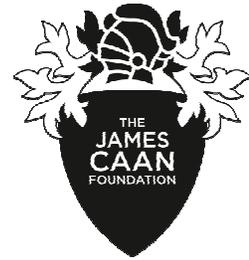




HAMILTON BLADSHAW



## Cricket match fixing allegations have hindered Pakistan flood appeal says James Caan

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James Caan, the star of BBC TV's *Dragons' Den* and Chairman of the British Pakistan Foundation, said today that the furor surrounding the match fixing allegations against Pakistani cricketers had influenced the public's attitude to donating to Pakistan flood relief funds.

"The activities of the cricketers and unsubstantiated counter allegations by Pakistani Cricket Authorities have sown a seed of mistrust in the British public," said Mr Caan.

"Pakistan is a troubled country: there is no doubt about that but this is our chance to have a positive influence on its future."

According to UNICEF, more than 100,000 children left homeless by the floods are potentially too weak to survive because they don't have enough to eat. Many children in poor rural areas were undernourished before the floods but they are now left to fight diarrhea, respiratory diseases and malaria.

Mr Caan has recently returned from an aid visit to the worst flood affected area of Pakistan.

"An area the size of the UK has been flooded and an estimated 20 million people have had their homes and livelihoods destroyed," he said. "It will take years to rebuild millions of lives in Pakistan. I urge everyone not to forget the victims of this disaster."

"Some people are trying to politicise the relief work and blame the Taliban. It is not about politics it is about people."

Mr Caan said that the UN estimation is that \$460 million will be needed for emergency relief but that the £54 million contributed from the UK was, pro rata, way above any other country

"It makes me proud that donations from the UK are so impressive," he said. "When things really matter the British people always come up trumps. There is so much work to be done and we need so much money that I beg you all not to forget the homeless and the sick children of Pakistan."

“The Caan family has been planning a big party for my 50<sup>th</sup> birthday next year. On my first night back in the UK we jointly decided that we will now spend the money in Pakistan.”

Through the James Caan Foundation Mr Caan intends to re-build a flood destroyed village. He will be flying to Pakistan on the 12<sup>th</sup> October to meet the agencies on the ground to identify a suitable site.

“I plan to build a hundred homes and do everything I can to get it back on its feet. I intend to dispel the seed of doubt that has been sown by Pakistan’s Cricket Authorities and that everything we do shall be totally transparent and accountable. Are you in or out?”

To make a donation to the James Caan Foundation please visit [www.theicf.co.uk](http://www.theicf.co.uk)

To make a donation to the British Pakistan Foundation please visit [www.britishpakistanfoundation.com](http://www.britishpakistanfoundation.com)