

Pakistan floods: Millions homeless: More aid needed

The recent floods in Pakistan have caused utter devastation across many parts of the country. Millions of people are now homeless, many are now without jobs. The agricultural heartland of the country has been destroyed. The monsoon-triggered floods have hit a fifth of Pakistan. An estimated 20 million people are affected. Experts say food, clean water and shelter is urgently needed to avert a humanitarian catastrophe. Tens of thousands of villages remain under water. Aid agencies say the situation is actually worsening, as new flood waters continue to surge south down the Indus river. More flood defence systems are collapsing, forcing people to flee their homes. So far 1,500 have died in the floods. The threat of disease remains high. The army has been dropping limited supplies in some areas but in many other areas there has been no assistance. There is a desperate need for international aid but so far this has been pitifully slow. The world does not seem to care about just how bad the situation on the ground actually is in Pakistan. But why? Is it the slow nature of the disaster relative to say an earthquake or tsunami? Maybe it's because of the terrorist threat, the poor showing of the Pakistani politics or simply because it is just Pakistan?

The UN Secretary General Ban-Ki Moon visited the country to see for himself the sheer scale of the disaster. It is actually larger than the disasters of the Asian tsunami, Haiti, and the previous floods in Pakistan put together. On returning to the UN he called an emergency meeting of the UN General Assembly. He described the situation unfolding "like a slow-motion tsunami". Donors have been asked to pledge as much as they can to help the relief effort. A target figure of US\$460 million has been set by the UN to be raised by pledges from governments and other sources worldwide. Donors have been slow to react. After the emergency session the USA raised its help to more than US\$150m, the EU pledged US\$180m, the UK US\$100m, Saudi Arabia US\$100m and Germany US\$32m. China is expected to announce its help shortly. Speaking at the UN, Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said unless his country received adequate assistance, hard won gains in the government's war against the insurgents could be undermined. Right now many people in Pakistan are desperate. Yet the world simply looks on.

Category: Asia / Pakistan / Floods

Level: Intermediate / Upper intermediate

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EXERCISES

1. Pakistan floods: Briefly, what three things do you know about the recent floods in Pakistan? Go round the room swapping details.

2. Geography: Pakistan: Where is Pakistan? What is its capital? What countries surround it? What sea does it lie off? Who is its President? Draw a map on the board then **look on Google maps** to help you.

3. Dictation: The teacher will read four to six lines of the article slowly and clearly. Students will write down what they hear. The teacher will repeat the passage slowly again. Self-correct your work from page one - filling in spaces and correcting mistakes. Be honest with yourself on the number of errors. Advise the teacher of your total number of errors. Less than five is very good. Ten is acceptable. Any more is room for improvement! More than twenty - you need to do some work!

4. Reading: The students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

5. Vocabulary: Students should now look through the article and underline any vocabulary they do not know. Look in dictionaries. Discuss and help each other out. The teacher will go through and explain any unknown words or phrases.

6. The article: Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- a) What is the article about?
- b) What do you think about the article?
- c) **What's the latest on this story?**

7. Let's think! Think of five ways to stop a flood and how aid organisations can help Pakistan. Write them below. Explain to your partner why you chose these.

Five ways to stop a flood	Five ways aid organisations can help Pakistan
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

8. Let's discuss: Pakistan: In pairs. Think of four things you know about Pakistan. Compare and discuss together with your partner.

1	3
2	4

The teacher will choose some pairs to tell their stories in front of the class.

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9. **Let's think: Pakistan economic recovery:** In *pairs/ groups* think of four ways how Pakistan can economically recover. In fact, can they? How much will their recovery involve international aid? Write your thoughts on the board.

10. **Let's think!** In pairs. On the board write as many words as you can to do with the '**Pakistan floods**'. *One-two minutes*. Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

11. **Let's talk! Radio Pakistan:** *In pairs*. You are in the Radio Pakistan studio. One of you is the presenter, the other student is a villager from a village that's been flooded out, and everything's been destroyed; your land, your animals, your family. You somehow hitched a ride to the capital, having waded through the floodwaters. Describe the hunger, the despair and how you managed. *5 minutes*.

12. **Let's do 'The Article Quiz':** Have the students quiz each other in pairs. They score a point for each correct answer and half a point each time they have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A

- 1) Name the UN Secretary General.
- 2) Name the countries.
- 3) What is the target figure to be raised by the UN?
- 4) How many people have died?
- 5) Name the river.

