure the needs of vulnerable groups were met in humanitarian responses. The charity trained 101 government, UN and humanitarian representatives in how to plan inclusively for future emergency and recovery efforts. Thanks to the training, older people in Pakistan will now be prioritised in recovery responses. Feedback on the sessions was positive, Provincial Disaster Management Authority Sindh ensured inclusive responses after receiving the training. Age International supported it by developing standard operating procedures for the inclusion of older people and people with disabilities in humanitarian responses.

Through 53 emergency response sessions, British Red Cross supported 1,444 emergency responders, giving them the skills to save lives in the future. With support from the project, the Pakistan Red Crescent Society organised a comprehensive training on community engagement and accountability and protection, gender, and inclusion. The training brought together staff from different provinces and districts, fostering a diverse and inclusive learning environment. A total of 24 Pakistan Red Crescent Society staff members participated, representing a wide range of field experiences and regional perspectives. The sessions aimed to strengthen the participants' understanding of key principles related to community engagement and accountability, focusing on practical strategies to ensure meaningful engagement with communities and to address protection concerns, gender equality, and social inclusion.

Member charity Action Against Hunger conducted advocacy work in Balochistan and Sindh to ensure nutrition services continue at five healthcare facilities in the targeted districts after the project ends. The exit strategy for the programme focused on transferring ownership of key interventions to local stakeholders and strengthening community led structures. Action Against Hunger rehabilitated a health facility that had been inoperative for five years. They provided essential equipment, furniture, medicines and other essential supplies.

There was also a very strong focus on locally led responses and drawing on local expertise to strengthen projects and encourage two-way learning from the community to member charities.

Member charity Tearfund, like many other organisations, included communities in the design of the second phase interventions, with attention given especially to excluded or marginalised groups such as women and older people. A central element of this was the formation of community structures at village level to promote project understanding, ownership, and support. Local leadership and decision-making structures were respected while partner teams supported the election of members.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

 **14,700**  
people trained as community health workers, water management committee members, Community Disaster Committee members or Village Development Committee members.

 **1,900**  
health workers, NGO staff or schoolteachers received training to strengthen their technical skills.



Community members waiting inside a food emergency camp.  
Photo: © Insiya Syed/DEC

SAADIA'S STORY



Photo: © CAFOD

CAFOD's local partner piloted two training sessions with media personnel in Karachi. The sessions highlighted the importance of providing communities with accurate, timely information during humanitarian crises. This access enables them to communicate effectively with one another and with aid organisations.

The aim is to provide a more interconnected, timely and accurate response to the emergency and to give life-saving information to communities wherever they are.

Saadia Obaid Khan, an attendee in Karachi said, "It was amazing to learn how disaster and climate reporting is handled. Field reporters offer unique insights that you can't get from someone working behind a desk."



Dr. Iqbal Hussain, Head of Research and Education at REEDS Pakistan, conducts a capacity building workshop on climate smart agriculture for farmers in Dadu, Sindh province.  
Photo: © Khaula Jamil



# CHALLENGES

## The scale of the crisis

The needs of flood-affected communities were significantly higher than the resources available for relief and rehabilitation programmes across Pakistan. Due to the country's economic situation, including high inflation rates, the government struggled to contribute effectively to recovery and rehabilitation efforts in 2022 and 2023. The work of DEC member charities complemented the Pakistan government's relief response by providing access to health, MPCA, WASH facilities and income-generating activities as noted previously in this document.

## Political uncertainty

There was a heightened risk of political unrest during the Pakistan general election in February 2024. This had an impact on local partners, some were urged to stay at home during the elections for their safety. This, in turn, disrupted staff movements and caused delays in work. Political uncertainty also raised concerns about equipment and property.

Delays were mitigated for with adjustments in project plans. Some project activities were deliberately slowed down in late January 2024 to ensure safety of communities, staff and project assets.

The security situation in some districts was volatile. Security incidents impeded staff in some areas and posed risks to communities. Movement in affected areas was restricted, and some staff worked from home after a directive from local authorities which lasted for two weeks.

## Inflation

Record inflation and currency fluctuations in 2023 caused significant challenges. Member charities faced difficulties with budgets and procuring goods because of price rises. Partner organisations were able to leverage their knowledge of local markets, prices, goods and services to ensure better prices for materials, tools and expertise when necessary. Member charities reported inflation-affected recovery budgets, requiring regular analysis and careful planning to adapt to unpredictable prices.

