

## Floods in Pakistan

Dear Colleagues,

This letter comes to you with news from Pakistan, which unfortunately is not very good. For the last one month we have been battling with one of the worst natural calamity in our history. The flood in Pakistan has affected every fifth person, more than one third of our land is under water and more than 20 million are homeless in tents, shelters and on roads.

As always the most affected are our poor population, and amongst them the worst off in this tragedy are women and children. The statistics are mind boggling, in every camp they are 10-15% men, 18-20% women and rest 65% are children. Almost all children are sick having general malnourishment and growth stunting, diarrhea and skin diseases. Regards women, there is just skin and bone nothing in between. Anemic, malnourished, perpetually pregnant or breast feeding and most are 10, 12 or 15<sup>th</sup> gravidas.

All four provinces are equally affected and the Society of OBGYN mobilized its members in all provinces, districts and made them responsible for health concerns of flood victims. We are not only providing mother and child services but also trying to introduce health and hygiene education and motivation. For this purpose we are training local midwives and lady health workers.

We are putting all our efforts against this devastation. We wish this work to be continued beyond relief to rehabilitation. This is the population that needs interventions like birth control in long term as well. All this has substantial price tag. We are therefore looking at our international colleagues and sister organizations to come to our assistance.



Looking forward to hearing from you,  
Dr Nighat Shah  
Secretary General  
Society of OBGYN, Pakistan