



PWSDevelopments

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Presbyterians Respond to the Millions Suffering from Pakistan's Second Battering

IT WAS ONLY RECENTLY THAT PAKISTAN MARKED THE one-year anniversary of massive flooding that left one-fifth of the country underwater, killed nearly 2,000 people and directly affected about 20 million through destruction of property, livelihoods and infrastructure. Now, Pakistan is reeling from a second blow following another season of damaging monsoon flooding.

The latest floods in southeastern Sindh province began during mid-August and have caused extensive damage from torrential rains. An estimated 433 people have been killed and more than 750 injured. Approximately 655,000 people have been displaced and are now living in camps. The UN's Food and Agriculture Organization estimates that 70% of standing crops have been destroyed in an area often relied on as the breadbasket of Pakistan.

PWS&D is working through local partner Church World Service—Pakistan/Afghanistan to support victims of the latest floods at a time of critical need. The disaster represents a second devastating blow to farming families as last year's floods and pre-existing conditions for poor crop yields and malnutrition left millions unable to access enough food. Aid efforts are desperately needed as news of the disaster has been slow to get out and relief from the international community has only trickled in.

The widespread flooding has washed away homes, livestock, food stores and farmland. Over 5.4 million people have been impacted—the majority poor and landless, relying on agriculture and livestock production in order to provide for their families.

“Three acres of my crops have been submerged in water along with the wheat we saved for home consumption,” explains farmer Jam Joseph. Both Jam and his wife Mebhai are now faced with the threat of a food shortage for their family. “We do not have crops; we saved 60 maunds (2,400 kilograms) of wheat for food and that has all gone away.”

Now, not only do families require assistance meeting food consumption needs, it is also critical that agricultural lands are quickly rehabilitated. If the planting season is missed, it will severely affect next spring's harvest, income-earning opportunities and food supply—while also increasing food insecurity and malnutrition, with affects rippling throughout the country.

“The unmet needs in Sindh are a tragedy waiting to happen,” says Allan Calma, CWS-P/A's Deputy Director of the Disaster Management Program. “The high prevalence of poverty in Sindh exacerbates the challenges of overcoming this disaster. The destruction of agricultural crops and loss of significant livelihoods ➤



Jannat's neighbours, Mohammad, Khamoon and their family near their semi-collapsed mud house.



Jannat and her children on the land where their home once stood.

“God give me the strength so we can rebuild”

means these communities have little or no resources with which to restart their lives.”

Initially, PWS&D is working in partnership with Canadian Foodgrains Bank to support 2,000 families with food packages. With your help, additional initiatives will provide other needed support such as tents, health services and emergency supplies.

Jannat's humble mud home had two small rooms where she lived with her husband and two children in Thatta District, Sindh province. When the rains hammered and didn't let up, the mud swallowed everything she had.

“My entire house has collapsed along with some of our belongings that have gone underground with it,” she explained. “God give me the strength so we can rebuild our house to be able to live the life we were living previously.”

Jannat's husband, Haider, makes a meagre living by selling vegetables in the local market at a small stand, earning only \$1-\$2 a day. “The money is not enough because the cart doesn't belong to him,” Jannat explained. Her husband must pay rent out of his daily earnings.

The family now lives in her parents' house along with Jannat's three sisters, her brother and her sister-in-law. The living arrangements are tight and the desire to get back into her home is high.

“It will cost as much as 40,000 rupees (approximately \$480) to rebuild our house. We do not have that much money.”

Jannat's neighbours, Khamoon and Mohammad, share her sorrow and relate to her loss since their home was also damaged. Mohammad was able to secure his second room with a stick but it is now on the verge of collapsing.

Jannat is grateful to have shelter with her parents, however she remembers all that she once had. “We have lost more than just our house; we lost things inside our house and our space.” Jannat continued to explain that not only are the finances needed to rebuild their house simply out of reach for them, but also that additional funds are needed to replace their household items.

