



Press Release

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Media Inquiries
Phyza Jameel
Communication Specialist
UNESCO, Islamabad. +92 51 111 710 745 Ext 28
p.jameel@unesco.org, www.unesco.org.pk

BRIEFING ON UNESCO'S FLOOD RESPONSE INITIATIVES

EDUCATION: UNESCO sets up program for teachers on psychosocial rehabilitation of children.

Pakistan's education system is greatly suffering after the destruction of more than 10,000 schools. UNESCO has established 100 Adult Literacy and Skills Training Centers in the flood-affected districts, from Sindh Province to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). Starting from 17 September, UNESCO is hosting a pilot teacher-training workshop, in cooperation with the Directorate of Curriculum and Teacher Education, on psychosocial rehabilitation of children in KP province. We are also setting up five Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Centers, for IDP camps in Sukkur and Sindh Province. We are distributing Urdu translations of Minimum Standards for Education in Emergencies known as INEE Standards, working closely with our Education Cluster partners in Sindh.

SCIENCE: UNESCO calls for response for restoration of the damaged Floods Early Warning Systems, identifying landslide risks in relocation areas and locating safe water resources.

On the request of the Government of Pakistan, UNESCO sent to Pakistan multidisciplinary scientific mission of senior experts in late August. With Pakistan's top scientific authorities, the mission has developed strategies to reinforce national disaster resilience along with restoration of early flood warning systems in order to save future lives. The strategy encompasses four key areas i.e., flood hazard forecasting and management; mapping and assessment of geo hazards such as landslides; mapping, development and protection of ground water resources for safe use in emergency situations; and education including technical training and awareness-raising for communities and decision makers.

CULTURE: UNESCO's culture team supports peaceful relocation of the flood-affected families taking shelter at Makli graveyard in Sindh.

UNESCO has assessed an immediate need for restoration of cultural livelihoods of flood-affected communities by providing them opportunities of cash for work and training in handicrafts and conservation and repair work at World Heritage Sites.

One of the challenges we have is a peaceful relocation of the flood-affected families taking shelter along with their herds at Makli graveyard, and we are coordinating with other stakeholders for providing basic necessities to these families to help them evacuate from these sites.

The culture team of UNESCO is closely working with the restoration of world heritage sites in Sindh. Three experts from UNESCO World Heritage Centre, Paris are going to visit next week to assess impact of rains and floods in these areas. They will be developing strategies to mitigate the environmental risks in future to these sites.

UNESCO is also working in early recovery and reconstruction phase in Swat by providing the food for work component to its partners by bringing opportunities of earning through crafts and labour for the affected families.

To be implemented over the next 12 months' early recovery phase for a cost of US\$11.2 million, UNESCO has proposed initiatives on updating Pakistan's early warning system for floods and locating sources of safe drinking water to reactivating education in flood-stricken areas and creating jobs linked to preservation of heritage sites.