

# NEWSletter

Delegation of the European Union to Pakistan

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## MESSAGE FROM THE AMBASSADOR

This is my last message as editor of the EU Newsletter in Pakistan. After four years my assignment is coming to an end. These have been a fascinating four years, albeit often trouble-some and certainly turbulent. Much has changed but also much has stayed the same.

The transition to a civilian democratic system in 2008 proves, I hope, to be the turning point in Pakistan's history. I have often in my messages stated that democracy is the only system that is politically sustainable and can bring economic and social stability. I am absolutely convinced of this but I am also realistic enough to understand that not all will be achieved over night.

Many friends of Pakistan, including the European Union and its Member States are urging the leaders of the country, at all levels of society, to implement necessary reforms in a range of areas, not just economic reforms, not for our benefit but for the benefit of the people of Pakistan, especially the poor among those.

Pakistan has an enormous human and intellectual resource, this in addition to its natural resources. All these resources must be mobilized and developed in a sustainable manner with the understanding that it is the right of all citizens to receive an equitable share of the benefits. In my numerous interactions with people of all walks of life in Pakistan I have strongly advocated for a higher degree of regional integration, especially as a vehicle in peace building and conflict reduction. It has served us well in Europe and I believe that this can also work in this region.

I am leaving with a heavy heart because of the many friends and colleagues I leave behind. It has been an enormous privilege for me to have served as the Ambassador to this great country. I thank all those whom I have met over the last few years for their support and encouragement. I shall miss you all.

Jan de Kok  
Ambassador/Head of Delegation

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Ms. Jean Lambert and Mr. Thijs Berman with Dr. Fehmida Mirza, Speaker National Assembly

## Multi-Donor Trust Fund for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, FATA and Balochistan

This World Bank administered MDTF became operational on August 5, 2010 and will provide a coordinated financing mechanism for investment projects in KP, FATA and Balochistan with the overall objective of reconstruction aimed at recovering from the impact of the conflict as well as flood recovery and rehabilitation in these areas. To be executed by the Governments of Pakistan, KP and Balochistan, a total of \$135 million have been pledged by Australia, Denmark, EU (\$19.2 million), Finland, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Turkey, UK and USA to support the reconstruction activities.

## EU Parliamentarians assure PM Gillani of increased aid for flood affected people

A delegation of the EU Parliament led by Ms. Jean Lambert, Chairperson of South Asia Delegation visited Pakistan on a three day official visit along with Mr. Thijs Berman, Development Committee Chair of the Delegation for relations with Afghanistan. During the stay the delegation met senior government officials including PM Gillani, Foreign Minister Qureshi, Speaker National Assembly Dr. Fehmida Mirza, and Chairman National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Lt. Gen. Nadeem among others. They also met with heads of various international agencies and organizations in Islamabad to fully comprehend the complexities of the situation created by the unprecedented floods and the measures underway to mitigate the sufferings of millions affected.

During her meeting with PM Gillani, Ms. Jean Lambert conveyed her commiserations on the devastations and assured the PM that EU would remain steadfast in its support to help Pakistan overcome its present economic challenges. PM Gillani thanked the delegation for EU's strong advocacy and underlined the

need for increased exchanges of Parliamentarians to help create better understanding of each others point of view on various issues.

In separate meetings with the Foreign Minister, Mr. Qureshi and Speaker National Assembly, Dr. Fehmida Mirza, Ms. Jean Lambert expressed satisfaction on the pace of rehabilitation work in flood affected areas and assured EU's continued support for development in Pakistan. Mr. Qureshi and Dr. Mirza praised the support of EU for the relief and the rehabilitation of flood affected people.

During their visit the delegation also flew over flood affected areas and made field visits with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) team to gain first hand knowledge of the devastation caused by the floods.

## Student honoured



A ceremony was held at the EU Delegation in Islamabad to honour the winner of the Children's Drawing Competition 2010 Abdullah Abid, the 10 year old student of class IV from Army Public School & College, Westridge III, Rawalpindi. Abdullah was presented with a Laptop and his one year school tuition fees were also paid as his prize. Abdullah's parents, his school principal and his art teacher were also present at the occasion.

