

Doctors report

Name: Doctor Giuliano

Location: Pakistan

Date: August 4th 2010



Analysis of the threat of disease:

I have analysed the threat of water borne diseases in Pakistan following the recent flooding. It is my finding that up to 3.5 million children are at a very high risk of disease and need immediate help. These diseases include diarrhoea, cholera and dysentery. If these are left untreated they almost certainly will be fatal in the conditions people are surviving in.

Cholera is an infection of the small intestine that causes a large amount of watery diarrhoea. The World Health Organisation has developed an oral rehydration therapy which is very effective at treating this. However, we ran out over a week ago. Dysentery is an inflammatory disorder of the intestine, especially of the colon, that results in severe diarrhoea and sickness. If these are left untreated they are almost certainly fatal.

Clean water is essential to prevent the spread and occurrence of these diseases. However this is not a luxury which the people of Pakistan have at present. Much of their water supply has been contaminated during the recent floods and it is taking time to repair this.

The aid camps here are struggling to cope and there are just not enough doctors and nurses to treat the number of people. Soon we will run out of medical supplies and we will not be able to treat everyone. At present we know of 1500 deaths due to the flood. However if aid does not reach these victims soon I fear that this number will rise dramatically. I urge you to send aid soon, before it is too late.