THE DANISH EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND

ALERT NOTE

Section A: Basic information

Organisation:	***Charity For Life**, through local partner RAHMA Islamic Relief, Pakistan*
Title of alert:	*Emergency food and cash assistance for drought-affected families in Tharparkar and Umerkot, Sindh, Pakistan*
Type of crisis:	☐ *rapid onset humanitarian crisis (please fill out section B)* ***x*** ***slow onset humanitarian crisis (please fill out section C)*** ☐ *spike in protracted humanitarian crisis (please fill out section D)*

Section C: Slow onset humanitarian crisis

c.1 Where is the crisis? *Describe the areas affected*

Tharparkar District and the adjoining Umerkot District in the Thar desert of south-eastern Sindh, Pakistan, along the border with India. All seven tehsils of Tharparkar are affected: Mithi, Islamkot, Diplo, Chachro, Dahli, Nagarparkar and Kaloi. Satellite data shows drought stress of 98% in Chachro and Dahli, 97% in Islamkot and 95% in Mithi. Umerkot shares the same ecosystem and is rated Very High Risk of drought (score 20/25).

c.2 What is the nature of the crisis? *Please describe the type of crisis (e.g. climate change disasters, environmental degradation, desertification or other slow onset crisis) and describe potential local social and political implications (e.g. for specific target groups).*

A climate-related drought caused by the failure of the 2026 monsoon in an arid area already affected by desertification and recurrent drought. Communities depend on one rain-fed crop season and on livestock, so food, fodder, water and income have collapsed together. 85–90% of rain-fed crops (millet, guar, pulses) are lost and no harvest is expected before mid-2027. Household food stocks are exhausted, and families of around seven members face skipped meals, distress sale of livestock and debt. Grazing land has dried up and green fodder is scarce, threatening families' main asset. Socially, early migration of pastoralist families disrupts schooling and access to services, women and girls carry a heavier burden of fetching water, and women-headed households, persons with disabilities and older people have the fewest coping options. Politically, government relief is concentrated in Tharparkar, as Umerkot has not been declared calamity-hit.

c.3 What information do you have about the situation? What is the source of that information?

Local estimates put the affected population of Tharparkar at 700,000–1,000,000; no estimate exists yet for Umerkot. The Pakistan Meteorological Department reports 71.1 mm of rain in Sindh in July–September 2026 against a normal of 144.3 mm (a 50.8% deficit). FEWS NET projects Crisis-level food insecurity (IPC Phase 3) in arid Sindh through at least early 2027. Most vulnerable are children under five, pregnant and lactating women, older people, persons with disabilities and women-headed households. Many live in small, scattered villages far from roads and services, which makes access slow and costly.

Urgent needs: RAHMA's field office in Tharparkar confirms all seven tehsils are affected and has identified three priority needs: (1) food for families, (2) health support and (3) green fodder for livestock. Safe drinking water is also a concern, as many RO plants are non-functional.

Other actors: on 7 November 2026 the Government of Sindh declared Tharparkar drought-affected and calamity-hit and ordered RO plant repairs, fodder arrangements and a feasibility study for a Naukot–Mithi pipeline, coordinated through district authorities. These measures focus

on infrastructure; household food, health and nutrition needs remain largely unmet and Umerkot is not covered. Community World Service Asia has appealed for a coordinated response and recommends cash assistance.

- *Dawn (8 November 2026): CM declares Tharparkar drought-affected, orders emergency measures*
- *Community World Service Asia (November 2026): Situation Alert I – Drought threatens food security and livelihoods in Umerkot and Tharparkar, Sindh*
- *ReliefWeb (9 November 2026): PAK Drought 09-2026 – Drought situation in Tharparkar District, Sindh Province, Pakistan*
- *Chief Minister House Sindh (November 2026): Declaration of Tharparkar as drought-affected and emergency measures*

c.3.1 Provide as strong as possible evidence of why there is a change in the current slow onset crisis. Describe also when the change occurred (m*ention specific dates if possible).*
Thar is chronically drought-prone and food-insecure, but 2026 marks a sharp deterioration. Sindh's 50.8% rainfall deficit was the largest of any province in Pakistan, and September rainfall in Tharparkar was only 1–36 mm. As a result, 85–90% of crops failed across all seven tehsils, with only 10–15% surviving. The change began with the failure of the September 2026 rains, became visible as harvests were lost in October, and was formally recognised on 7 November 2026, when the Chief Minister of Sindh declared Tharparkar calamity-hit. FEWS NET projects IPC Phase 3 conditions into 2027, and needs will peak in the lean period from December 2026 until the next monsoon.

c.3.2. How could DERF grants make a difference for the crisis affected population?

Rapid disbursement of DERF funding would allow RAHMA Islamic Relief, through its established field office in Tharparkar, to begin assistance within weeks, before affected families are forced to sell their remaining livestock, take on further debt or reduce meals. A short intervention of around two months could provide food packages and cash assistance to the most vulnerable drought-affected families, helping them meet their immediate food needs during the most difficult period before the next harvest. Cash assistance would also allow families to meet other urgent needs according to their own priorities, including medicines and health care and green fodder for livestock. Funding could prioritise families in remote villages and in Umerkot District, which is not covered by the official calamity declaration and receives little support from government measures or other donors. Women-headed households, persons with disabilities, older people and families with malnourished children or pregnant and lactating women would be prioritised. Beneficiaries would be selected with district authorities and community representatives, with a complaints mechanism and post-distribution monitoring in place.

c.4 Are you already responding to this emergency? In which locations/sectors? For which target group? Through which forms of local presence? What is the outcome of your latest assessment and what have you done since then?
We are present through our local partner RAHMA Islamic Relief, which has an established field office and staff in Tharparkar and is engaged in groundwater management planning in the district. We are providing clean drinking water through installation of hand pumps since 2015 in Tharparkar. RAHMA's field office has assessed the situation, confirmed that all seven tehsils are affected, identified food, health and green fodder as priority needs, and prepared a rapid needs assessment. Household verification can begin immediately once funding is confirmed.