

UNHCR starts aid delivery to assist Hunza Lake displaced

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan, May 26 – The UN refugee agency on Wednesday started moving relief items to assist people displaced in Hunza and Gilgit districts, as 15 trucks loaded with shelter kits left a UNHCR warehouse in Peshawar to Karimabad, Hunza in northern Pakistan.

Already on Tuesday, UNHCR technical experts had started training sessions to build capacity of authorities, local communities and different service providers to support the ongoing relief efforts in Gilgit-Baltistan.

UNHCR field staff, as part of a joint UN humanitarian assessment mission, has visited 22 camps - mostly established in schools, colleges and government buildings. These camps are accommodating around 14000 people affected by Hunza Lake's rising water levels. Eleven camps are in Gilgit and eleven in Hunza.

UNHCR is sending 500 shelter kits to Hunza-Nagar and Gilgit districts from Peshawar upon a request by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). The agency, last week, had informed authorities about the availability of other relief items as part of a joint UN humanitarian effort to assist people in need in Gilgit-Baltistan.

UNHCR Shelter kits, meant to meet immediate temporary shelter needs, are composed of plastic sheeting, bamboo poles, timber, and corrugated iron sheets for roofing, nails and a toolkit.

“UNHCR has offered technical assistance and non-food items to support the government's relief efforts in Hunza and Gilgit,” said Khassim Diagne, Officer-in – Charge for UNHCR in Islamabad.

“Apart from providing shelter kits, we have immediately offered some 30,000 blankets, 10,000 plastic sheeting, 10,000 quilts, 1000 kitchen sets, 1000 solar light, 500 tents and 300 woollen blankets for the displaced population.”

Through training sessions, UNHCR is also providing technical assistance in proper camp management and site planning.

Some 25 participants from the displaced community, government officials and different non-governmental organizations attended the training session on Tuesday conducted by UNHCR camp management experts.

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