Student B

- 1) What has the army been doing?
- 2) What are the negative reasons why the help is so slow?
- 3) What have the aid agencies said?
- 4) How much aid is the USA and the EU giving?
- 5) Name the Pakistan Foreign Minister.

13. **A day in Pakistan during the floods:** In pairs/groups. Choose to be one of the following people. Create a short story about them. Tell it to your partner/group. Try to make it interesting! Students try to interlink **or** interact student storylines!

1	A flood victim	3	A journalist
2	Helicopter pilot	4	The President of Pakistan

The teacher will choose some pairs to tell their stories in front of the class.

14. **Let's write an e-mail:** Write and send a 200 word e-mail to your teacher about: **The Pakistan floods**. Your e-mail can be read out in class.

15. **Sentence starters:** Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- a) The floods _____
- b) Pakistan _____
- c) The President of Pakistan _____

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) When did you hear of the Pakistan flood tragedy?
- 3) Are you planning on helping the people of Pakistan in any way? Why? Why not?
- 4) Should the Pakistani President have visited Britain when his country was so in need? Why? Why not? (**see below)
- 5) How desperate is the situation in the flooded areas in Pakistan?
- 6) Why do Pakistani's live in such low lying areas when they know they are prone to flooding?
- 7) Isn't this flood just the 'wrong kind of disaster' that no one is interested in?
- 8) What three bits of advice would you give the Pakistani Prime Minister?
- 9) What should the Pakistani government have done earlier than it did?
- 10) What should flooded out villagers do now?

Student B questions

- 1) Has previous military rule put off people wanting to help?
- 2) Where will the people who have lost everything go?
- 3) How critical is international aid?
- 4) Should government bureaucracy be reduced to allow the relief aid to get in faster?
- 5) Just how much corruption is there in Pakistan?
- 6) How much more help should the United Nations give?
- 7) Is the world suffering from donor fatigue?
- 8) How might the situation on the ground help the insurgents?
- 9) Do you care about what is happening in Pakistan? Why? Why not?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

Note: ** The President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari spent several vital days visiting several countries soon after the floods hit. He was severely criticized for this. However, he claimed his government run by the Prime Minister was organising the relief effort.

SPEAKING

Let's debate! Pakistan

Allow 10-15 minutes – As a class / small groups / pairs / 1 to 1

Debate the following: - Pakistan

Think of ten topical subjects about Pakistan. Write them on the board. Then briefly discuss each one together. What are your conclusions? Is Pakistan changing for the better or worse? Why?

The teacher can moderate the session.

GAP FILL: READING: *Put the words into the gaps in the text.*

The recent floods in Pakistan have caused utter (1)_____ across many parts of the country. Millions of people are now (2)_____, many are now without jobs. The agricultural heartland of the country has been destroyed. The (3)_____ -triggered floods have hit a fifth of Pakistan. An estimated 20 million people are affected. Experts say food, clean water and (4)_____ is urgently needed to (5)_____ a humanitarian catastrophe. Tens of thousands of villages remain under water. Aid agencies say the situation is actually worsening, as new flood waters continue to surge south down the Indus river. More (6)_____ defence systems are collapsing, forcing people to flee their homes. So far 1,500 have died in the floods. The threat of (7)_____ remains high. The army has been dropping limited supplies in some areas but in many other areas there has been no assistance. There is a desperate need for international (8)_____ but so far this has been pitifully slow. The world does not seem to care about just how bad the situation on the ground actually is in Pakistan. But why? Is it the slow nature of the disaster relative to say an earthquake or tsunami? Maybe it's because of the terrorist threat, the poor showing of the Pakistani politics or simply because it is just Pakistan?

monsoon

homeless

flood

shelter

aid

disease

avert

devastation

The UN Secretary General Ban-Ki Moon visited the country to see for himself the sheer scale of the (1)_____. It is actually larger than the disasters of the Asian tsunami, Haiti, and the previous floods in Pakistan put together. On returning to the UN he called an emergency meeting of the UN General Assembly. He described the situation unfolding "like a slow-motion (2)_____". (3)_____ have been asked to (4)_____ as much as they can to help the relief effort. A target figure of US\$460 million has been set by the UN to be raised by pledges from governments and other sources worldwide. Donors have been slow to (5)_____. After the emergency (6)_____ the USA raised its help to more than US\$150m, the EU pledged US\$180m, the UK US\$100m, Saudi Arabia US\$100m and Germany US\$32m. China is expected to announce its help shortly. Speaking at the UN, Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said unless his country received (7)_____ assistance, hard won gains in the government's war against the (8)_____ could be undermined.

insurgents

pledge

react

session

disaster

donors

tsunami

adequate

GAP FILL: LISTENING

Listen and fill in the spaces.