## Friends of Democratic Pakistan (FoDP)

The third ministerial meeting of the Friends of Democratic Pakistan (FoDP) was held in Brussels on October 15, 2010. The forum brought together countries and multilateral institutions, including the European Union,



DG ECHO Mr. Peter Zangl addressing the press conference as Mr. Jan de Kok Ambassador/Head of Delegation looks on.

which are committed to supporting a Democratic Pakistan in its socio-economic development. The meeting was hosted by European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Catherine Ashton and co-chaired by Pakistan Foreign Minister Mr. Shah Mahmood Qureshi. Foreign Ministers and representatives of 20 countries and four multilateral institutions also attended the meeting.



The meeting focused on the aftermath of the recent floods in Pakistan (humanitarian situation, reconstruction and rehabilitation) and at long term comprehensive approach to recovery (economic recovery, trade, institution building and administrative reforms).

The FoDP members recognized that reconstruction requirements were daunting and the concept of “build back better” should be a good basis for an effective and sustainable recovery. It was also noted that better trade opportunities will facilitate economic recovery and in this context, EU's decision to seek a Pakistan-specific World Trade Organization (WTO) waiver was appreciated and supported.

The FoDP also noted the need for continued efforts by the Government of Pakistan under its reform programme towards economic stabilization and sustained economic revival, including widening the tax base, and taking other necessary structural measures to generate and enhance the maximum possible domestic resource mobilization for reconstruction and long term development.

## Pakistan Development Forum (PDF)

A two day Pakistan Development Forum was

held in Islamabad with an agenda of focusing and sharing the future development vision of Pakistan for the prosperity of its people.



Speaking at the forum, PM Gillani said that billions of dollars were required for the reconstruction in Pakistan and urged international community to help Pakistan deal with the devastation caused by floods and terrorism.

Delegations from 30 countries and 264 representatives from donor countries, five major lending and aid institutions participated in the forum.

## DG ECHO's visit to Peshawar and Dadu

Mr. Peter Zangl, the Director General of the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO), visited flood and conflict affected areas in Peshawar district, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Dadu district in Sindh Province.

Mr. Zangl emphasized that Humanitarian aid efforts need to be scaled up to ensure that European assistance is delivered independently to the most in need, irrespective of their gender, religion or political affiliation. ECHO has made available €150 million to assist in the rehabilitation of those affected by the flood. €80 million of that has already been disbursed through 24 international relief organizations; the remaining €70 million will be committed by the end of 2010.

The humanitarian assistance of the European Union (EU), the European Commission and EU Member States together, now totals €415 million since the floods began.



## EU Food Facility Project



Non-availability and lack of accessibility of food items in the flood affected areas coupled with the recent rise in food prices has resulted in a total of 77 million food insecure people (about half of total population).

In order to support the food vulnerable households in Pakistan, the EU has provided 40 million Euros to FAO and WFP to implement the project in 17 food insecure districts through following interventions:

- Provision of quality agriculture inputs and agriculture implements
- Improvement of irrigation system and reduction of post harvest losses
- Capacity building of farmers and related institutions

The project will significantly contribute to productivity enhancement of small farmers by an additional 30-35% of present production. FAO will provide operational and technical support for the implementation of this project. From the government side, the project is supported by the project steering committees at provincial level and operational committees at district level.

Till now the project has accomplished major tasks including establishment of area offices, formulation of letters of agreements, establishment of Project Steering Coordination at Federal level and Operational Committees at Provincial as well as District level. The project has also started measuring the performance of project interventions and conducted surveys in the project area.

So far more than 161,000 food vulnerable

households have been provided quality agriculture inputs. Additionally 30,000 flood affected households have received canola seed. The project has also assisted 102 farmer associations with agriculture implements for mechanized farming that will lead to increased production of crops. The project is also helping farmers by rehabilitating 468 irrigation schemes.

