
Report To:	Policy & Resources Committee	Date:	20 September 2022
Report By:	Interim Director, Finance & Corporate Governance	Report No:	LS/77/22
Contact Officer:	Colin MacDonald	Contact No:	01475 712113
Subject:	Pakistan Floods Appeal – Request by Councillor McCabe on behalf of the Disasters Emergency Committee		

1.0 PURPOSE and SUMMARY

- 1.1 For Decision For Information/Noting
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to advise the Committee of a request received from the Disasters Emergency Committee in relation to the Pakistan Floods appeal and to seek the Committee's decision as to whether or not to make a donation to the appeal.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee decides whether or not to make a donation towards the DEC Pakistan Floods Appeal.

Alan Puckrin
Interim Director, Finance & Corporate Governance

3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Committee will be aware of the humanitarian crisis unfolding in Pakistan as a result of monsoon flooding.
- 3.2 At the time of writing the report it was estimated that at least 1,100 people have died and around 33 million people being affected in total with the Government of Pakistan estimating that a third of the country, an area the size of the UK, is under water.
- 3.3 On 1 September 2022 the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) wrote to Council Leaders in Scotland to highlight the Pakistan Flood Appeal and how individuals and organisations can financially support the initiative. Councillor McCabe submitted the letter to the Committee as a Member's Request so that consideration could be given to whether or not it wishes to make a donation in this instance. A copy of the DEC Pakistan Appeal letter is included as an Appendix to this report.
- 3.4 Committee should, however, also take into account the financial challenges the Council is currently facing, as set out in other reports on today's agenda. This includes the fact the Committee is currently being projected a net overspend of £2.8m for this Financial Year (FY), with the Council's facing an estimated budget gap of £15.2m over the next two FYs.
- 3.5 The Council has previously donated sums to a number of DEC Appeals eg: The Ebola Appeal, Nepal Earthquake Appeal, Malawi Food Crisis Appeal, Yemen Crisis Appeal, Cyclone Idai Appeal, Covid Emergency, Afghanistan and Ukraine Appeal. All have been funded from the Council's Contingency Fund with donations of either £10,000 or £20,000. The most recent DEC Appeal response from the Council related to Ukraine in March 2022 and a £20,000 donation was approved. The Council's contingency earmarked reserve is now exhausted.
- 3.6 As with previous donations, given that legally the Council is not authorised to provide direct relief to communities abroad, any such donation would be made to DEC to fund its member charities' UK-based activities, in recognition of the considerable strain the crisis in Pakistan has placed on the resources of these charities.

4.0 PROPOSALS

- 4.1 It is proposed that the Committee decides whether or not to make a donation towards the DEC Pakistan Floods Appeal on the basis as set out in this report.
- 4.2 If the Committee does wish to make such a donation, then it will need to determine how much and where it is to be funded from. Officers would suggest that any donation is funded from the Covid Recovery Fund.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is(are) agreed:

SUBJECT	YES	NO	N/A
Financial	X		
Legal/Risk		X	
Human Resources		X	
Strategic (LOIP/Corporate Plan)		X	
Equalities & Fairer Scotland Duty			X
Children & Young People's Rights & Wellbeing			X
Environmental & Sustainability			X
Data Protection			X

5.2 Finance

The budget consultation provides a direct support to the council's budget setting process and provides important input to the process for the council and councillors.

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
Covid Recovery Fund	Contingency	22/23	TBC		Any donation to be determined by Committee

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

5.3 Legal/Risk

None.

5.4 Human Resources

None.

5.5 Strategic

None.

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 None.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None.



PAKISTAN FLOODS APPEAL

Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) launches Pakistan Floods Appeal

Dear Council Leaders,

As you know, monsoon floods are devastating Pakistan, leaving millions in need of urgent help to survive and we are writing to ask for your urgent support for the new, and urgent, [DEC Pakistan Floods Appeal](#).

Background Information

The government of Pakistan estimates that a third of the country – an area the size of the UK – is under water. At least 1,100 people have died, and around 33 million people are affected – around one in seven Pakistanis. More than a million homes have been destroyed or badly damaged, leaving many people homeless and exposed to the elements. Whole villages have been cut off, with rescuers struggling to reach them.

