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| **Alert note** |
| ***Pakistan, Heatwave Emergency - 2025*** |

**Completed by: Mr. Dennis Joseph - CWSA**

**Date completed: April 29, 2025**

**Forum: ACT Forum Pakistan**

**Type of emergency: Pakistan Heatwave, 2025**

**Date of emergency (if rapid onset): 22-27 April, 2025 frequent occurrence is anticipated in next 3-4 months.**

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| 1. **The nature of the emergency** |
| According to the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), temperatures are expected to rise significantly in most parts of the country. A heatwave alert has been issued on April 15, warning that from Sunday until April 18, daytime temperatures in South Punjab may remain 6 to 8°C above normal. The PMD also predicted a 4 to 6°C temperature increase in many parts of the country. The intense heat may also trigger dust storms and gusty winds in some areas. Similar conditions are expected in Sindh and Baluchistan, where temperatures may rise by 6 to 8°C above average. In parts of Sindh, the mercury could climb as high as 46 to 48°C. The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) has advised citizens to avoid unnecessary outdoor activities during this period to prevent heat-related illnesses. The Meteorological Department has predicted intense heat in Karachi and Lahore.[[1]](#footnote-2)  Another countrywide alert has been issued by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) for a possible heatwave expected between April 22 and 27, warning of dry and unusually hot weather in most region. According to the NDMA’s advisory, much of the country is likely to experience elevated temperatures and dry conditions throughout the period. The forecast is particularly concerning for Baluchistan and Sindh, where temperatures are expected to remain significantly above normal.[[2]](#footnote-3)  In Sindh’s Umerkot district, the heatwave is already intensifying, with temperatures expected to reach 47°C in the coming days. Due to climate change, the onset of heatwaves is occurring earlier, often beginning in April and potentially lasting through July (NDMA, 2025 Early Warning Bulletin; [NDMA.gov.pk](https://www.ndma.gov.pk/)). In 2025, heatwave projections by both PMD and NDMA indicate increased frequency and intensity, driven by El Niño conditions and global warming. Regions like Sindh, Baluchistan, and South Punjab, including Umerkot, are likely to experience multiple prolonged heatwave episodes in the coming months (NDMA Heatwave Alert – April 2025). |
| 1. **The impact and scale of the emergency** |
| This is considered a small to medium-scale emergency. The heatwave conditions, characterized by extreme temperatures exceeding 46°C, are affecting large parts of Pakistan, particularly Punjab and Sindh provinces. The impact on human and animal populations is significant, necessitating proactive measures.  The geographical areas affected include most parts of Pakistan, with a focus on Punjab, Balouchistan and Sindh provinces. According to PDMA and PMD, specific districts in Sindh, such as Mohinjodaro, Dadu, Larkana, Umerkot, Shaheed Benezirabad, Jacobabada and Khairpur, are particularly impacted during the heatwave spell. This extreme heat has been attributed to a high-pressure system in the upper atmosphere, leading to daytime temperatures 6–8°C above normal in Sindh.[[3]](#footnote-4)  The ongoing heatwave in Sindh and especially in Umerkot is having a severe impact on vulnerable populations, including pregnant and lactating women, children, the elderly, person with disabilities, individuals with chronic health conditions, and outdoor labourers such as farmers and daily wage workers. These groups are at heightened risk of heat-related illnesses like heatstroke and dehydration due to prolonged exposure to extreme temperatures and limited access to essential services.  The situation is further worsened by the inadequate access to clean drinking water, electricity outage, and lack of healthcare facilities. Women, in particular, bear disproportionate burdens during such climate crises, highlighting the urgent need for gender-sensitive and inclusive interventions.  Although no casualties have been reported to date, the heatwave has significantly disrupted daily life. Many residents avoid going outdoors during peak afternoon hours, and CWSA-run health dispensaries have reported a noticeable drop in patient visits after 12 PM, underscoring the intensity of the conditions.  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, loss of livestock 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. |
| 1. **Local and national capacity** |
