

INFORMATION BULLETIN



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

PAKISTAN: FLASH FLOODS

25 July 2001

Information Bulletin N° 1

DREF Allocated: CHF 55,500

This Information Bulletin is being issued based on the needs described below. A DREF allocation of CHF 55,500 has been released, and the Federation does not anticipate further needs. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are needed. This operation will be reported on through the quarterly DREF update.

The Situation

The heaviest rains for 100 years in Pakistan's twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi, and neighbouring areas in Punjab and North West Frontier Province (NWFP), have killed 232 people.

Several people drowned in the main street in Rawalpindi and the whole village of Dadar was swept away in the Mansehra district of NWFP, 80 km north of Islamabad. Mansehra has been worst affected by the disaster - which began on July 23 - with almost 170 confirmed deaths.

Many people have been struck by lightning and more bodies are being discovered in Rawalpindi as water levels drain in the deep culverts (nullahs), typical of Pakistani urban areas. The destroyed village had been built on an old river bed, which had dried over the years as the river took a different course. During the rain, and accompanying high winds, the river reverted to its original course and a 10 metre-high wall of water removed everything in its path. Generally, in rural areas, houses are traditionally built of mud, and are particularly vulnerable to such extreme weather.

In Rawalpindi, business losses in one main bazaar area alone have run to billions of rupees. Stock damage has been particularly heavy because many stores are in basements. Throughout the city, 5,000 houses were damaged and more than 1,000 cattle lost.

The government moved quickly to assist those affected, especially in the twin cities, but Mansehra district still requires additional relief support, in the form of tents, blankets and food items.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

The NWFP branch of the Pakistan Red Crescent Society has already been to the worst-affected area in Mansehra district and provided 20 tents, 200 blankets, 960 metres of unstitched cloth and towels to 200 people (up to 40 families).

The National Society now plans further relief in the same district to 200 of the most vulnerable and worst-affected families (about 1,200 beneficiaries), with the provision of 200 tents, 1,000 food packs and 1,000 blankets. Traditional food items (flour, lentils, cooking oil and salt) will be purchased in Peshawar, which was not badly affected by the storms. These items will provide for one family for up to two months, while livelihoods are reestablished. Tents and blankets will be taken from existing National Society preparedness stocks, which will need to be replenished.

Outline budget is as follows (in CHF):

• Tents x 200	22,000
• Food packs x 1,000	15,000
• Blankets x 1,000	7,000
• Storage, transport, distribution	5,000
• Administration/Contingency	1,000
• Programme support budget (PSB) 11 per cent	5,500
• TOTAL:	55,500

For a full description of the National Society profile, see www.ifrc.org

For further details please contact :

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All International Federation operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For support to or for further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.

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