

Pakistan Floods 2010

Background and Location:

Pakistan is situated in north west of South Asia and can be divided up into 3 main provinces; the Indus River plain, Punjab & Sindh and Balochistan Plateau. The climate is varied with it being arid most of the year, but is also affected by the monsoon season in which they receive **around 255 mm of rain** in the two months of July and August. The country is **lower middle income with a GDP of 246.9 billion** in 2014 and a **total population of 185 million** in 2014.

Causes of the floods:

There were several factors that contributed to why the floods that occurred in Pakistan in 2010 were so devastating, some of these are:

- There was a **usual amount of rainfall** created by monsoon depressions crossing over Pakistan without ceasing, and **203 mm of rain fell in only 3 days** in Northwest Pakistan (where the floods began).
- Other human impacts such as **deforestation** meant that there was less interception meaning that rivers quickly became under pressure from the amount of water within them and therefore overflowed.
- Scientists can also link it to **climate change**, as warmer air has greater capacity to hold moist air

Impacts:

<u>Social</u>	<u>Economic</u>	<u>Environmental</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1781 people were killed and 2966 people were injured. - The floods affected over 17 million people with 11 million of them losing their homes. - 2.2 million hectares of crops were destroyed, which forms the basis of peoples lives and employment - 11,000 schools were damaged - A total of about 68000 and 35000 livestock were found dead in Nowshera and Charsadda districts respectively. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pakistan prior to the flooding was the worlds 4th largest producer of cotton but 55% of cotton crops were lost in the floods. This could cause a 15% rise in cotton prices around the world! - Total economic losses were estimate by the world bank to be \$1 billion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The floods washed away vital wetland breeding grounds for birds and animals. - 20% of tree plantations that were planted after large scale deformation were destroyed, leaving slops susceptible to erosion and slides. - 62000 litres of petrol and 44300 litres diesel were mixed with flood water from broken pumps.

Response:

- 1.8 million people reached by DEC funded aid
- 1 million people given food
- 510,000+ provided with clean water
- 290,000+ people provided with emergency shelter
- 200,000 people given mosquito nets to prevent malaria
- 994 babies delivered
- 26,000+ people benefitting from help to restart farming