Future need and priorities are:

- Local seed production
- Value addition
- Efficient use of irrigation water
- Provision of appropriate agriculture tools
- Support to the live stock sector

The project has so far completed three growing seasons starting from 2009. Following comparison of previously obtained and Rabi 2009 yields in kg/Ha shows the excellent results of interventions during Rabi 2009:

Region	Crops	Wheat
Sindh	Usually	2390
	Rabi 2009 % increase	4005 67.6
Punjab	Usually	1755
	Rabi 2009 % increase	2276 29.7
Khyber Phaktunkhwa	Usually	1475
	Rabi 2009 % increase	2082 41.1
Balochistan	Usually	1965
	Rabi 2009 % increase	2444 24.4

## Success Story

Muhibullah Khan from Lower Dir, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is a poor small farmer owning 0.6 hectares of irrigated land. In order to feed his family of 18 including four school going children, he works as a daily wagger during the day and as a security guard at night. In order to purchase seeds and fertilizers for his farm, he used to sell his chickens and goats. Considering his poverty level, Muhibullah was selected as a beneficiary for wheat, seeds and fertilizers under package 1 of the EU Food Facility Project. This has been a turning point



Mr. Dirk Meganok on his visit to the EU Food Facility project.

in his life. He now hopes to harvest 30 mounds instead of 20 mounds of wheat from his farm which is a 50 percent increase. The support provided by the project assisted Muhib in two ways; he does not have to sell his animals to purchase crop inputs and now he is able to save money from his wages. This saving is being spent on his children's education. Thus he hopes to be able to reduce on his work shifts, spend some time with his family and realize his dream of educating his children. He attributes this turnaround in his life to God and the help of EU's project.

## Field Visit of Director for Asia & Central Asia AIDCO to Chakwal, Punjab

### Visit to EU Food Facility Project

On 13th November 2010, Mr. Dirk Meganck, Director for Asia & Central Asia AIDCO along with two staffers visited Union Council Karsal, District Chakwal to witness the EU Food Facility project activities. A briefing on the project activities and achievements was given to the mission members by Project Managers of FAO and WFP. The National Rural Support Programme's General Manager briefed the mission about the overall role of his organization covering 54 districts in four provinces and AJK. NRSP is also a partner to various Food Facility implementing organizations. He highlighted the organization of training programs, farmers' field schools and distribution of agriculture inputs, farm implements, wheat grain and its storage.

In his opening remarks Mr. Meganck thanked village elders, farmers and project staff for their achievements. He pointed out the water shortages faced by the country and recommended the adoption of irrigation water saving techniques. He indicated that the purpose of his visit was to witness the EU project activities and attend the Pakistan Development Forum. He then inaugurated the distribution of agriculture inputs, vegetable seed and wheat grain to 625 households. He also inaugurated the sowing of wheat on a demonstration plot by asking the Delegation's Agronomist to operate the tractor with the seed drill.

## Visit to Women Open School



The delegation also visited the Women Open School in Karsal. Under the EU Food Facility project, a total of 150 Farmer schools and Women Open Schools have been organized including 77 in Kharif 2010 and 83 in Rabi 2010 in Chakwal District of Punjab.

In the Women Open School in Karsal, 25 women farmers were learning and participating in Kitchen gardening techniques. Miss Abida, specialist and sociologist - FAO, informed the AIDCO mission about the overall capacity building plan of the EU project. Miss Aysha Arif, WOS facilitator briefed the mission about the overall WOS/FFS activities particularly in Chakwal and generally in Punjab. Ms. Sumehra a participant of the WOS and small farmer of the village presented the WOS activities in detail before the mission.

Upon a query by the mission about the benefits of the activity, she explained that the women farmers have experienced significant savings from growing their own vegetables. Later the mission visited the small farm of vegetables of Miss Ansar Bibi. She told the mission that her family had never grown vegetables before the training but now they are cultivating and planning to market these vegetables.



Damaged public water supply scheme in Mardan

## Promoting Civil Society participation in Water & Sanitation governance in Pakistan

The European Commission has a long-standing relationship and cooperation with non-governmental and other civil society organisations as well as with local and decentralised authorities in the field of development. It is part of the European Union's (EU) commitment to fighting poverty and promoting the rule of law and adherence to fundamental freedoms set out in Article 177 (former Article 130u) of the European Community Treaty.

