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# 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 railroad tracks have been destroyed.

One of the most important things right now is to try to prevent very dangerous diseases, such as cholera, that can easily spread in flood conditions. Diarrhea 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 centimeters in 36 hours.

Most of the relief effort has concentrated on getting food and medicine 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 sixty-third anniversary of Pakistan's independence (until 1947 it had been part of the British Empire) on August 14<sup>th</sup> have been canceled, as the mood in the country is not one of celebration.

# Disaster in Pakistan

## 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 centimeters 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 August 14<sup>th</sup> 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 the future?
7. Apart from homes and crops, what else have the floods destroyed?
8. Why is there a risk of cholera?

# Disaster in Pakistan

WORKSHEET C

## Exercise 3

Fill in the blanks 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 railroad tracks have been destroyed.

One of the most important things right now is to try to prevent very dangerous diseases, such as cholera, that can easily (8) **spr** \_ \_ \_ in flood conditions. Diarrhea 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 centimeters in 36 hours.

Most of the relief effort has concentrated on getting food and medicine 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 sixty-third anniversary of Pakistan's (17) **ind** \_ **p** \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ **ce** (until 1947 it had been part of the British (18) **E** \_ \_ \_ **re**) on August 14<sup>th</sup> have been (19) **ca** \_ \_ \_ \_ **ed**, as the (20) **moo** \_ in the country is not one of celebration.