



EUROPEAN UNION

Brussels, 2 September 2010
A 172/10

Statement by the spokesperson of the HR Catherine Ashton on the attacks in Lahore

The spokesperson of High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the Commission Catherine Ashton issued the following statement today:

"High Representative was deeply saddened to learn about the suicide attacks on a Shia procession in Lahore which killed more than 30 people and injured more than 200. She condemns these attacks and expresses her condolences to the families and friends of the victims.

The viciousness of these sectarian attacks in the period of Ramadan and at a time when the country is suffering from the effects of catastrophic floods of historic proportions is shocking. The EU stands behind Pakistan and its democratic government in this difficult period."

P R E S S

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

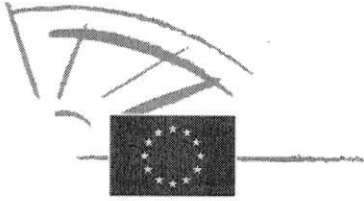
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Brussels, 3 August 2010

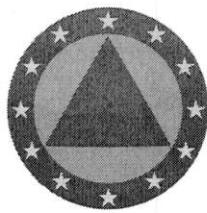
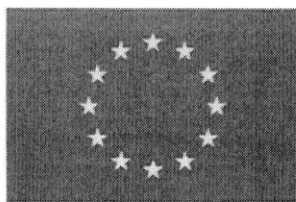
STATEMENT

by Ms Jean Lambert on the recent floods that have devastated Pakistan

Ms Jean Lambert (Greens/EFA, UK), Chair of the European Parliament's Delegation for relations with South Asia, issued the following statement today:

On behalf of the European Parliament's Delegation for relations with South Asia, we would like to express our sympathy and solidarity with all those affected by the floods that have recently hit Pakistan.

We particularly welcome the swift response of the European Commission, which adopted an emergency initial aid package of €30 million in humanitarian aid, as well as the similar aid allocated by Member States and NGOs; the EP Delegation recognises the further pressures this disaster places on the authorities of Pakistan in protecting its people, and hopes that the EC will mobilise new funds as further support becomes necessary since more rain is forecast with the monsoon.