Jannat, Khamoon, and Mohammad have received food packages, tents and blankets as part of a program supported by PWS&D through CWS-P/A. Through this assistance, the families have gained a little bit of security during an incredibly difficult time.

While the tents provide temporary roofs and the nutritious food distributions are celebrated, there is no doubt that the families in the area have larger concerns. These include winter worries, health risks, lost crops, diminished livelihoods, clothing, and more importantly, stronger homes for the future.

Despite the family's remaining challenges and needs, Jannat is fortunate when compared to the thousands of people who have yet to receive any assistance at all. Relief is still desperately needed to not only help individual families and communities but also assist in alleviating some of the pressure on global poverty caused by the increasing number and scale of natural disasters in the country. The affected communities are mostly impoverished, marginalized and need assistance in order to keep them from falling farther below the poverty line and deeper into food insecurity, debt and uncertainty.

With your prayers and ongoing support of PWS&D programs in Pakistan and around the world, we can ensure the vulnerable receive nutritious food, drink clean water and access life-saving supplies during times of incredible need.

A young girl at the Dadaab
refugee camps near the
Kenya-Somalia border.

PHOTO: PAUL JEFFREY, ACT ALLIANCE.

Appeal for East Africa Continues

Famine, drought and hunger continue to sweep across East Africa, and Presbyterians in Canada maintain their solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Somalia, Kenya, Ethiopia and Tanzania through support of PWS&D programs that are providing food, nutritional supplements, clean water, shelter, hygiene kits, agriculture training and psychosocial support.

Congregations are holding fundraisers, using the PWS&D East Africa bulletin insert and speaking about relief efforts during a “Moment for Mission” at Sunday services. Your ongoing support of this life-saving work is still urgently needed.

Working in partnership with Canadian Foodgrains Bank, the ACT Alliance and Canadian Churches in Action, together we can bring desperately needed assistance to those most in need.

You can make a donation through your church, mail a cheque to the office, donate online or contact PWS&D. Please mark donations as “East Africa Relief.”

*Thank you for your generosity
and compassion!*



actalliance





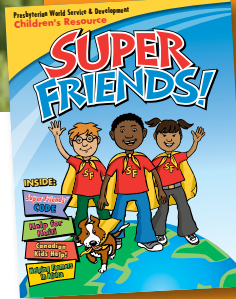
MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW - PWS&D SUNDAY IS FEBRUARY 5, 2012

PWS&D Sunday is a time for you and your congregation to remember the work of our church in supporting marginalized and vulnerable people through programs in international development and emergency relief. Let's make this Sunday, February 5

a time when we take a moment to think of those who struggle for basic necessities such as nutritious food, clean water, adequate health care, quality education and basic human rights.

Every year, PWS&D produces a variety of resources for use during

PWS&D Sunday, including a full order of service, bulletin inserts and offering envelopes. This year we also have a new children's resource called "Super Friends!" that can help kids learn how our church works with international partners in emergency situations. This fun and creative magazine includes games and activities for kids aged 7-14 years and includes stories from overseas.



Meaningful Gift-Giving this Christmas

Ever wondered what to buy for the person who has everything? Is there someone on your Christmas list who would prefer you skip the usual Christmas trinkets and knick-knacks and opt for something more meaningful this year?

The Presbyterian Church in Canada's new Gifts of Change catalogue provides gift-giving ideas that are unique ways to reach out to vulnerable people both in Canada and around the world.



\$10 provides a meal for someone through Native ministries

\$30 provides a family with seeds and training on how to grow more food

\$100 provides a family displaced by a disaster with an emergency food package

\$325 provides training and books for a lay leader in Ghana

\$1,200 builds a water storage pond for irrigation

Make gifts in someone's honour and we will send them a special gift card. Gifts can also be made online at www.presbyterian.ca/donate.



A GIFT OF HOPE



Presbyterian World Service & Development

The development and relief agency of The Presbyterian Church in Canada

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PWS&D gratefully acknowledges all individuals and congregations who support the development and relief work of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.