EMERGENCY RELIEF COORDINATOR’S KEY MESSAGES ON PAKISTAN
7 May 2012 • Issue Number 14

I. Key Messages

1. Some 7.2 million Pakistanis urgently need humanitarian aid as they deal with the impact of two separate emergencies. Security operations have led to the displacement of more than 200,000 people in the tribal areas of north-western Pakistan over the past two months, bringing the total number displaced to 700,000. A further 1.5 million people who have returned home in these same areas need help to rebuild their lives. Meanwhile in Sindh and Balochistan provinces in the south, 5.2 million people affected by the floods of 2010 and 2011 continue to rely on the support of the international community. Four months before the monsoon season starts, now is the time to prioritize work on resilience so that we can break the cycle of flood and recovery.

2. The Government of Pakistan is in the lead in providing support for people affected by both these emergencies. It has given land and electricity for camps in the northwest, and help for those who return home. In the flood-affected areas of the south, it is providing food, shelter, water purification and health services. The UN and humanitarian partners are coordinating relief efforts and providing additional food, water and sanitation, healthcare, shelter, protection and education. However, funding for this work will run out at the end of May.

3. Although donors have given nearly US$90 million, and I have allocated $27 million from the Central Emergency Response Fund, a further $180 million is urgently needed to cover the most basic life-saving aid to people in both these emergencies until the end of this year. I hope donors will be generous in their support so that humanitarian partners can get help to the millions of people who need it.

4. I call on all parties to respect the operational independence and impartiality of humanitarian actors on the ground and to let aid workers do their jobs. Civilians must likewise be protected, and displaced people must be able to return home.