

The Long Road: New report on aid to Pakistan

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This is a guest post by Susan Harris Rimmer of ACFID.

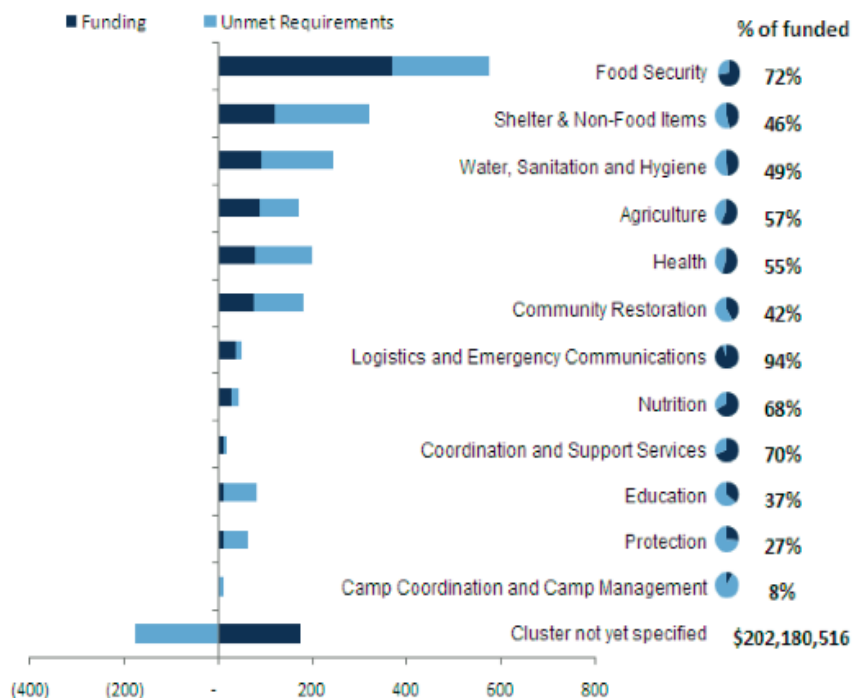
With the world's gaze on Pakistan, aid agencies today urged the international community not to forget the plight of the 21 million people whose lives were devastated by last year's floods.

In a new [report](#), The Long Road: Australian humanitarian agency response to the floods in Pakistan, ACFID highlights the ongoing humanitarian needs of the people affected by the 2010 Pakistan floods - one of the largest natural disasters in recent history. They affected more than 21 million people, killed 1,980 and injured 2,946.

The flood path covered over 100,000 square kilometres of land, which is around 20 per cent of Pakistan's land mass, and affected 78 of Pakistan's 102 districts. The floods damaged 2.9 million houses with over 913,217 houses completely destroyed.

The total direct and indirect damage caused so far is approximately US\$10 billion. The total reconstruction costs are estimated to be upwards of US\$8.9 billion. The damage to agriculture, fisheries and livestock is estimated to be over US\$5 billion. But these statistics fail to capture the long-lasting damage the disaster has caused and the desperate needs that will continue for years to come. With 2.1 million hectares of standing crops destroyed and one million tons of food and seed stocks gone, Pakistan is yet to face the worst of its food security crisis.

The report shows that assistance to the Pakistani population is underfunded at present, including in essential areas such as food security and shelter. International aid is helping to address these problems, and to bring



the country back from the brink of full-scale disaster and discord.

Ten development agency CEOs note: 'We encourage the Australian community to understand that a natural disaster of this scale does not end when the news headlines fade and the initial aid disbursements for emergency response have been made. Recovery can take years.'

Susan Harris Rimmer is the Manager for Advocacy and Development Practice at the Australian Council for International Development, the peak body for not for profit aid agencies.