

PRESS RELEASE



Growing Concerns About Hunger and Diseases Caused by Flooding

Welthungerhilfe: Flood Victims in Pakistan Urgently Need Aid

Bonn/Berlin, 2022-08-30. The effects of climate change are more noticeable in Pakistan than ever. After an intense heat wave this spring, unusually heavy monsoon rains and flooding are now destroying the livelihoods of millions of people in Pakistan. So far, rainfall in 2022 has been exceeding the previous year's average by 200 percent. The UN reports that this affects more than 33 million people, amounting to every seventh resident of Pakistan, with no end to the flooding in sight.

“The extent of this disaster is already many times larger than 2010's once-in-a-century flood—and the rain is not stopping,” says Isabel Bogorinsky, Welthungerhilfe's head of program in Pakistan. She continues, “The water is depriving millions of families of their houses, fields, and livelihoods, especially in the provinces of Sindh and Balochistan, which already had to deal with temperatures of up to 50 degrees Celsius during a heat wave only a few months ago. In the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, near Pakistan's border with Afghanistan, large swathes of land are underwater. Weather extremes are once again having the greatest impact on the people who have contributed the least to climate change.” Pakistan is especially vulnerable to the effects of climate change, as reflected in its recent eighth place ranking in the 2021 edition of the Global Climate Risk Index.

Welthungerhilfe's flood aid has already taken effect. Experienced local partner organizations were able to respond quickly and have started, among other activities, to build emergency shelters, distribute food packages and drinking water, and pump out water in order to prevent the spread of diseases. In addition, seeds and agricultural equipment will be distributed as soon as the floodwaters recede. “The flooding has already destroyed 1.6 million hectares of arable land along with the crops that had been growing there, including grains and fruits. As soon as the water recedes, food production must be restarted to stave off hunger and avoid compounding the crisis,” says Isabel Bogorinsky. High rates of inflation have caused prices for staple foods to rise significantly in recent months.

Welthungerhilfe asks for donations to be made for the affected people under the memo: “Flood Disaster in Pakistan”.

Isabel Bogorinsky, Welthungerhilfe's head of program in Pakistan, is available for interviews in German.

Additional information is available at www.welthungerhilfe.org/news

Welthungerhilfe turns 60 this year. It is one of the largest private aid organizations in Germany and has no political or religious affiliations. With courage and determination, Welthungerhilfe has been working towards a world without hunger since its inception on 14 December 1962, during which time it has provided funding of EUR 4.46 billion for more than 10,895 overseas projects in around 70 countries. Welthungerhilfe operates on the basic principle of help for self-help, which it implements with measures ranging from rapid disaster relief to rehabilitation to long-term development co-operation projects with national and international partner organizations.

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