The rainfall that Pakistan is seeing is 2.87 times higher than the national 30-year average, with the worst affected provinces seeing five times as much rainfall as their 30-year average, according to the UN. It warns the humanitarian situation is likely to deteriorate, as heavy rains continue over areas already inundated by more than two months of storms and flooding. The UN Secretary General António Guterres has called the situation a “climate catastrophe” and has called on the world to send humanitarian assistance.

Already, huge swathes of agricultural land have been affected, with crops swept away and three quarters of a million livestock killed, which will mean many people going hungry in the longer-term. Humanitarian agencies are scrambling to respond to meet people’s basic needs such as food, clean water and shelter, and the government of Pakistan has called for international assistance to provide humanitarian assistance.

DEC Agency Response

The DEC brings together 15 leading UK charities at times of crisis overseas to raise funds quickly and efficiently. Members include six agencies active in Scotland, namely Islamic Relief Scotland, Oxfam Scotland, the British Red Cross, Tearfund, Save The Children and Christian Aid Scotland. Eleven of the DEC’s 15 member charities are responding on the ground providing life-saving support directly or through local partners. However, they need more funds to scale up while coordinating with the local authorities and UN agencies to deliver humanitarian assistance in ways that best address the needs and complements the government-led response in Pakistan.

The most urgent needs include clean water, food, emergency shelter, health assistance, sanitation and hygiene, protection, cash assistance, livelihoods support including seeds, as well as immediate disaster response like the distribution of life jackets. The floods are having a huge impact on access to clean water, toilets and handwashing facilities. There are already reports of cases of cholera. Providing cash assistance and protection have also been identified as priorities, with the latter focusing on child protection, psychological support and distributing dignity kits. In the longer term, work to restore livelihoods through the provision of seeds and livestock will also be vital.

How you can help

TV appeals will be broadcast on the BBC, ITV, Channel 4, Channel 5 and Sky today (1 Sept). As always, while we very much recognise the pressures created by the cost of living crisis, we are confident the people of Scotland will respond generously. However, councillors and councils can play a critical role in helping to promote the Appeal. If you feel able, we encourage you to share the following tweet, or draft your own:

The @DECScotland has launched the #PakistanFloodsAppeal. 30m people are affected. A third of the country is under water with lives, homes and livelihoods lost. DEC charities and partners are delivering emergency relief. Please donate, if you can, via www.dec.org.uk

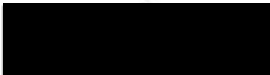
As above, please also consider recording a video message and posting this to your social media channels.

Donations can be made by using the following mechanisms:

- Online: www.dec.org.uk.
- Phone: 0330 678 1000. Standard geographic charges from landlines and mobiles will apply
- SMS: To donate £10 text SUPPORT to 70000. Texts cost £10 plus the standard network charge and the whole £10 goes to the DEC Pakistan Floods Appeal. You must be 16 or over and please ask the bill payer's permission. For full terms and conditions and more information go to www.dec.org.uk.
- Or donate over the counter at any high street bank or post office or send a cheque by post to DEC Pakistan Floods Humanitarian Appeal, PO Box 999, London EC3A 3AA.

Thank you for taking the time to read this, and please do not hesitate to contact us to discuss this further.

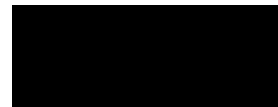
Kind regards,



Jamie Livingstone
Head of Oxfam Scotland



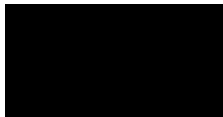
Claire Telfer
Head of Scotland,
Save the Children



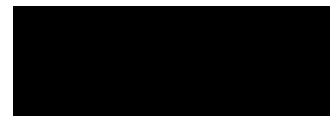
Graeme McMeekin
Head of Tearfund Scotland



Nadeem Baqir
Islamic Relief Scotland



Ashley Young
Interim Director for Scotland
British Red Cross



Chris Hegarty
Senior Advisor
Christian Aid