The thematic programme “Non-State Actors and Local Authorities in Development”, introduced in 2007, covers support to development actions, to be implemented by Non-State-Actors (NSA) or Local Authorities (LA), in close cooperation with the local communities and the most vulnerable population groups, aiming at promoting an inclusive and empowered society in partner countries. These actions are intended to make a direct and lasting contribution to improving the living conditions and development prospects of the disadvantaged and marginalised in developing countries. Under the NSA-LA (In-country Actions) component, the Commission has granted an amount of over €3 million for four WASH Sector interventions to be managed by partnerships of European and Pakistani civil society organisations in the most deprived areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan.

These actions aim to contribute to the Government of Pakistan's priority to reduce existing inequalities in underdeveloped regions of the country and are also aligned to the Programme's overall objective in Pakistan to promote citizen-led reforms to improve the provision of water and sanitation service delivery to the vulnerable populations. These interventions will contribute to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), particularly MDG 7 to ensure environmental sustainability; reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water. The

following are the details on these projects:

**Project Title:** Improving Access to Water and Sanitation in Districts Pishin and Qilla Saifullah

**Implementing Organisation(s):** Concern Worldwide in partnership with Innovative Development Organisation (IDO)

**EC Contribution:** €713,623

**Implementation location:** Pishin and Qilla Saifullah, Balochistan

**Duration:** 36 months

**Objectives:** The overall objective is to improve the health status of refugee and host populations of Pishin and Qilla Saifullah Districts in Balochistan, Pakistan, through citizen-led water and sanitation service delivery. The specific objective is to support the sustainable increase in access to safe water, improved sanitation and enhanced awareness of hygiene practices amongst refugee and host populations through the provision of potable water and sanitation facilities, the capacity building of local service providers and the strengthening of community-service provider linkages.

**Target group(s) and Beneficiaries:** Target groups include refugee and host communities, especially vulnerable groups, in three refugee camps and about 70 villages in Pishin and Qilla Saifullah Districts. The project will also target elected representatives, service providers, local civil society actors and community leaders. The project will benefit around 85,000 refugee and host individuals including 41,190 women. Approximately 300,000 individuals will be indirect beneficiaries.

**Project Title:** Improved delivery of water and sanitation facilities in refugee impacted areas of Balochistan through capacity building of service providers and communities.

**Implementing Organisation(s):** Mercy Corps in partnership with Balochistan Rural Support Program

**EC Contribution:** €898,905

**Implementation location:** Pishin, Loralai and



Poor drainage and sewerage system in Mardan

Quetta, Balochistan

Duration: 30 months

**Objectives:** The overall objective of the project is to improve water and sanitation services to refugees and host communities in Balochistan and the specific objective is to improve the capacity of communities and major service providers in planning and implementing diversified and sustainable water and sanitation systems.

**Target group(s) and Beneficiaries:** Public Health Engineering Department, Local Government and Rural Development Department, Tehsil Municipal Administration personnel and Community Organisations. Final beneficiaries will be 50,000 Refugees and host population in Balochistan.

**Project Title:** EHSAR (Environmental Health and Sanitation Reform) in Refugee Impacted Areas

**Implementing Organisation(s):** World Vision in partnership with Pak-CDP

**EC Contribution:** €847,373

**Implementation location:** Nowshera, Peshawar and Charsadda, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Duration: 36 months

**Objectives:** The overall objective of the project is to improve water and sanitation systems, services and practices among host communities and refugees in refugee-impacted areas in Pakistan through capacity building of Tehsil Municipal Administration (TMA) and Public Health and Engineering Department (PHED), and other service providers along with civil society groups and community members. Specific Objectives are: 1) Enhanced capacities of local authorities/service providers such as the Tehsil Municipal Administration (TMA) and Public Health and Engineering Department (PHED); civil society groups and communities in management of community-based, integrated WASH systems and service delivery, and 2) Increased availability of water (especially potable), hygiene and sanitation facilities for Afghan Refugees/IDPs and host communities.

**Target group(s) and Beneficiaries:** Target groups include 10,167 households of Afghan Refugees/IDPs and host community families in Nowshera, Peshawar and Charsadda. Final beneficiaries are the overall population in Peshawar (2,458,900), Charsadda (1,245,000) and Nowshera (1,064,800).

