

## **GOVERNMENT OF CANADA FUND TO MATCH INDIVIDUALS' DONATIONS TO FLOOD RELIEF EFFORTS IN PAKISTAN**

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*By Terrance S. Carter\**

The Government of Canada has created the Pakistan Floods Relief Fund to help aid those affected by the disaster by matching donations made by Canadians to registered Canadian charities for this cause.

However, it is important to note that registered Canadian charities that raise eligible funds will not actually *receive* a matching amount from the Government of Canada, but rather the Government will be making an equivalent donation to the Pakistan Floods Relief Fund, which fund will be administered separately by the Canadian International Development Agency ("CIDA") and disbursed in the discretion of CIDA, not in accordance with the wishes or direction of either the donor or the registered charity.

For every dollar donated to relief efforts in Pakistan by individual Canadians to registered Canadian charities between August 2 and October 3, 2010, the Government of Canada will donate one dollar to the Pakistan Floods Relief Fund, subject to some limitations regarding eligibility of donations as explained below. Originally, only donations made by September 12, 2010 were to be eligible. However, it was announced on September 10, 2010 that the eligible donation deadline would be extended until October 3, 2010. As well, charities now have until October 18, 2010 to submit a prescribed declaration to CIDA indicating the amount of eligible donations they have received.

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To be counted as eligible, the donation must comply with all of the conditions listed below. In this regard, the donation must be:

- Monetary, up to \$100,000
- Made by an individual Canadian
- Made to a registered Canadian charity that is receiving donations in response to the July-August 2010 flooding in Pakistan
- Specifically earmarked by such organizations for the purpose of responding to the floods
- Made between August 2 and October 3, 2010

For donors who want their donations to be matched by an equivalent donation from the Government of Canada to the Pakistan Floods Relief Fund, charities must ensure that the donation complies with the conditions set out above. Donors need to also be assured that the charity intends to use the funds for flood relief efforts in Pakistan and that it will declare the funds to CIDA.

Both tax-receipted and non tax-receipted donations are eligible. Donations may be made by cash, cheque, money order, credit card, or wire transfer. Where donations are made by cheque, the cheque must originate from an individual's personal bank account and not a business or corporate account.

As mentioned above, for donations to qualify for the fund, charities must report their eligible donations to CIDA **no later than October 18, 2010** using the declaration form on CIDA's website ( <http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/acdi-cida/ACDI-CIDA.nsf/eng/ANN-820133234-NKW> ).

CIDA will allocate the matching funds received from the Government of Canada to Canadian and international humanitarian and development organizations for humanitarian assistance, early recovery, and reconstruction efforts that benefit the people in Pakistan most affected by the floods. Non-governmental organizations interested in applying for funding from the Pakistan Floods Relief Fund should consult the CIDA Guidelines for Emergency Humanitarian Assistance Project Proposals and Reports (<http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/acdi-cida/acdi-cida.nsf/eng/STE-320155246-SKL>).

More information regarding the Pakistan Floods Relief Fund is available on CIDA's website (<http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/acdi-cida/ACDI-CIDA.nsf/eng/ANN-820133234-NKW>).