## Duplication of work and delays

This was a key risk identified in response to the severe flooding that Pakistan experienced in 2010, and something member charities took steps to avoid. Community members reported a substantial reduction in duplication of work and improved timelines in meeting needs. However, many remote communities still suffered due to extensive delays in response because of access constraints or insufficient funding to reach all communities. To address this, member charities worked in thematic working groups on areas such as WASH, shelter, and education and on bilateral working groups.

## The 2023 and 2024 monsoon season

The impacts of the monsoon seasons following the floods were more localised, but compounded some of the challenges experienced by communities severely impacted by the 2022 floods. Sindh province experienced back-to-back climate emergencies, including a heatwave in June and above average monsoon rainfall in July and August. This further impacted communities who were rebuilding their lives following the 2022 floods. Member charities mitigated for the potential challenges by working with local authorities at a district level to ensure vulnerable populations were secure. Alongside this, mobile health units supported affected areas. Local partners and communities had also completed many activities, so elements such as raised beds for crops to protect them from flood water were ready by the time of the 2024 monsoon.

## Cultural, gender and social considerations

Traditional gender norms occasionally restricted women's participation in project activities. Some member programmes engaged local leaders and community groups to promote inclusivity, leading to increased participation from women and other marginalised groups. Safeguarding plans as well as sensitisation sessions are noted previously in the 'How we helped: Protection' section of this document, however, partner organisations worked alongside communities on gender sensitisation. Careful attention was paid to local leaders and partner organisations as member charities often worked through them to tackle cultural, gender, and social challenges.

Women, older people and other vulnerable groups such as women-headed households and child-headed households were also empowered with dedicated committees that played a part in developing long-term recovery plans.



Zainab connects the wires of a solar panel she bought with cash support from a DEC member charity so that she can run a fan to keep her family cool in the summer heatwave.  
Photo: © Care International/DEC

# IMPROVING HUMANITARIAN PROGRAMME DELIVERY



A woman making tea on a smokeless stove with her baby on her lap. The smokeless stove technology was developed and implemented by a DEC member and their partners in her village in Sindh province.  
Photo: © Khaula Jamil

The DEC is committed to learning from emergency responses to ensure that funds are used appropriately and that programmes meet the highest standards. One of the learning touchpoints or delivery in this crisis was the 2010 floods. Member charities sought to apply learning from the crisis to better serve the needs of people.

The following sections highlight best practices adopted by DEC member charities in Pakistan to meet this improvement commitment.

## Being accountable to communities

DEC member charities and their local partners worked closely with local communities to ensure their needs were met. Communities had the opportunity to feedback and share views safely and in privacy, holding partners and member charities accountable for their work.

Member charity, Action Against Hunger involved communities in the selection of locations and households to benefit from interventions from the outset of the project. Like many charities, AAH supported village development committees to actively participate in decision-making processes, ensuring projects responded directly to community needs.

A community perception survey conducted for the DEC near the end of the response in 2024 found that communities were largely satisfied with the work of the agencies.

In Sindh province, community members reported that member charities had installed feedback boxes in villages and had shared contact details for complaints. Although many participants reported no complaints, some highlighted ongoing needs, such as the lack of safe and permanent shelter in many villages. These concerns were escalated to government departments, hospitals and relevant NGOs.<sup>9</sup>

## Including people with specific needs

Vulnerable groups, such as older people, people with disabilities, and women, are often most at-risk during emergencies. Addressing their needs is critical to a successful long-term response that builds back stronger for the future.

With DEC support, older people were consulted, and interventions were targeted to meet their needs. Age International provided wheelchairs and walking aids for older people and people with disabilities. The member charity also provided eye-screening and cataract services as well as trauma counselling to support people with psychological trauma.

Save the Children's technical team, in collaboration with local partners, developed a detailed and concise vulnerability criterion for prioritising households. This included flood-affected households with an income below PKR 15,000/month (approximately £41); with their houses damaged in floods; or with agriculture or livestock losses. Among these groups, priority was given to women led households,

<sup>9</sup> From community perception survey 2nd round, p17





A DEC member distributes aid to people living in one of the areas worst affected by the floods in Mirpur Khas, Sindh province.  
Photo: © Akifullah Khan/DEC

households with widows, orphans, pregnant or lactating women, or two or more children under five years of age, and households belonging to minority groups.

Local partners also constructed accessible latrines for people with disabilities and older people, addressing a gap in some communities’ infrastructure.

