



FLOOD DISASTER - INFO SHEET

Pakistan, with borders to China, India, Afghanistan and Iran, is a country with a long history of human population. Most notably, it lies at the heart of the Bronze age Indus Valley Civilisation. It has a stretch of beautiful coastline along the Arabian sea and the mountain range containing K2, the second highest mountain in the world, so it offers its residents a dramatic landscape. It is also unfortunately a country that is particularly vulnerable to natural disasters.

Heavy monsoon rains in the north west of the country at the beginning of August 2010 meant that many rivers flooded, killing at least 1600 people and leaving 722,000 homeless. 20 million people (or 10% of the population) are affected in some way, for example by losing their source of income or access to food or clean water. Though Pakistan has a history of natural disasters, this is the biggest challenge the country has ever faced. The need for food, shelter and medicine is particularly urgent for 6 million people.

Aid efforts for those affected by the Haiti earth quake may have been slow, but raising the money to fund the aid was rather easy for aid organisations. For those affected by the Pakistan flood, it has been more difficult. The UN estimates that the amount needed to help those affected is an estimated £295 million and so far efforts around the world have raised around half of that sum.

SOS Children is an international orphan charity which has worked in Pakistan since 1977 when the first SOS Children's Village was opened in Lahore. Today there are eight SOS Children's Villages across the country, each consisting of a cluster of family houses where local women, SOS Mothers, give warm and loving new homes to orphaned and abandoned children. Since the floods, SOS Children has been working with a local partner organisation to deliver food parcels which cost £13 to flood affected families. These food parcels can feed a family for up to 10 days.