

Disclaimer

The nature of this resource requires independent, child-led research. It is advisable to use only pre-selected, child-appropriate sources of information and websites that are appropriate to their age. Please also be aware that there may be aspects of a topic or individual's life which may be controversial or upsetting to some. Due to this, we highly recommend that you carefully consider all research activities before undertaking them with children.

Severe Floods in Pakistan

What is a monsoon?

- A monsoon is a strong change in the winds in a **region** which cause a change in rainfall.
- During the summer monsoon in South Asia, the monsoon causes a season of heavy rainfall. Then, the reverse happens from Autumn causing a dry season with little rainfall.



Photo: Islamabad Pakistan.

People from around the world are sending help to Pakistan after it has been affected by **severe flooding**.

According to the government of Pakistan, the floods have covered a third of the country - an area about the size of the UK.

This has come after the heaviest rains that the country has experienced in over ten years.

According to the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC), the worst affected areas have experienced five times as much rainfall than average.

Heavy rains are not unusual in Pakistan as they come during the monsoon season. The rains can even be helpful for things such as replenishing drinking water and growing crops.

However, this year's rainfall has been so dramatic that it has caused parts of two large rivers, the Indus and Kabul, to burst their **banks**.

The flooding has affected more than 33 million people and over 1000 people have lost their lives. It has destroyed crops, washed away roads and destroyed people's houses.

The government of Pakistan has also issued warnings to thousands of people who live near the rivers to evacuate their homes.

It is not just the **initial** flooding that is a problem either. Even when the water goes down, it is expected that there will be food shortages in

the coming weeks and months.

The government of Pakistan are using army helicopters to rescue people who have been trapped by the flooding. They are also using the army to send aid to those who need it most.

Around the world, countries are sending aid as well. The United Nations has set up a \$160 million plan to help people affected. With this appeal, they hope to help 5.2 million people by delivering food, clean water and shelter. However, they say this is only the beginning.

Charities are helping too. The DEC has launched an appeal for Pakistan. They are raising money too to help those who have been affected the most.

Glossary

region	An area, usually part of a country.
severe	Bad or intense.
banks	The land along the side of a river.
initial	First; existing.

Questions

1. What has caused the flooding in Pakistan?

2. Name two things the UN are sending to Pakistan to help.

3. Find and copy one other way people are helping those in need.

4. Tick each of these statements to show whether they are true or false.

	True	False
The DEC are raising money to send to Pakistan.		
Monsoons are rare in Pakistan.		
The floods have flooded around a third of Pakistan.		
Millions of people have been affected by the floods.		

5. Which large rivers have burst their banks?

6. Find and copy one way that people are helping those in need.