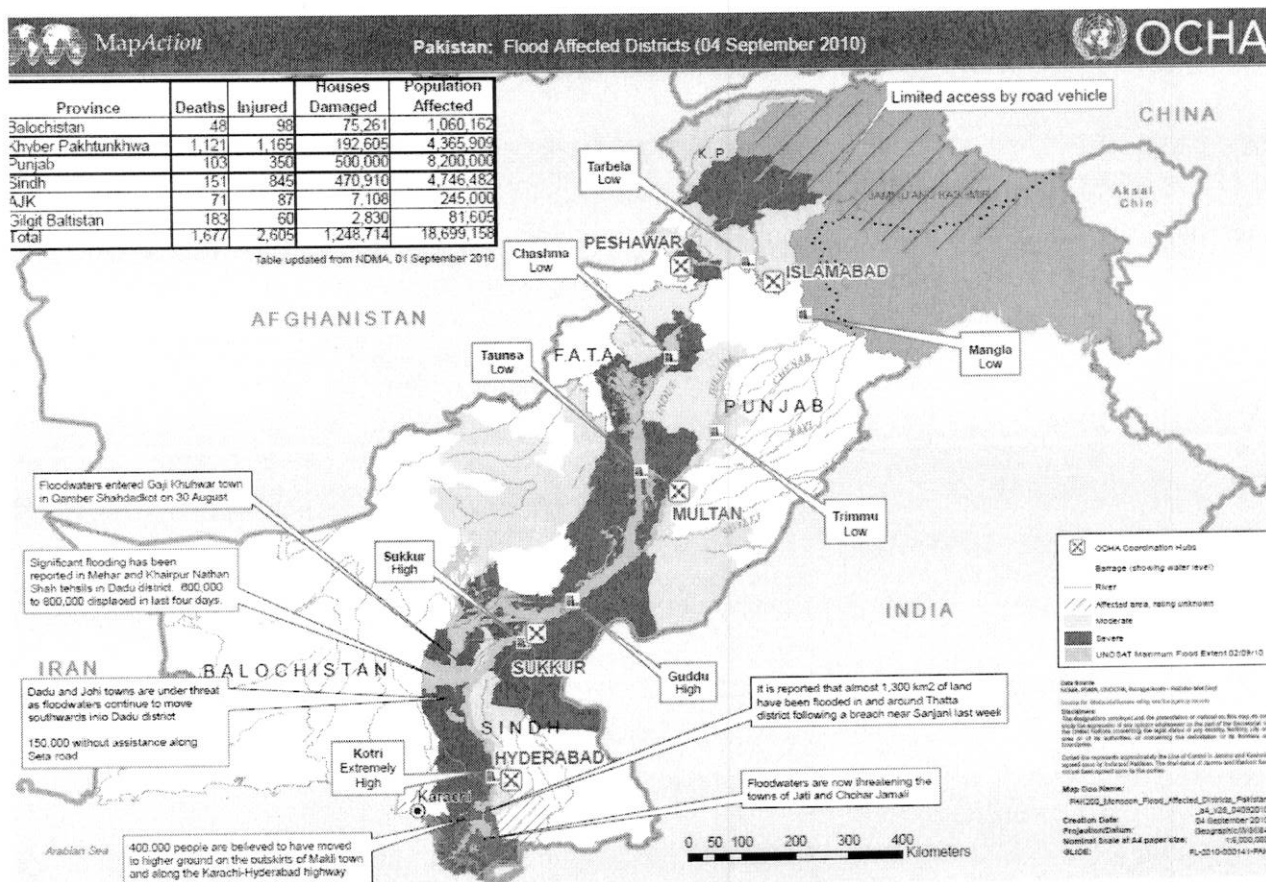


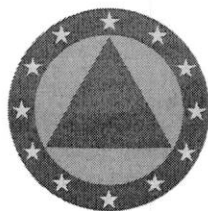
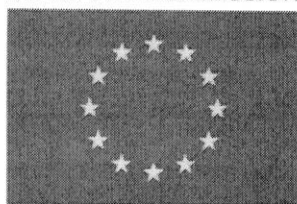
FACTSHEET PAKISTAN MONSOON FLOODS

1. LATEST AVAILABLE FIGURES

As of 06/09/10	Estimates
Number of deaths	1,752
Number of injured	2,701
People in need of immediate humanitarian assistance / relief	12,400,000
Number of homes damaged	1,844,860
Acres of crops destroyed	Not yet known
Total number people affected directly and indirectly	20,553,176

Source : National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) report 06/09/10





FACTSHEET PAKISTAN MONSOON FLOODS

2. BACKGROUND

- *Massive level of unmet humanitarian needs persist as the overall response still struggles to be scaled up. Almost 21 million people are now reported to be affected.*
- *Response must evolve as the situation and needs on ground change and develop across the country.*
- *In KPK and parts of Punjab flood waters continue to drain, leaving behind massive damage as people start to return, and the clean-up and recovery process starts. A significant impact on the Rabi planting season is expected.*
- *In Sindh, widespread inundation persists, and fresh flooding is still occurring in central Sindh.*

Westerly weather disturbance combined with heavy monsoon rain on 21 and 22 July triggered flash floods and river floods in several parts of the country. Monsoon rains continued across the country especially in Khyber Pakhtunkwa (KPK) and Balochistan, triggering additional floods in the low lying areas of Punjab and Sindh. Punjab and Sindh are the country's agricultural bread basket.

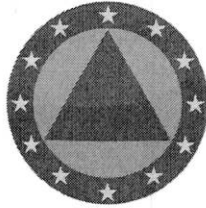
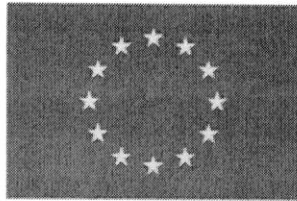
The Pakistan Metrological Department reports that flood levels will diminish from very high to high along the main Indus River bed in Sindh (Kotri.) Other rivers (the Chenab, Tavi and Sutlej, are beginning to flow normally. Hot humid weather is expected to persist over flood affected areas, with some isolated rainfall.