**Project Title:** Promoting Civil Society participation in water and sanitation governance in Pakistan

**Implementing Organisation(s):** WaterAid in partnership with Integrated Regional Support Programme

**EC Contribution:** €562,487

**Implementation location:** Mardan and Takht Bhai, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Duration: 36 months

**Objectives:** The overall objective of the project is to contribute to poverty reduction in Pakistan through the achievement of the water and sanitation Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Specific objective of the project is to build the capacities of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Pakistan to promote democratic governance, citizen-led reforms and institutional strengthening by undertaking poverty focused and equitable interventions in the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) sector.

**Target group(s) and Beneficiaries:** Target groups include 15 civil society organisations with an estimated 525 staff and board members, approximately 100 staff members of 2 Tehsil Municipal Administrations, 30 women groups in rural communities and refugee camps, 30 hygiene promoters, 30 water and sanitation management committees and approximately 30 school hygiene clubs. Final beneficiaries include 200,000 inhabitants of 30 rural communities including refugees living in refugee camps, and 10,000 indirect beneficiaries from neighbouring communities.



The village of Gul Muhammed Chandio in Sindh province, in southern Pakistan

## Humanitarian needs persist as floodwaters remain in some areas

Over a 100 days after heavy monsoon rains caused unprecedented flooding in Pakistan, retired schoolteacher Mohammad Hashim looks at his heavily damaged house still surrounded by deep stagnant water. Hashim, his four sons, their wives and children live under one roof in the small village of Belo Patan in the province of Sindh in southern Pakistan.

Whereas in the north of the country the flood waters have receded, the southern plains remain submerged in large areas. Water could take from two to six months to evaporate.

### Villages in Sindh still submerged

Belo Patan, situated on higher ground, is surrounded by water but was not flooded. However, large numbers of houses, like Hashim's, were severely damaged in the village. The fields are waterlogged, harvests have been lost and livelihoods destroyed. Many of the roads in Sindh have numerous families living in makeshift shelters along the route.

Only half of the inhabitants have returned to their village. The others remain in camps, or scattered across available drier space. The village elder explained that they have received some aid since they returned but that he would need 100,000 Pakistani rupees (around €830) to feed his family and repair their home.

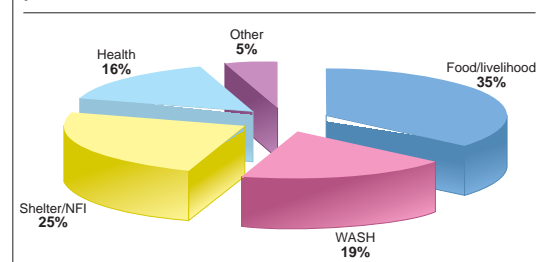
In Sindh province alone, nearly one million houses have been destroyed. In total, an estimated 14 million people in Pakistan are still in need of emergency humanitarian assistance. The floods came on the heels of an existing humanitarian crisis absorbing relief organisations; conflict in the north of Pakistan had displaced millions from their homes and Afghan refugees who fled fighting in their country are still being hosted in Pakistan.

### Disaster risk reduction

The European Union (EU) is the largest humanitarian donor in Pakistan, providing aid

worth €415 million this year. Of the Commission's contribution of €150 million, more than half has already gone into relief projects for flood and conflict affected Pakistanis, the remainder will be disbursed by the end of the year.

ECHO 2010 funding (150 M EUR) divided per sector



"We always have to consider how we can reduce the risk of future disasters. This does not necessarily imply much higher cost," said Mr. Peter Zangl "For example, in a flood-prone area, houses should ideally be rebuilt on higher ground and not too close to a river", he added.

The Head of the EU Delegation in Pakistan, Mr. Jan De Kok, adds, "We already have to look at the bigger picture and what needs to be done regarding damage to infrastructure. The immediate emergency support phase must go hand in hand with reconstruction, rehabilitation and development."

The EU has proposed to the Pakistani government an acceleration of the disbursement of a community-based early recovery and rehabilitation programme worth €114 million. In addition, €18 million is being provided to fund the rehabilitation of government infrastructure.

While aid is reaching more flood victims, including those in Sindh province, for Hashim and his family, it will be a long time before they can go back to their normal life - as it was before the floods.

Thorsten Muench

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