Supporting a locally led response

DEC member charities worked closely with local partners and communities to support a locally led response. Local partners have deep knowledge of and trust within the communities they serve. By working with local partners, member charities were better able to identify those most in need of urgent support.

A locally led response is key to a successful transition and exit strategy at the end of a DEC-funded response period, ensuring long-term sustainability.

Some of the previously mentioned contextual challenges such as inflation and the election were navigated because of the strength of the locally led response to the rebuilding work. Partner organisations relied on local knowledge and expertise to adapt budgets, report challenges back to member charities, and develop new plans that allowed projects to successfully continue. Shared learning throughout the project between communities, partner organisations and member charities ensured that the response was equitable and placed community needs at the centre of planning.

Tearfund involved local communities in the design of Phase 2 activities, with preference given to women, older people, and other marginalised groups. Like many member charities, a central element of this work was the formation of community groups to promote ownership and self-sufficiency.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding remained a critical focus throughout the response. Member charities provided regular in-person and online training both on subjects such as protecting vulnerable people and reporting sexual exploitation and abuse.

Alongside other member charities, for new employees, Islamic Relief provided safeguarding training, implemented screening and reference checks during recruitment, and established codes of conduct with work ethics training.

Member charities conducted safeguarding risk assessments for Phase 2, as well as reference checks and ensured staff and volunteers adhered to a code of conduct. Community members were informed about the behaviour and ethics they should expect from the charity and its local partners and were provided with appropriate and relevant complaint response mechanisms to report incidents.



Sultana and her daughter Ayra react as they stand next to their portrait painted in traditional Pakistani truck art style on the truck which features the stories of flood affected individuals who received aid from DEC charities in Sindh province.  
Photo: © Zoral Khurram Naik / DEC

Coordination

To avoid duplication and ensure the most vulnerable people were supported, DEC member charities communicated and shared information throughout the two-year response. This involved regular meetings to learn and collaborate and to update each other. There were meetings and sector clusters at district, provincial, and national levels which ensured very little duplication of work. This allowed an increase of support to affected communities through a targeted approach based on needs.

There was also close collaboration with government entities such as the National Disaster Management Authority, Provincial Disaster Management Authorities, local authorities, and community leaders.

Member charity Concern also collaborated with UN agencies such as the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations and UNICEF to align activities. Concern worked with agriculture and livestock departments in the Pakistan government to create lesson plans for Field Schools and to deliver training sessions.

Save the Children’s and UNICEF’s project teams coordinated to increase nutrition coverage and follow-up services along with the rehabilitation of basic health units in affected areas.

While DEC member charities worked to coordinate efforts, a community perception survey conducted for the DEC suggested that more can be done by agencies to establish regular meetings and exchanges among programme staff especially on advocacy, funding, learning, and programme quality.<sup>10</sup>

Protecting the environment

Since the floods, there has been greater environmental and climate awareness, emphasising the need for greener solutions. These include the use of solar for schools and health facilities as well as widespread adoption of climate-smart agriculture, including crop diversification, high-yield seeds and the use of biopesticides.

Many member charities, with DEC support, initiated urban reforestation. Concern’s partner organisations, in collaboration with the communities they serve, planted 48,950 agroforestry plants within communities. This helped to improve biodiversity and soil health while bolstering livelihoods.

As noted in the ‘How we helped: Disaster Risk Reduction’ section earlier in this document, preserving and strengthening the environment was a key feature of member charities’ Phase 2 plans. This included tree planting to create natural barriers, raised seed beds to protect crops from floods, draining stagnant groundwater, and planting climate resilient seeds and distributing ‘Certified Seeds’ which can be reused each season.

CARE Pakistan supported 550 women to establish kitchen gardens, which are small and compact areas to grow crops near a home, using organic compost and no harmful pesticides. In total, 55 schools were equipped with solar panels and fans to support the use of localised, green energy. Save the Children, like many other member charities, supported green energy where possible, including their own solar-powered office in Sindh.

Tearfund worked through local partners to provide climate-smart agriculture training, helping to efficiently use resources, plant resilient crop varieties and to promote sustainable farming. There was also a strong focus on climate change adaptation strategies such as fruit tree planting to provide locally grown produce and natural storm barriers.

<sup>10</sup> From Pakistan Floods Appeal Community Perception Survey 2nd Round, p28, fourth point.



