**Floods in Pakistan**

The summer of 2010 produced Pakistan’s worst flooding in 80 years. The number of people affected, who need food, shelter and clothing to face a harsh Pakistani winter, is 20 million.

Flooding began on July 22, 2010, in the area of Baluchistan. The swollen waters then poured across in the northwest before flowing south into Punjab and Sindh. Estimates of the death toll of the floods range from 1,300 to 1,600.

Even as Pakistani and international relief officials scrambled to save people and property, they despaired that the nation’s worst natural calamity had ruined just about every physical strand that knit the country together — roads, bridges, schools, health clinics, electricity and communications.

The flooding, which began with the arrival of the annual monsoons, eventually affected about one-fifth of the country — nearly 62,000 square miles — or an area larger than England.

Six weeks after the floods began, as rivers continued to devour villages and farmland in the southern province of Sindh, aid workers warned of a triple threat: loss of crops, loss of seed for the next planting season and loss of a daily income. There was widespread worry that the disaster will destabilize the country and aggravate its problems.

Poorly handled relief efforts have added to the distrust that many Pakistanis already feel for their political leaders, while the armed forces have performed rescue and relief missions along the length of the flooded areas.