
Disaster in Pakistan

WORKSHEET A

A major relief effort is currently taking place to try to help the victims of the floods in Pakistan, a country in south Asia with a population of around 170 million (the sixth largest in the world).

It is one of the worst natural disasters of the twenty-first century: the latest estimates say between 14 and 20 million people have been affected, many of whom have either lost their homes (because they have been destroyed by the water) or have had to leave them temporarily. Around 1,600 people have died.

The floods have affected even more people than the terrible tsunami that hit some coastal areas of south and south-east Asia in December 2004.

A vast area of crops has been ruined, which means there could be food shortages even after the flood waters have disappeared, and many roads, bridges and railway lines have been destroyed.

One of the most important things at the moment is to try to prevent very dangerous diseases, such as cholera, that can easily spread in flood conditions. Diarrhoea is already widespread – and it is particularly dangerous for young children. Also, with water currently covering huge areas of land, there is a risk that mosquitoes could breed and spread malaria.

The floods were caused by the heaviest rains in around 80 years. Many parts of south Asia have a rainy season between June and September, but the amount of rain that fell in Pakistan in late July was far from normal – some areas had 30 centimetres in 36 hours.

Most of the relief effort has concentrated on getting food and medicines to the homeless people, many of whom are in remote areas in the far north of the country. With so much land underwater, a lot of the food and medicine has to be transported by plane or helicopter.

Pakistan has been receiving emergency aid from international organizations, foreign governments and charities, but some people think the money has been arriving too slowly, and it certainly seems that less has been given than in the first couple of weeks following the 2004 tsunami.

Understandably, some events to mark the 63rd anniversary of Pakistan's independence (before 1947 it had been part of the British Empire) on 14th August have been cancelled, as the mood in the country at the moment is not one of celebration.

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WORKSHEET B

Exercise 1

Decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F), or if the text doesn't say (D).

1. Pakistan has the third largest population out of all the countries in Asia.
2. Pakistan is in central Asia.
3. The floods have destroyed a very large area of crops.
4. The Pakistan government says 20 million people have been affected.
5. It is unusual for 30 centimetres of rain to fall in 36 hours in Pakistan in late July.
6. Before these floods there had not been any other floods in Pakistan since the 1990s.
7. Pakistan has received help from abroad.
8. Some of the people who have had to leave their homes will be able to go back to them later.
9. The 2004 tsunami affected more people than the current floods in Pakistan.
10. Pakistan normally has about the same amount of rainfall as India.

Exercise 2

Answer the questions below.

1. Why is it not possible for much of the food and medicine to be taken to the homeless people by land?
2. Apart from the Pakistan floods, what other natural disaster does the text mention?
3. Where in Pakistan are many of the homeless people?
4. Why is 14th August a special day in Pakistan?
5. The text mentions a disease that is spread by an animal: what is it?
6. Why could there be food shortages in future?
7. Apart from homes and crops, what else have the floods destroyed?
8. Why is there a risk of cholera?

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WORKSHEET C

Exercise 3

Fill in the gaps to complete the text.

A major relief effort is currently taking place to try to help the (1) **vict** _ _ _ of the floods in Pakistan, a country in south Asia with a population of around 170 million (the sixth largest in the world).

It is one of the worst (2) **at** _ _ _ _ disasters of the twenty-first century: the latest (3) _ _ _ _ **mates** say between 14 and 20 million people have been affected, many of whom have either lost their homes (because they have been destroyed by the water) or have had to leave them (4) **t** _ **m** _ **o** _ **a** _ **i** _ **y**. Around 1,600 people have died.

The floods have affected even more people than the terrible tsunami that hit some coastal areas of south and south-east Asia in December 2004.

A (5) **v** _ **s** _ area of (6) **cr** _ _ _ has been (7) **r** _ _ **ned**, which means there could be food shortages even after the flood waters have disappeared, and many roads, bridges and railway lines have been destroyed.

One of the most important things at the moment is to try to prevent very dangerous diseases, such as cholera, that can easily (8) **spr** _ _ _ in flood conditions. Diarrhoea is already widespread – and it is particularly dangerous for young children. Also, with water currently covering (9) **h** _ **g** _ areas of land, there is a risk that (10) _ _ _ _ _ **toes** could (11) _ _ **eed** and spread malaria.

The floods were caused by the heaviest rains in around 80 years. Many parts of south Asia have a rainy season between June and September, but the amount of rain that fell in Pakistan in late July was far from normal – some areas had 30 centimetres in 36 hours.

Most of the relief effort has concentrated on getting food and medicines to the (12) **ho** _ _ **l** _ _ **s** people, many of whom are in (13) **rem** _ _ _ areas in the far north of the country. With so much land (14) **underw** _ _ _ _ , a lot of the food and medicine has to be transported by plane or helicopter.

Pakistan has been receiving emergency aid from international organizations, foreign governments and (15) **ch** _ _ _ **ties**, but some people think the money has been arriving too slowly, and it certainly seems that less has been given than in the first couple of weeks following the 2004 tsunami.

Understandably, some events to (16) **m** _ _ **k** the 63rd anniversary of Pakistan's (17) **ind** _ **p** _ _ _ _ _ **ce** (before 1947 it had been part of the British (18) **E** _ _ _ **re**) on 14th August were have been (19) **ca** _ _ _ _ **led**, as the (20) **mo** _ in the country at the moment is not one of celebration.