A man and his children walk through floodwater to get to their home in the Sindh province.  
Photo: © Insiya Syed/DEC



Adaptive programming

Flexibility is at the heart of DEC’s approach to funding, enabling charities to quickly adapt to emerging situations and changing needs. This was evident in how charities adapted to record inflation in 2023 as well as the threat of the monsoon season in 2023 and 2024. Local and community-based responses focused on listening to community voices and acting on their needs.

An example of adaptive programming came from CARE. The member charity adjusted the provision of cash grants to people who didn’t own land, benefiting 287 people with livestock instead of cash. In two communities, local partners responded to the needs of the people by providing calves and goats to ensure a sustainable recovery.

Phase 2 emphasised collaboration with local community-based organisations. This ensured both livelihoods support as well as support for vulnerable groups. One of the benefits of this localisation was seen in the Older People’s Associations

(OPAs) established by Age International. OPAs identified gaps in WASH facilities, particularly the need for accessible latrines and repaired water infrastructure. The member charity also rehabilitated solar plants to ensure safe drinking water for over 2,000 people.

DEC funding also helped CAFOD and their local partners to adapt and deliver a scaled-up cash transfer programme during Phase 2. This was vital for families who had lost their livelihoods due to destruction. Phase 2 also introduced activities to address gaps in local capacity for reporting climate disasters such as through training media personnel. These sessions emphasised providing communities with accurate and timely information during crises.

Assessments revealed that many people did not own land and were highly vulnerable to future flash floods. CAFOD’s local partner extended support to those communities in so-called ‘slum’ areas where people rely on boats for transportation.



A DEC member and their implementing partners distribute wheat and fertiliser to flood affected farmers in Sindh province.  
Photo: © Khaula Jamil/DEC

Learning and improving

Members included clear and coherent exit strategies in their programming. The strategies aimed to ensure communities and local partners could support further recovery and had the tools and knowledge to advocate for local government support. While most exit strategies were clearly communicated, some communities were unclear about when funding would end.

DEC member charities and local partners are striving to learn from the response in Pakistan to make improvements in the future. At the end of our appeals, the DEC carries out a post-appeal review to consolidate learning and ensure that any lessons are carried forward to our future work. For Pakistan, this was conducted near the end of the response and incorporated learnings from programme quality, accountability and learning initiatives conducted throughout the response duration. These included:

- A ‘real-time review’ which looked at the impact of work as it was taking place during Phase 1 of the response, with a view to informing Phase 2 programming.
- Two extensive community perception surveys, which involved consulting people who had received DEC-funded assistance shortly after the floods, and again one year on, to assess their priorities and experiences of receiving assistance.
- Member charity reports and assessments submitted during and after the appeal.
- DEC member final reports from all charities and member evaluations from Care Pakistan, Oxfam and Tearfund.
- A climate resilience report from Action Against Hunger.

- Some of the key findings from these reports were:
- That communities and individuals received DEC-funded assistance from DEC members and partners which was responsive to their priorities, and which supported them to meet their basic needs.
  - The insufficiency of humanitarian funding to meet the identified needs had wide-reaching consequences.
  - Contextual challenges such as inflation and security hindered some of the support effectiveness.
  - Exit strategies must be communicated clearly and early on to communities.
  - There is an urgent and critical need to strengthen community resilience against future shocks.
  - There are opportunities to strengthen partnership practices to better enable and sustain local leadership.
  - Involving vulnerable and marginalised groups like older people, people with disabilities and women, is vital to ensure a sustainable and robust recovery.



Radha with her two children using a handpump that was installed by Oxfam and their partners in her village in Sindh province.  
Photo: © Khaula Jamil



# LOOKING AHEAD

August 2024 marked the end of the Pakistan Floods Appeal. Over a two-year period, DEC member charities reached more than 3 million people by providing access to life-saving services including clean water, shelter, food, protection and healthcare and recovery activities such as Income Generating activities, rehabilitation of health facilities and disaster risk management. Two years after the floods, Pakistan's rural communities continue to rebuild, and while some gaps in the response remain, particularly in rebuilding flood-resilient infrastructure and providing large scale economic opportunities, this report shows that DEC's efforts have contributed to positive community changes and can continue to do so in the longer term.

## Impactful integrated approach

At the village level, all DEC member charities have worked with the community to develop multi-sectoral responses that combine health services, cash assistance, construction and rehabilitation of water points, mental health and psychosocial support to address most of the needs of these communities and make a real difference at the local level. For example, the impact of a new, rehabilitated health centre can be limited if patients don't have access to drinkable water or income-generating activities to pay for medicines. By taking an integrated approach to programming, the benefits of each component of a programme can be deepened. This integrated approach has enabled DEC member charities to meet community expectations more effectively and make better use of available resources.

