

The1st Post-DESPO 2014-Floods Situation Report Indicates Stark Flaws in Strategic and Technical Demesnes.

UN agencies, local governments and disaster management bodies are urged for serious considerations to safeguard displaced children, pregnant women and disables.

LAHORE, PB, PAKISTAN, September 29, 2014 /EINPresswire.com/ -- (By: The UN Liaisons' Special Correspondent)-:

In the aftermaths of raging floods-2014, that arose to break the records of several decades in reference to the Indo-Pak floods history, several coordinated efforts to rescue the losses continue to be on their persistent path, with technical inputs from international and local institutional platforms, including UN, UNICEF, WHO, UNHCR, UNESCO and several other agencies.

The flooding and landslides triggered by monsoon in India and adjoining areas of Pakistan, have already wreaked a highscale havoc in several districts of Kashmir, Pakistan and India, and prospectively can take along potent hazardous forthcomings, cautions a Post-Disaster's Epidemiological Susceptibility & Pandemic Outbreak (Post-DESPO) assessment report. The report has been prepared by a



monitoring cell established by the UN Dag Hammarskjold Committee, for liaisoning networks to UN agencies and the local bodies of disaster management. DESPO assessment report is aimed to identify the technical facets that have been neglected during the emergency response, and are must to be prioritized in the rehabilitation phase. The UNHCR, UNISDR, WHO, UNICEF UNESCO and the local governments are amongst the principal stakeholders of the DESPO indicators.

The first Post-DESPO report that entails the technical aspects of the aftermath consequences of the raging floods pandemic proneness, contagion predispositions and epidemiological vulnerabilities, puts

'high-spot' emphasis and necessitating focus on the analysis of water acclimatization and its septicity, after the pestilential contaminated fusions espoused through assimilation of flood water amalgamation with contagion remnants of flood ruined crops, soil, along with other mephitic remnants.

"It has been seen in the past that the floodwater carried along with it epidemics, that consequenced hazardous ailments, therefore, the health institutions and other quarters of



relevance are pressed to remain vigilant to save precious lives", say the disaster management officials.

The Post-DESPO report has primarily identified major indicators for pandemic outbreaks and multiple

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SAIRI Post-DESPO Floods-2014 Report. epidemiological proneness, encircling the topics like diarrheal diseases offshoots directly linked to cell mediated immunity (CMI), mal-nutrition and mal-absorption.

Impaired absorption of water, electrolytes and minerals, which is often likely to be occurred in such disasters, causes impaired formation of Micelle + C complex, which in turn results in multiple mal-absorption, a complex mechanical problem. The presence of either both types of deficiencies, or any one of the above mentioned factors can seriously affect the CMI(cell-mediated-immunity) leading to pathological complications in small babies, especially in those, below one year.

The report also indicates three hardest-hit 'key marginalized' ivories, that usually become more demoted and sidelined in emergency situations and points out that the directives sent by the authorities for the second phase of emergency response, dearth certain methodological facets on technical accounts, that are inevitable to accomplish the set targets, opines the post DESPO report.

The hardest-hit three segments of the disasters, that require a special protocol in emergency situations, are often neglected and sidelined in strategic progressions : the displaced children, the pregnant women and the disable populations caught in the situation.

Special attention and considerate alertness must be paid to target the displaced children, that if not demonstrated aptly, could lead towards grimly severe and far-reaching consequences, cautions the floods-2014's first DESPO situation report.

The disables, caught by the flood's havoc, who have been displaced from their local vicinities, should be compassionately dealt with, and must be taken sympathetic care of.

For disables, on account of already being marginalized segment of the society, considerated measures must be ensured, stresses the <u>SAIRI</u>'s principal investigator of DESPO assessments, Prof. Qadhi Aurangzeb Al Hafi. <u>Dr. Aurangzeb Hafi</u>, who had also served as the chief epidemiologist and

prime investigatory research-analyst in Asian Tsunami 2004, and maintained technical liaisons with UN, its agencies and other local and international sectors of relevance, is now associated with several institutions in capacity of postdoc principal investigator, including SAARC-DUHS Hydro-toxicology chair and the UNESCO chair of watershed management at PU, which has joined the SAIRI's DESPO project in a principal research-partnership. Prof. Hafi has also headed multiple disabilities risk-factors assessment and management projects in Sri Lanka and different parts of the world, especially in cataclysmic situations.

Dr. Shah Mahmood, a medical emergency appointee from UC Bahlolpur, who reported the statistics of his area, also urged the national and international bodies to make prompt-prioritizations for the said indicators.

<u>Dr. Khalida M. Khan</u>, who holds presently the UNESCO chair of watershed management at P.U. extends strong recommendations to address the impeded set-back, by incorporating the DESPO indicators in the disaster management policy frame-working.

Despite the footages that continuously portray the 'adequate provisions' of temporary shelters and tents, however, after nearly one month is going to pass, still there are areas struck by the raging floods, where no temporary shelters on tents have been provided.

Nonetheless the file-works show the 'prompt provisions' of tents, there remains a considerable number of families, especially the children, the older persons, and the pregnant women, who live in open air, along the road-sides—predisposed to consequential vulnerabilities, indicatingly points out the first Post-DESPO report. Refugees camps or other provisional settlements are the measures that should be taken promptly, and are among the 'must to be prioritized' during the early phases of emergency response, mentions further the report.

Most of the conventional situation reports and strategic plans on cover many technical aspects but essentially lack the integration. DESPO parameters devised by SAIRI, however, follow the holistic approach and are explicitly designed to cover a wide range of topics--from pandemic proneness and contagion predispositions to epidemiological vulnerabilities drivers, and is therefore an important advance in disaster management policy making.

SAIRI holds an adept consummate expertise in Pre-DESPO as well as Post-DESPO phases. The Post-DESPO assessment report has been prepared by SAIRI's research collaboration with the UNESCO chair for watershed management, at PU.

Strategies should be devised to face the imminent consequential inevitabilities with a particular focus on the facets often neglected in conventional models of disaster management.

The hard-hit areas, that do call for a special attention in second phase of disaster response include Muzaffargarh, Srinagar, Jhang, Chiniot, Multan, and Pindi Bhattian.

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