Sindh: *large areas of heavy inundation in the Indus delta, and the Indus river basin and adjoining areas remain flooded with flood waters still flowing. Fresh secondary flooding from major breach of west bank of Indus at Kashmor in northern Sindh has inundated large areas to the west of the river. Rising water levels in the Hamal and Manchar lakes pose an additional threat to surrounding areas of Larkana, Qamber-Shahdadkot and Dadu districts according to UNOCHA .*

Punjab: *flood waters are receding, leaving widespread devastation in their wake, as flood affected people start to return. Large areas of standing, stagnant water remain. A significant impact on the productivity of Rabi planting season is expected*

Khyber Pakhtunkwa: *flood waters have mostly receded leaving areas of stagnant water in their wake and massive destruction, particularly in those mountainous areas affected by flash floods, to which road access remains very difficult. Gaps in the provision of assistance persist, but humanitarian agencies are meeting increasing proportion of ongoing needs.*

Baluchistan: *The worst affected districts are Jaffarabad and Nasirabad, where road access to and within both districts is difficult. Significant needs are also reported in Barkhan, Kohlu and Sibi districts.*



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Azad Jammu Kashmir: *the caseload of affected people is more limited considering the overall context, and the response that is in hand.*

Gilgit-Baltistan: *although direct human impact has been less significant than elsewhere, there are growing concerns as food stocks are becoming depleted and prices for all goods are increasing significantly (up to five times for some staples and fuel). Intermittent road access has been restored.*

Initial findings of the Multi-Cluster Rapid Assessment Mechanism (MCRAM), which will be used as the basis to revise the Pakistan Initial Floods Emergency Response Plan (PIFERP) have been published and confirm the wide scope of the needs, which vary according to the provinces affected.

This monsoon disaster comes on the heels of the emergency humanitarian response to the ongoing conflict in Pakistan as military operations displaced millions of people since 2008 with a peak in June 2009 where 3 millions people were on the road. As of today, at least 1 million people are still displaced and the 2 millions who came back to the North have been affected by the floods and lost everything for the second time. Many people are impacted twice, first by the conflict and then by the floods, thereby drastically increasing their vulnerability.

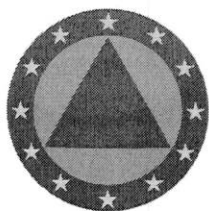
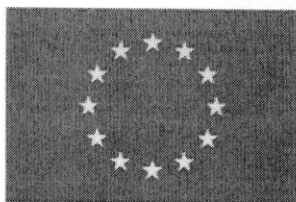
The European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department (ECHO) have currently **ten humanitarian experts** in the country. *Nine ECHO field missions have been conducted in KPK, Punjab and Sindh. Four more field assessments are ongoing and additional field missions are planned for the coming days.*

These missions have confirmed that the scope and scale of this disaster is huge. A swathe of Pakistan from Gilgit Baltistan close to the Chinese border in the north, to the Indus delta on the Indian Ocean coast on Pakistan's southern coast is affected.

The first initial findings of the MCRAM show that less food assistance per capita of affected population was received in Sindh Province than in other provinces, and that food stocks of flood-affected are higher in KPK than in other affected provinces. Immediate priorities among households surveyed are food and shelter.

Assessment teams have also reported a 20% increase in the use of unprotected water sources and confirmed the widespread need for sanitation assistance.

The proportion of agricultural losses is high; most people who reported losses lost a large proportion, if not all, of what they had. Overall, the assessment found that the immediate priorities of households affected by the floods were to secure food supplies and adequate shelter. In order to recover from the affects of the floods households perceived their main needs to be financial assistance, repair and rehabilitation of livelihood assets including land reclamation, and material assistance in terms of rebuilding houses and livestock related assets



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The MCRAM did not include the situation in Baluchistan, about which the aid community has little information and access, although the needs are believed to be high at the moment.

3. IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES FOR HUMANITARIAN AID

- Shelter & NFIs (Non Food Items)

The Shelter Cluster is working on provincial-specific shelter strategies – a first for KPK has been finalised. The shelter strategies will comprise phases such as: emergency relief with temporary shelter (tents, plastic sheeting), return with transitional shelter support (T-shelters, tools, building materials, etc); and early recovery with semi-permanent shelter solutions (rehabilitation and local construction).

Winterisation will need to be included for northern mountainous areas. For southern areas where flood waters are receding it may be feasible to move directly from emergency relief phase to reconstruction. A winter map identifying critical areas is being elaborated by the shelter cluster.

The need and scope for improved needs assessments, including geographical breakdown of affected households according to damage category (severely damaged or partially damaged) is becoming increasingly evident. This will also assist in better and more rigorous targeting.

Coverage in the shelter sector has only increased incrementally to an overall level of 23% (up from 16% in last sitrep).

However, coverage in Punjab provinces is picking up and stands now at 14% (up from 11% in last sitrep) reflecting that a number of NGOs have started operations in Punjab. Coverage in Sindh will need to be reviewed according to new emerging needs.

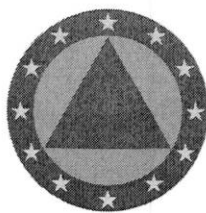
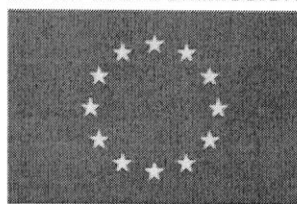
- Food assistance

Food accessibility remains a major problem.

Unaccompanied women and children are receiving less food according to UNIFEM (UN Development Fund for Women) which is increasing their vulnerability.

As of 3 September, WFP had provided more than 37,000 metric tons of life-saving relief food assistance to flood affected areas. In August, rations were provided to 2.92 million beneficiaries, while in the first three days of September, almost 270,000 people have received assistance. Beginning of September, WFP was able to distribute food for the first time to people in Kalat, Khuzdar and Mastung districts of Balochistan Province.

According to WFP more than one million children have been reached to date with food assistance. However, special food supplies for blanket feeding for vulnerable groups (children 6-59 months, pregnant and breastfeeding women) are scarce.



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It is reported that part of the food is sold on the local markets as returning flood affectees have pressing need for other commodities or cash to start from scratch after returning to their places of origin.

- Health

The health status of the flood affected population is deteriorating. The main problem is the lack of access to health services, as around half of all displaced have no access.

The health system has been severely damaged, with more than 450 facilities in need of reconstruction, major repairs, re-equipment and resupply.

Morbidity is increasing, with a high prevalence of skin diseases, caused by poor personal hygiene. Cases of diarrheal diseases are on the rise, but to a lesser extent than expected in such a situation. The increase in the incidence of malaria is of more concern.

The Ministry of Health has confirmed 64 cases of cholera in 11 districts, but there may be a significant number of additional cases that go unreported. It is likely that for each case confirmed by the MoH there are several unconfirmed cases.

So far 16 mobile medical units offered by foreign countries are operational in the field. This number is expected to double in the coming weeks. Only 20 out of 70 planned diarrhea treatment centers (DTC) are operational. It is agreed that more than 70 DTCs are required.

The health cluster hopes to focus on the restoration of capacity to provide primary health care. Assessment of these needs will start in the coming weeks in areas where flood waters have receded.

- Water and sanitation facilities

Overall concerns on the lack of potable water, sanitation and hygiene remain valid, notably in Sindh.

