

## Alert note

## Pakistan Heatwave, May 2024

Completed by: CWSA  
 Date completed: 21 May 2024  
 Forum:

Type of emergency: Pakistan Heatwave, 2024  
 Date of emergency (if rapid onset): 18 May 2024

<b>1. The nature of the emergency</b>
<p>Pakistan's National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has issued a heatwave alert<sup>1</sup> for much of the country, with particular emphasis on Punjab and Sindh provinces. According to an NDMA announcement on Thursday, heatwave conditions are expected to develop over most regions starting May 21, escalating to severe heatwave conditions between May 23 and May 27. The forecast includes three separate heatwave spells: the initial one lasting two to three days, followed by a second spell towards the end of May lasting four to five days, and a third spell in early June lasting three to five days. Temperatures could rise to as high as 45 degrees Celsius in June. The NDMA has warned that these heatwaves will significantly impact both human and animal populations, necessitating proactive measures nationwide. During the second heatwave spell, which is expected to last four to five days, the districts of Tharparkar, Umerkot, Sanghar, Badin, and Khairpur in Sindh will be particularly affected.</p>
<b>2. The impact and scale of the emergency (please include your source of information)</b>
<p>This is considered a small to medium-scale emergency. The heatwave conditions, characterized by extreme temperatures up to 45°C, are affecting large parts of Pakistan, particularly Punjab and Sindh provinces. The impact on human and animal populations is significant, necessitating proactive measures.</p> <p>The geographical areas affected include most parts of Pakistan, with a focus on Punjab and Sindh provinces. Specific districts in Sindh, such as Tharparkar, Umerkot, Sanghar, Badin, and Khairpur, are particularly impacted during the second heatwave spell. Daytime temperatures are expected to remain 4-8°C above normal in these regions, exacerbating the conditions.</p> <p>The exact number of affected individuals is not specified, but the most vulnerable populations include farmers, the elderly, children, and individuals with chronic diseases or disabilities. These groups are more susceptible to heat-related illnesses such as heat strokes and dehydration. Due to the nature of their work, people exposed to harsh weather conditions, such as outdoor labourers, are also significantly affected.</p> <p>Immediate health risks include heat strokes, heat cramps, and aggravation of existing health conditions, potentially leading to fatalities. The demand for medical services and cooling centres increases significantly. Prolonged heatwaves can lead to chronic health issues and reduce agricultural productivity, impacting food security and economic stability. The frequent occurrence of heatwaves also necessitates long-term adaptation measures, such as improved infrastructure for cooling and water supply systems.</p> <p><i>The source of above information is Advisory of NDMA.</i></p>
<b>3. Local and national capacity</b>
<p>People are struggling to cope with the extreme heat, facing difficult commutes that impact their livelihoods, especially for those engaged in local labour. Many are getting dehydrated, and there is a general lack of awareness about precautionary measures such as covering heads or avoiding direct sun exposure during peak hours.</p>

<sup>1</sup> [NDMA Weather-Heatwave Advisory \(16 May 2024\) \(4\).pdf](#)

The local and central governments are issuing alerts and advisories for precautionary measures, directing health facilities to prepare for heatstroke cases with resources like air conditioning, ice, backup electricity, and water. The deputy commissioners are coordinating with NGOs to set up heatwave camps, though the government lacks sufficient funds and is seeking support from humanitarian agencies. There is an ongoing implementation of national emergency response plans to some extent.

National and international organizations, including the UN, are devising response plans and managing funds to establish heatwave camps. They are coordinating with local authorities to ensure an effective crisis management strategy.

#### 4. Key needs and gaps

The health sector in Sindh province is grappling with a shortage of human and asset resources, making it unable of independently addressing the current situation. Establishing heatwave treatment and facilitation centres for communities is essential but beyond their capacity. Given the similar situation across at-risk districts, urgent support from humanitarian organizations is imperative. Immediate requirements include fully-equipped facilitation centres staffed with paramedics for providing first aid treatment. There is also a pressing need for community awareness campaigns to prevent direct sun exposure, dehydration, and the provision of flexible labour hours. Additionally, a mass media campaign is necessary to disseminate key messages on preventing heatstroke and implementing mitigating measures.

Please indicate whether you are considering:

	Indicate your intention with an X below
Rapid Response Fund ( <i>intended for small and medium scale emergencies</i> )	<b>X</b>
Appeal ( <i>intended for large scale emergencies</i> )	

If you indicate an intention to launch an appeal, the secretariat will activate an Emergency Steering Committee meeting within two working days on receipt of this alert.

Capacity details of forum members with the intention to respond are given below. *Please refer to your EPRP and Contingency Plan.*

ACT Member	Geographical focus	Sectors of expertise	Support required	Estimated Budget range
Community World Service Asia	Umerkot, Sindh, Pakistan	Emergency Response	Financial	USD 90,000

#### 5. Potential responses

Drawing from our past experiences in implementing emergency programs, CWSA has developed effective processes and procedures, contributing to smooth implementation. Additionally, in response to COVID-19, CWSA promptly initiated community awareness programs within the constraints of their available budget for regular programming.

Community World Service Asia (CWSA), in collaboration with district authorities, intends to establish six heatwave centres or camps in Umerkot district for a duration of four months. These facilities include a central site in Umerkot city, three additional camps at health facilities already supported by CWSA projects i.e. Government dispensary Ramsar, Government Dispensary Jhamrari, and Government Dispensary Cheelband and two more location will be identified for heat wave facilitation centres in consultation with district government.

The proposed response plan includes:

- Establishing six heatwave response centres with basic first aid, cold water, and rest areas for affected or at-risk communities. These centres will be equipped with generators, pedestal fans, stretchers, necessary furniture, basic medical equipment, and medicines.
- Conducting awareness-raising campaigns through radio massaging and distribution of IEC (Information, Education, and Communication) material.  
IEC material will be printed, and distributed to disseminate awareness-raising messages.

Immediate financial support is needed to establish these camps and launch this life-saving initiative. While the government is making efforts, the situation surpasses their capacity as it affects everyone.

The projected response plan spans four months and requires approximately USD 90,000.