

# 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: FLOODS IN SINDH AND BALOCHISTAN

12 September 2003

*Information Bulletin N° 1*

*Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) allocated: N/A*

**This Bulletin is being issued based on the needs described below reflecting the information available at this time. Based on further updates and details from assessment reports, or should the situation deteriorate, the Federation may consider additional support through an appeal.**

### *The Situation*

Responding to the impact of torrential rains which hit the drought-stricken areas of Balochistan and Sindh, the Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) has been conducting auxiliary relief activities, assisting the authorities in their efforts. Heavy rains, the heaviest of the season, have continued to intermittently hit the province of Sindh. The city of Karachi has received 308mm of rain as compared to three mm. last year, virtually paralysing the whole city. According to various reports, these rains have affected more than 800,000 leaving 250 dead and with damage to property and livelihoods. With the monsoon period expected to persist until mid-September, the PRCS has stepped in to complement the immediate relief efforts of the authorities and other agencies.

There is a increased concern over health risks, including infection from various water borne diseases, due to the fact that many Government-run health facilities are half-submerged in water. The PRCS is therefore doing its part to extend help. The PRCS Balochistan branch rushed two medical teams to the affected areas of Jhal Magsi and District Jafarabad, one of the worst hit areas of Balochistan. In the camps of Saifabad, Aliabad (Jhal Magsi) and Head Bagh (Jafarabad) the local populations were treated for anaemia, skin disorder, worm cases, malaria, diarrhoea, typhoid, and urinary tract infections.

Further relief aid in the flood-stricken southern province of Sindh is still urgently needed. People are still living in camps, although some in Sindh Province have been able to go home. However, about a million people have lost their livelihoods, so there needs to be a solid rehabilitation initiative. An emergency was declared by the local authorities in Sindh in July after it received heavy rains, which caused huge floods across the provinces of Sindh and neighbouring Balochistan. It is believed to have been heaviest downpour in a decade, affecting about 970,000 people in Sindh and more than 450,000 in Balochistan. Nationally, Pakistan has thus far spent close to over US \$1.1 million in providing the affected people in the two provinces with aid, but at least 40 percent more of what had already been supplied to the regions is still needed.

Though there has been no outbreak of epidemics, there is still a limited capacity to handle the spread of disease. There are a growing number of cases of gastroenteritis, malaria and eye infections being reported - directly related to the lack of safe drinking water.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent Action

The PRCS responded immediately to the needs. There is already a close working relationship between the local administration of the affected areas of Sindh and Balochistan Province. USAID Pakistan, on behalf of the United States of America, has provided US\$ 50,000 to the PRCS in support of its emergency assistance to the victims of the flood in Southern Pakistan, with a further US\$ 50,000 coming from the Chinese Red Cross, through the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad. These funds are being used to provide food, clothing, blankets, lanterns, plastic sheeting and other items to fulfil critical needs of the citizens affected by the floods. The PRCS national headquarters released PKR 150,000 to the PRCS Balochistan branch and PKR 200,000 to the Sindh Provincial branch for immediate use. In Sindh, the PRCS district branches of Hyderabad and Badin continue to carry out relief activities in liaison with the military, rangers and local government authorities. The International Committee of the Red Cross have provided logistical support of four 4 x4 vehicles to PRCS Sindh with wireless networking to provide relief on time to the most affected in Badin, along with some rice. The Iran Red Crescent has sent two truck loads of relief materials.

### **ASSISTANCE IN CASH/ KIND (approximate value in CHF 285,000)**

Donor	Quantity (Kind)	Amount (Cash)	Province wise Distribution
PRCS – NHQ		200,000	Sindh Provincial Branch
PPCS – NHQ		150,000	Balochistan Provincial Branch
Turkish Red Crescent Society	Medicines (1,860 kgs)	Rs.417, 484/-	Handed over to Govt. 42 cartons for Sindh Province and 40 cartons for Balochistan
Turkish Red Crescent Society	Food Parcels (8,500 kgs) : Rice, Tea, Flour, Sugar)	Rs.368, 764	Handed over to Govt. Distributed to Sindh
UAE Red Crescent Society	Food Packs (1400) (Lentils, Flour, Cooking oil etc.)	Rs.1, 599,988	Handed over to Govt. 700 food packs for Sindh and 700 for Balochistan
ICRC	Goods and services (4X4 vehicles, rice, radio transmitters, tarpaulins etc.)	Rs.2, 900,000/-	Sindh Provincial Branch.
USAID		Rs. 2,860,000/-	Sindh Provincial Branch
Chinese Red Cross		Rs. 1,114,000/-	Sindh Provincial Branch.
Chinese Red Cross		Rs. 1,768,941/-	Balochistan Provincial Branch.

### **Summary of Relief Activities in Sindh:**

Food parcels (flour, sugar, cooking oil, tea, lentils, rice, salt)	Badin, Thatta, Dadu, Larkana, Jacobabad	6,000 parcels (13 kgs to each family)
Blankets	Badin, Thatta	1,500
Hurricane lamps	Badin, Thatta, Dadu	200
Cooking stoves	Badin, Thatta, Dadu, Mithi	200
Tents	Badin	100
Second-hand clothing	Badin	700
Rice (from ICRC)	Badin, Thatta	25 kg packs
Tarpaulins (from ICRC)	Badin, Thatta	1,000

### **Summary of Relief Activities in Balochistan:**

Free medical camp	Jhal Magsi	637 people
Free medical camp	Jafarabad	709 people
Free medical camp	Harnai	457 people
Free medical camp	Lasbela	1230 people
Free medical camp	Awaran	670 people
Free medical camp	Khuzdar	1290 people
Food parcel (flour)	Jhal Magsi (10 villages)	500 families

Food parcel (flour)	Lasbela and nearby villages	450 families
Food parcel (flour)	Awaran and nearby villages	450 families
Food parcel (flour)	Sibi, Harnai, nearby villages	300 families

Out of the donations received from the Chinese Red Cross and USAID, PRCS Balochistan and Sindh are in the process of procuring food parcels, plastic sheeting and kitchen utensils for flood victims .

#### **Possible further needs:**

Additional relief aid in the flood-stricken southern province of Sindh is still urgently needed. People are still living in camps, although some in Sindh have been able to go home. However, as indicated above, around one million people have been affected, so there will be ongoing rehabilitation needs. It is expected that further financial support will be required to extend relief in the affected areas of both provinces. The PRCS has been maintaining regular coordination with bilateral donors and other key players in this flood relief operation including the Federation, ICRC, UN agencies and INGOs. PRCS participated in the flood relief coordination meetings, organised by UNDP. A national assessment team for the rehabilitation programme has been formed by a UN initiative, and the PRCS is a member of the assessment team, along with other organisations.

The Federation's delegation in Pakistan is monitoring the flood situation and the PRCS relief operation, and providing updated information to Geneva and the South Asia Regional Delegation (SARD).

No international appeal or request for DREF was launched, as the PCRS has been able to respond to this emergency using a combination of its own resources, in-country fund-raising, local support and goods in-kind contributed by sister national societies. This reflects the development of a disaster response capacity within the national society to mobilize resources and respond to this level of disaster.

#### **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> and also <http://www.nrcs.org>.*

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