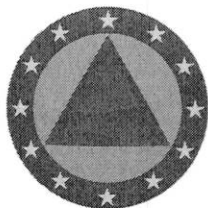
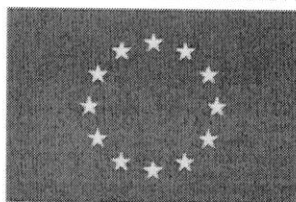
Floods have contaminated and damaged water sources (springs and tube wells), depriving the population of clean drinking water. The affected population is in need of hygiene kits. Needs are particularly acute in Punjab and Sindh. There is an urgent need to provide clean drinking water to the affected population and repair water sources as well as the provision of sanitation facilities.

*The situation in **Sindh** is a particular cause for concern; **due to soil types (clay of low porosity), it is expected that large areas will remain flooded for several weeks** until water has evaporated or drained.*

Options for boreholes or wells are limited – therefore the priority is water trucking and water treatment at household level.

- Protection

There are worries that the widespread loss of identity documents could hinder access of flood-affected people to assistance. The loss of land-ownership documents will constitute a major issue when the return and the reconstruction phase begins.



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There is concern about separated children but the exact number remains unknown.

The improvement of relief distribution systems remains a priority; pregnant women, the elderly and persons with disabilities continue to face difficulties and are not being adequately targeted in a manner that respects their dignity as individuals, as reported by the protection cluster.

- Logistics

Three UNHAS (UN Humanitarian Air Service) helicopters (MI-8) are deployed in Multan (Punjab), serving Punjab and Sindh.

Four additional aircraft are to be deployed as of the second week of September.

Temporary storage facilities for transshipment are available in: Punjab (Multan); Sindh (Sukkur), KPK (Besham, Khwaza Khela, Ghazi and Peshawar) and Gilgit-Baltistan (Gilgit and Aliabad).

Road restoration is undertaken extensively. Gilgit is now reachable by road as per NDMA information.

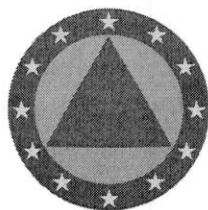
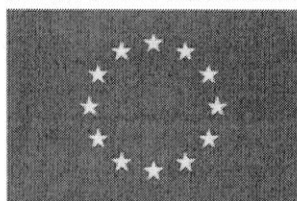
4. MAIN CHALLENGES FOR INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE

- Access: infrastructure, roads and bridges have been destroyed or damaged, hampering relief in many areas; in some areas there are security constraints
- The affected population is scattered and in pockets across the country
- The scale of the crisis is huge as are the numbers affected
- Security is an important constraint, as well as growing civil unrest and incidents of criminality in flood-affected areas.

5. COMMISSION'S HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department (ECHO):

- Ms. Georgieva visited Pakistan on 24 and 25/8 to meet with senior members of the Government of Pakistan including the Prime Minister, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the head of the NDMA, the donor community, international financial institutions, the UN family, Red Cross Movement and NGOs. Commissioner Georgieva saw for herself the destruction wreaked by the floods, was able to assess rehabilitation needs and demonstrate European solidarity with the flood affected population.
- The EUR 30 million funding decision of 30/07 has been reoriented to address the fresh needs affecting the originally foreseen caseload.
- In addition, an emergency decision of EUR 10 million to address the impact on the flood affected communities in Pakistan was adopted on 11/08 and was reinforced by an additional EUR 30 million on 01/09.



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- DG ECHO has reinforced its field office in Islamabad with additional field expertise. *There are currently ten DG ECHO international staff in Pakistan.*

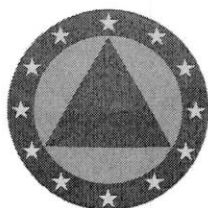
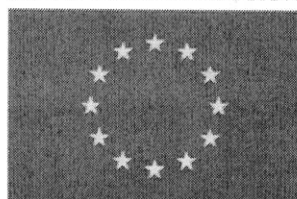
ECHO continues the discussions with its partners who are already working in the most affected areas of KPK, Baluchistan, Sindh and Punjab on the integration of the response to the floods while continuing the support to the population affected by the conflict.

