



**GOVERNMENT OF SINDH
REHABILITATION DEPARTMENT
PROVINCIAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
Karachi Dated: 23rd September, 2011**

Press Release

President Zardari meets UN Agencies to discuss response to Sindh Floods 2011

The United Nations' delegation including cluster coordinators led by the United Nations Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator Mr. Timo Pakkala met with President of Pakistan Mr. Asif Ali Zardari at Bilalwal House yesterday to discuss the current relief efforts in Sindh.

The humanitarian response team included officials from UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, UN's Children's Fund, World Health Organization, World Food Program, International Organization for Migration and others.

Briefing the senior government officials on United Nations efforts, Mr Timo Pakkala said that despite the scale of the disaster, the response and relief efforts of the Government of Pakistan are commendable. Mr Pakkala urgently requested the international community to fund USD367 Million under the Rapid Response Plan that will ensure timely relief aid to the millions affected in Sindh. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs appreciated the proactive coordination arrangement put in place by Provincial Disaster Management Authority which is ensuring close government cooperation at the district level.

The United Nations' shared that nearly 150,000 pregnant women among the affectees urgently require healthcare while 1 million people have received clean drinking water. World Food Program reported providing food aid to 5 districts reach to half million population with one month food baskets by end of September. IOM, head of Shelter Cluster, announced that 50,000 shelter units are currently being distributed.

Reiterating his support to the humanitarian community and thanking Ban Ki Moon, Secretary General of the United Nations, President Zardari said that the government has wheat stocks that can be shared with the UN. The President assured that the Government will do its utmost to relieve the peoples' suffering through all support possible.

UN agencies reported that one of the biggest hurdles to providing response was lack of access to the flood affected areas because of high water levels. President Zardari, however, affirmed confidently that despite the vast area of disaster, Pakistan will manage and emerge successfully from this disaster, with the support of the international community.