

HOW TO HELP

Pakistan - Floods

OVERVIEW:

As of August 5, heavy rainfall that commenced on July 22 and subsequent flooding in multiple regions of Pakistan had affected approximately 4.5 million people and resulted in as many as 1,500 deaths nationwide. To date, the U.S. Government has pledged \$35 million in response to the floods. The USAID/OFDA assessment team continues to evaluate the situation and will consider additional assistance based on needs on the ground in coordination with the Government of Pakistan. More information on the disaster and U.S. assistance is available at www.usaid.gov – Keyword: Pakistan Floods

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

The most effective way the public can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations.

For information on identifying organizations that are accepting cash donations for their flooding response efforts in Pakistan see www.usaid.gov – Keyword: Donations

A COMMON MISPERCEPTION:

It is a common misperception that all types of assistance are needed following a disaster, which often leads to spontaneous collections of unsolicited commodities and offers of volunteer services. Such assistance, although well-intended, often interferes with critical disaster response activities. The most useful way to help those affected is a cash donation, which:

- Allows disaster relief professionals to procure the exact commodities needed, often in the affected county
- Reduces the burden on resources that tend to be scarce in disaster settings (such as transportation routes, staff time, warehouse space)
- Can be transferred very quickly without transportation costs (which often outweigh the value of the donated commodities)
- Supports the economy of the disaster-stricken region
- Ensures culturally appropriate assistance

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- USAID: www.usaid.gov – Keyword: Donations
The U.S. Agency for International Development is the U.S. government agency responsible for providing economic, development, and humanitarian assistance around the world. USAID assists foreign countries with responding to natural and man-made disasters when those disasters overwhelm local capacity.
- CIDI: www.cidi.org or (703) 276-1914
Center for International Disaster Information provides information and guidance in support of appropriate international disaster donations.
- Relief Web: www.reliefweb.int
Relief Web provides information on relief activities of the humanitarian community.