The Commission's humanitarian funds are solely channelled through international non-governmental relief organisations, UN agencies and the Red Cross / Red Crescent movement. ECHO works with these humanitarian organisations on the ground ensuring that the aid is impartial and independent.

6. EUROPEAN UNION HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

As communicated to the Commission through the Holis 14 points system (06/09/2010):

COUNTRY/ CONTRIBUTOR	Cash contributions (as reported in 14 points)	In kind contributions (as reported in 14 points & CECIS)	Commitments (in the pipeline) / Core contributions (1)	TOTAL
European Commission Humanitarian Aid Department (ECHO)	40.000.000,00		30.000.000,00	70.000.000,00
AUSTRIA	5.200.000,00	723.000,00		5.923.000,00
BELGIUM	2.000.000,00		153.033,00	2.153.033,00
BULGARIA				
CYPRUS	100.000,00			100.000,00
CZECH REPUBLIC	160.000,00			160.000,00
DENMARK	17.324.923,00	100.000,00		17.424.923,00
ESTONIA	64.000,00			64.000,00
FINLAND	4.400.000,00			4.400.000,00
FRANCE	1.050.000,00	817.500,00	250.000,00	2.117.500,00
GERMANY	15.438.588,00	3.532.598,00	9.561.412,00	28.532.598,00
GREECE	100.000,00			100.000,00
HUNGARY		38.258,00		38.258,00
IRELAND	200.000,00	60.000,00	1.740.000,00	2.000.000,00
ITALY	2.570.641,00	896.718,00		3.467.359,00
LATVIA				
LITHUANIA		14.481,00		14.481,00
LUXEMBURG	1.319.729,00	479.000,00		1.798.729,00
MALTA			10.000,00	10.000,00
NETHERLANDS	8.600.000,00			8.600.000,00
POLAND	150.000,00		400.000,00	550.000,00
PORTUGAL				



FACTSHEET PAKISTAN MONSOON FLOODS

ROMANIA				
SLOVAK REPUBLIC	50.000,00	80.000,00		130.000,00
SLOVENIA	10.000,00			10.000,00
SPAIN	5.429.464,00	525.000,00		5.954.464,00
SWEDEN	12.134.915,00	606.822,00	3.978.991,00	16.720.728,00
UNITED KINGDOM	66.720.856,00	3.287.449,00		70.008.305,00
TOTAL	183.023.116,00	11.160.826,00	46.093.436,00	240.277.378,00

(1) Formal pledges which are still to be committed or funding decisions awaiting final approval & Core contributions for funding to international organisations and contributions to the CERF, note that the current 14 points system does not show core contributions (even when earmarked for a specific crisis response).

7. CIVIL PROTECTION

The European Union Civil Protection (EUCP) team left Pakistan on 5/09/2010 and arrived in Brussels on 6/09/2010 at 14:20 Brussels time.

An aircraft with assistance from Italy, Austria and Germany arrived in Islamabad on 03/09/2010. The EUCP team was present along with the EU Head of Delegation and the IT Ambassador to receive the assistance.

Three light field hospitals, made available by Denmark, were transported in two flights to Karachi and arrived on 5 September and 6 September. The equipment is most likely to be set up in the area around Daddu.

UK assistance of containers, blankets, shelter kits, plastic sheets and kitchen kits arrived in Karachi on 6 and 8 September. The third part of the UK assistance is expected to arrive on 10 September. On 10 September another flight is planned to depart from Sweden with the Humanitarian Partnership base camp equipment from United Kingdom, Sweden and Denmark.

Two more flights are scheduled for 12 and 19 September to carry assistance from Belgium and Luxembourg respectively.

Among these flights, three were offered through the EU Movement Planning Cell to transport assistance free of charge and four are co-financed by the EU. In total, 10 flights have been supported or otherwise facilitated by the Monitoring and Information Center (MIC) in the European Commission.