| 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 exposure during peak hours.  The local and central governments are responding to the heatwave by issuing public advisories and instructing health facilities to prepare for heat-related emergencies with necessary resources such as cooling systems, water, and backup electricity.  Elements of the national emergency response plan are being implemented, with the Pakistan Meteorological Department and PDMA issuing early warnings and activating provincial contingency measures, particularly in Sindh.  Although the UN cluster system has not been formally activated, coordination on health and WASH is ongoing through established humanitarian platforms in collaboration with NDMA and PDMA. Meanwhile, national and international organizations, including UN agencies, are mobilizing resources and coordinating with local authorities to establish heatwave relief camps and ensure effective crisis response. |
| 1. **Key needs and gaps** |
| Rural and remote areas, particularly in Sindh, face significant challenges due to inadequate infrastructure, limited access to healthcare facilities, and insufficient early warning systems.  There is a shortage of trained medical personnel and essential supplies to manage heat-related illnesses effectively. Access to safe drinking water is limited, and sanitation facilities are inadequate, increasing the risk of waterborne diseases. Many affected populations lack access to cooling shelters or adequately ventilated housing, exacerbating health risks. Establishing heatwave treatment and facilitation centres for communities is essential but beyond their capacity. These gaps highlight the need for targeted interventions to ensure equitable and effective humanitarian assistance across all affected areas. 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.  There is a lack of real-time data on the number of individuals affected, the severity of health impacts, and the effectiveness of ongoing interventions. Comprehensive assessments to determine the specific needs of vulnerable populations are either incomplete or outdated, leading to potential misallocation of resources.  Information sharing between governmental bodies, NGOs, and international organizations is currently fragmented, resulting in diverted efforts and gaps in service delivery. |
| Please indicate whether you are considering:   |  |  | | --- | --- | |  | Indicate your intention with an **X** below | | Rapid Response Fund *(intended for small and medium scale emergencies)* | **X** | | Appeal *(intended for large scale emergencies)* |  |   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. |
| 1. **Forum Capacity and members intention to respond** |
| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **ACT Member** | **Geographical focus** | **Sectors of expertise and experience** | | Community World Service Asia | Umerkot, Sindh, Pakistan | Emergency response, Health, WASH, Cash, Livelihood, MHPSS | |  |  |  | |  |  |  | |  |  |  | |
| 1. **Potential responses** |
| Community World Service Asia has a history of responding to various small and large-scale disasters across Pakistan. CWSA has previously conducted heatwave responses in targeted areas in 2015 and 2016 and in 2022. Currently, we are actively engaged in the region with livelihood, cash programming, health, and DRR initiatives. Our long-term presence and established relationships with both governmental and non-governmental organizations in the area have facilitated the successful implementation of both long-term and short-term projects. 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 three heatwave centres or camps in Umerkot district for a duration of three months. One of the centres will be established at the DHQ Hospital in Umerkot, while two others will be set up at THQ Hospitals within the district. The final locations of the heatwave centers will be determined in coordination with the district government.  The proposed response plan includes:   * Establishing three 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. * Awareness-raising campaigns will be carried out through community meetings, with active involvement of VMCs and community elders, along with the distribution of Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials. IEC materials will be developed in a locally appropriate and easily understandable format, printed, and distributed to effectively disseminate awareness-raising messages.   To support the operations of the facilitation centres, two volunteers will be assigned to each centre to assist and serve the affected individuals. In addition, an LHV and a Medical Technician will be hired who will visit all the three centres on rotational basis to provide emergency medical services.  Immediate financial support is needed to establish these camps and launch this life-saving initiative. Although the government is making efforts, the situation appears to exceed their capacity, as it is likely to impact everyone.  The projected response plan spans three months and requires approximately USD 45,000. |

1. https://www.nation.com.pk/14-Apr-2025/heatwave-alert-issued-across-pakistan-as-mercury-soars [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. https://tribune.com.pk/story/2541337/ndma-issues-heatwave-alert-from-april-22-to-27 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. <https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2025/04/14/heatwave-grips-southern-pakistan-with-temperatures-soaring-above-46c/?utm_source=chatgpt.com> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)