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GRAMMAR

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

The recent floods in Pakistan have caused utter devastation across (1)___ parts of the country. Millions of people are now homeless, many are now without jobs. The agricultural heartland of the country has been destroyed. The monsoon-triggered floods have hit a fifth of Pakistan. An estimated 20 million people are affected. Experts say food, clean water and shelter is urgently needed to avert a humanitarian catastrophe. Tens of thousands of villages remain under water. Aid agencies say the situation is actually worsening, as new flood waters continue to surge south down the Indus river. (2)___ flood defence systems are collapsing, forcing people to flee (3)___ homes. So far 1,500 have died in the floods. The threat of disease remains high. The army has been dropping limited supplies in (4)___ areas but in many (5)___ areas there has been no assistance. (6)___ is a desperate need for international aid but so far (7)___ has been pitifully slow. The world does not seem to care about just how bad the situation on the ground actually is in Pakistan. But why? Is it the slow nature of the disaster relative to say an earthquake or tsunami? Maybe it's because of the terrorist threat, the poor showing of the Pakistani politics or simply because it is (8)___ Pakistan?

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some

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more

other

their

many

just

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a

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SPELLING TEST

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards, check your answers with your teacher, using the following ratings: **Pass = 12, Good = 15, Very good = 18, Excellent = 20**

1	disease	11	actually
2	desperate	12	tsunami
3	together	13	pledge
4	catastrophe	14	adequate
5	Pakistan	15	insurgents
6	homeless	16	undermined
7	triggered	17	utter
8	monsoon	18	agricultural
9	terrorist	19	humanitarian
10	pitifully	20	surge

LINKS

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-south-asia-11035270>

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/gallery/2010/aug/13/pakistan-flooding>

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/08/10/2978222.htm>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2010_Pakistan_floods

http://www.oxfam.org.uk/oxfam_in_action/emergencies/pakistan-floods2010.html

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/weather/july-dec10/pakistan_08-02.html

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2010/08/15/world/main6775020.shtml>

ANSWERS

GAP FILL: Pakistan floods: Millions homeless: More aid needed: The recent floods in Pakistan have caused utter **devastation** across many parts of the country. Millions of people are now **homeless**, many are now without jobs. The agricultural heartland of the country has been destroyed. The **monsoon**-triggered floods have hit a fifth of Pakistan. An estimated 20 million people are affected. Experts say food, clean water and **shelter** is urgently needed to **avert** a humanitarian catastrophe. Tens of thousands of villages remain under water. Aid agencies say the situation is actually worsening, as new flood waters continue to surge south down the Indus river. More **flood** defence systems are collapsing, forcing people to flee their homes. So far 1,500 have died in the floods. The threat of **disease** remains high. The army has been dropping limited supplies in some areas but in many other areas there has been no assistance. There is a desperate need for international **aid** but so far this has been pitifully slow. The world does not seem to care about just how bad the situation on the ground actually is in Pakistan. But why? Is it the slow nature of the disaster relative to say an earthquake or tsunami? Maybe it's because of the terrorist threat, the poor showing of the Pakistani politics or simply because it is just Pakistan? The UN Secretary General Ban-Ki Moon visited the country to see for himself the sheer scale of the **disaster**. It is actually larger than the disasters of the Asian tsunami, Haiti, and the previous floods in Pakistan put together. On returning to the UN he called an emergency meeting of the UN General Assembly. He described the situation unfolding "like a slow-motion **tsunami**". **Donors** have been asked to **pledge** as much as they can to help the relief effort. A target figure of US\$460 million has been set by the UN to be raised by pledges from governments and other sources worldwide. Donors have been slow to **react**. After the emergency **session** the USA raised its help to more than US\$150m, the EU pledged US\$180m, the UK US\$100m, Saudi Arabia US\$100m and Germany US\$32m. China is expected to announce its help shortly. Speaking at the UN, Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said unless his country received **adequate** assistance, hard won gains in the government's war against the **insurgents** could be undermined. (V1)

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