Brussels, 18 August 2010

Pakistan: Commissioner Georgieva proposes increasing Commission's funding to €70 million ahead of her visit to the area

In response to the ever increasing scale of the humanitarian crisis, the Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response, Kristalina Georgieva, announced today that the Commission will mobilise an additional €30 million in urgent relief assistance. This latest funding will bring the total humanitarian aid funds allocated by the Commission to assist the flood-affected populations to €70 million. On 23 August, Commissioner Georgieva will travel to the affected area in Pakistan and will meet with authorities and relief experts, as well as with people affected by the floods."

Commissioner Georgieva said: "The flood damage in Pakistan is massive and many millions of people are suffering. The additional funds will be used to boost the humanitarian aid operations carried out by the European Commission's humanitarian aid partners. Commission's relief experts are also active on the ground in Pakistan. They are working with our partners to ensure that funds are being used in the most efficient way possible to the benefit of the desperate victims of these disastrous floods."

Since 31 July, the European Commission has provided €40 million in humanitarian aid for the flood victims in Pakistan (see [IP/10/1018](#) and [IP/10/1048](#)). In the last twelve months, the Commission has provided a total of €111.25 million in humanitarian aid for people in need in Pakistan, not including today's announced request.

The Commission's humanitarian aid and civil protection department (ECHO) has a support office in Islamabad. ECHO experts closely follow the developments in the humanitarian situation and monitor the use of the Commission's relief funds.

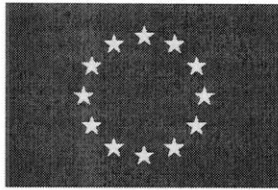
The Commission-funded humanitarian projects are implemented by non-governmental relief organisations, specialised UN agencies and the Red Crescent movement. Activities covered include health, food, water and sanitation, (emergency) shelter, non-food items (blankets, plastic sheets, hygiene sets, kitchen sets, etc.), psychological support, emergency communication, livelihood support and protection.

Relief partner organisations which have received funds or are in the process of receiving imminent support include Acted, ActionAid, Concern, Cordaid, Danish Church Aid, Hope87, International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC), International Organisation for Migration (IOM), International Rescue Committee (IRC), Merlin, Oxfam and Save the Children.

EU Civil Protection action

The EU Civil Protection Mechanism was activated on 6 August. The Monitoring and Information Centre (MIC) within ECHO is in touch with the 31 countries participating in the Mechanism, of whom several are providing in-kind assistance to Pakistan (e.g. water purification units, emergency health kits, tents, electric generators). A MIC liaison officer is in the ECHO office in Islamabad to facilitate the coordination of EU civil protection assistance and to liaise with the UN system.

For further information: http://ec.europa.eu/echo/index_en.htm



European humanitarian Commissioner meets victims of the floods in Pakistan

Islamabad, Wednesday 24 August 2010 - Kristalina Georgieva, European Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response met today with victims of the floods in Pakistan, during a two day visit to the country. The Commissioner saw for herself the plight of the people devastated by the worst disaster Pakistan has faced in decades.

"I am deeply touched by the loss, suffering and devastation that millions of people of Pakistan have faced in the last weeks," said Commissioner Georgieva. "This is a disaster of unimaginable proportions and I have come to Pakistan to show Europe's solidarity during this very trying time for the millions who have lost loved ones, their homes or their livelihoods."

Commissioner Georgieva had meetings with the Prime Minister, Honourable Yousaf Raza Gillani and the Foreign Minister, Mr Shah Mahmood Qureshi, and the Chairman of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). She also discussed the humanitarian crises facing Pakistan today with the United Nations agencies, the non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and the Red Cross / Crescent Movement.

"The humanitarian response to the floods will need innovation and creativity; from the mountains in the north to the flood plains in the south – it is not one size fits all." The European Commissioner added "These overwhelming floods have come on the heels of an ongoing conflict related crisis."

Commissioner Georgieva emphasised the need for efficient humanitarian aid to be independent and impartial. "The most vulnerable people impacted by the crisis need to be assisted irrespective of gender, political affiliation, age or religion."

