

6 million children without education PM for UNESCO's role in flooded areas

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ISLAMABAD - Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani has called for UNESCO's increased role in establishing non-formal education centres in the flood-affected areas of Pakistan and in providing training to the teachers in the flood relief camps in various disciplines so that around 6 million children who have lost their classes could resume schooling in the just started new academic year.

The Prime Minister emphasised that UNESCO should extend assistance to Pakistan in the post-disaster phase by undertaking small and medium level projects in education, water management and preservation of world heritage sites. He was talking to Ms Irina Bokova the Director General of UNESCO who called on him at the Prime Minister's House on Wednesday. Prime Minister noted that the UN Secretary General in his flash appeal for flood affected people of Pakistan last month had not included education, science, and cultural fields which were the purview of UNESCO. He said, his government would like UNESCO to issue a similar flash appeal, which were called for in the case of Haiti earthquake last year for mobilising assistance to Pakistan in these

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UN warns of two 'second waves'

8.6m kids vulnerable to waterborne diseases

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ISLAMABAD - United Nations on Tuesday warned of two "second waves" of disaster to engulf the flood-hit region if emergency arrangements are not made to address the humanitarian situation.

In a joint press conference, the top officials of United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF), United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and Special Envoy to UN Secretary General for Assistance to Pakistan Jean-Maurice Ripert, cautioned that humanitarian challenges in the flood-hit areas were grave and required adequate emergency response.

"This is the largest humani-
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Balochistan suffers Rs90b loss in devastation

QUETTA (APP) - Minister for Prosecution and Flood Relief Focal Person Ms. Rahila Durrani on Tuesday said that Balochistan suffered over Rs 90 billion losses in widespread devastation caused by worst ever floods in Eastern parts of the province.

Talking to APP here, she said that raging floods had washed away 75,261 houses, standing crops on 700,000 acres land, 450 kilometers roads, premises of hospitals, schools, power grid stations in 12 districts.

She maintained that presently 1.1 million flood victims in Balochistan including 600,000 from Sindh who had taken shelter in the province needed food, clean drinking water, medicines and tents.

She appealed to international donors and philanthropists to play their due role in provision of relief assistance to the flood survivors.

8.6m kids vulnerable

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tarian crisis in a decade. As many as 17.6 million are affected by floods of which 8.6 million children are vulnerable to diseases," Anthony Lake, Executive Director UNICEF, said, adding that 6 million women and children urgently needed clean drinking water and sanitation. "We fear two second waves as high floods reach southern parts of Pakistan. This flood wave is disastrous. The second wave of waterborne diseases is likely to spread across children. We must act now and prevent this from happening," he added.

"What I saw today has convinced me that we must step up our humanitarian operations to stave off a potential second wave of disease and misery for millions of families, especially the most vulnera-

ble, children and women. We are here today and for the long-term, as we plan for the early recovery phase of the operation," Lake said.

Josette Sheeran, Executive Director WFP, said, "There is a triple threat unfolding as this crisis widens and deepens. People have lost seeds, crops and their incomes leaving them vulnerable to hunger, homelessness and desperation - the situation is extremely critical. We urgently need continued and strengthened commitment to the people of Pakistan in this time of crisis."

She said WFP needed \$ 90 million for food supply across the flood-hit areas and it would launch an appeal of \$ 40 million soon, to ensure unhindered food supply to the affectees. Sheeran said WFP had one month ration to reach out to 3

million people. According to the WFP official, 40 airlifts were needed to access the flood affectees in worst hit areas.

Jean Maurice Ripert said "The world has now understood this catastrophe is beyond imagination that took place anywhere in the world." He reiterated international community's resolve to stand by Pakistan. "In Germany alone, the people collected \$ 50 million for Pakistan's flood affectees, what I mean to say is Pakistan is not alone and UN and international community stand united to fight these floods," he added. DG UNESCO, Irina Bokova, said that UNESCO was assessing damages done to livelihood and it would be working with communities and other humanitarian partners to pay due heed to the plight of flood victims.

PM for UNESCO's role

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important sectors.

The Prime Minister appreciated the initiative taken by the Director General of UNESCO to send a team of scientists to Pakistan last week to assess the damage caused by floods in the areas falling within the purview of his organisation to help Pakistan in water resource management including managing hydro hazards, maintaining ground water resources for emergent situation, preventing land slides and capacity building of Pakistani institutions in these areas.

The Prime Minister said that his government's strategy was three pronged, in the first instance to rescue and provide relief to the flood victims which were already underway, secondly re-habilitation of the displaced persons in the floods by helping them rebuild their houses and thirdly, affected farmers to resume agriculture activity as well as reconstruct the physical infrastructure including schools

and colleges damaged or destroyed by the flood waters. Prime Minister apprised the DG. General that around 11,000 schools have been destroyed or damaged and those schools and colleges which were not affected by the floods, were being used as temporary shelters for the displaced people.

The new school year has started and the government will like to relocate the flood victims occupying the schools and rebuild the damage once to ensure that education of the children was not affected. He hoped that UNESCO would help Pakistan in every possible manner to achieve this goal.

Irina Bokova, Director General of UNESCO while briefing the Prime Minister on the measures already taken by her organization to help Pakistan, assured him that UNESCO would go by with the government of Pakistan's requirements and offered all the cooperation to meet those requirements within its means.

She proposed establishing a body, which could coordinate

with UNESCO, UNICEF and other organizations in facilitating the rehabilitation and reconstruction projects. She also promised that UNESCO would launch a fresh appeal along with UN Secretary General's second appeal to assist Pakistan in September.

She further said that in coordination with the government in addition to 30 non-formal education centers already established in four provinces of Pakistan more would be established in the near future. She recognised importance of the world heritage sites of Pakistan particularly, Mohenjodaro. UNESCO, she said, had been helping even in the past and would send a team of UNESCO experts who will visit Pakistan soon to make an assessment of the damages to the archaeological sites.

Sardar Asef Ahmed Ali, Minister for Education, Pir Aftab Hussain Shah Jilani, Minister for Culture, and Mrs Shahnaz Wazir Ali, Special Assistant to Prime Minister were also present in the meeting.