## A snowball effect

"A snowball effect" is the title of the external post-appeal review commissioned by the DEC Secretariat to capture and document outcomes and lessons from the 2022 Pakistan Floods appeal. The findings of this review show how the DEC Pakistan response contributed to a series of meaningful outcomes that, whilst not uniform across all areas, had a snowball effect for affected communities. As for example, cash assistance assisted in meeting immediate household needs, which in turn allowed families to begin rebuilding their lives with some degree of autonomy. Livelihood programmes, alongside WASH including menstrual hygiene management initiatives, helped stabilise everyday life in many districts, showing that small interventions can accumulate into broader effects when they meet the most pressing needs.

## Building back better

The 2022 floods particularly affected the poorest and most vulnerable districts in Pakistan, where many communities already had limited access to clean water, health facilities and education services before the floods. While full recovery efforts are still needed, the support provided by DEC member charities has strengthened the capacity of service providers to deliver quality health and education services to these rural communities. It has also been an opportunity to improve reliable access to drinkable water, solarising health facilities and schools, providing new flood

resistant latrines on elevated platforms, introducing climate-smart agricultural practices and the planting of agroforestry trees that improve soil fertility, increase food security and support biodiversity. These efforts not only promote long-term environmental sustainability but also empower vulnerable communities with new skills and better access to services than they had before the 2022 floods.

## Community resilience

Recognising that Pakistan might face another climate-related crisis in the future, and that community members are often the first responders in emergencies, DEC member charities and their local partners worked closely with vulnerable communities to build their resilience to future potential crises such as flooding. Member charities and their local partners worked closely with vulnerable communities to build their resilience to future potential crisis. DEC member charities worked with community-based organisations, established hundreds of Community Disaster Committees, supported local community emergency preparedness plans, fostered strong collaboration with community stakeholders, and trained thousands of community volunteers.

This strong sense of community ownership has improved the sustainability and effectiveness of DEC member charities, built safer communities and empowered societies to recover more effectively from future natural disasters.

## Robust exit strategy

Eight DEC member charities have continued to work in Pakistan after the DEC appeal closed with other funding sources, and most of the DEC member charities' local partners are still working in the areas targeted by the DEC flood response. These partners were present in these areas prior to the floods and will continue to provide humanitarian and development assistance in these geographical locations beyond 2024. As member charities ended their programmes, they worked with their partners to develop strong coordination with both government stakeholders and communities to ensure the sustainability of the recovery programme after the project ended. Member charities established Village Development Committees, Elderly Associations and Community Disaster Committees, which are formally registered with local authorities and integrated into local contingency plans to receive early warnings and alerts of potential flooding or other humanitarian crises. After the end of the project, these committees continue to operate in the targeted areas. These committees are also linked to other departments such as the District Agriculture and Livestock Department to introduce climate-resilient crop and livestock varieties, thereby increasing resilience to the impacts of climate change.

All infrastructure-related activities, including the reconstruction of schools, health centres and water facilities, have been duly handed over to the relevant district authorities. Capacity building initiatives with staff from the education, agriculture, social welfare and health departments, as well as community representative committees, ensure the sustainability and continuity of improved service delivery in these facilities after programmes completion.





# HOW THE DEC WORKS

The DEC brings together 15 leading UK aid charities to raise funds quickly and efficiently at times of crisis overseas. It allocates appeal funds to its members and makes sure that the generous donations of the UK public are spent where the need is greatest. This means providing immediate emergency aid for communities devastated by humanitarian crises, as well as long-term support to help people rebuild their lives and strengthen their resilience.

Donating through the DEC is simple and effective. It removes unnecessary competition for funding between aid charities, reduces administration costs and improves coordination, collaboration, and efficiency.

Over the past eight years, the DEC has supported communities in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Gaza, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Lebanon, Malawi, Moldova, Mozambique, Pakistan, Poland, Romania, Somalia, South Sudan, Syria, Turkey, Ukraine, the West Bank, Yemen, and Zimbabwe.





## DEC MEMBER CHARITIES



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ageInternational



**CAFOD**  
Catholic Agency for  
Overseas Development



**CONCERN**  
worldwide



tearfund

World Vision

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