

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

16 February 2005

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilising the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organisation and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.

In Brief

This Information Bulletin (no. 2/2005) is being issued for information only. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

- Based on the needs described below reflecting the information available at this time. CHF 50,000 has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF). Based on further updates and details from assessment reports, or should the situation deteriorate, the Federation may consider international support through an Emergency Appeal.

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

The Situation

Heavy rain and snowfalls in Pakistan have continued, increasing the death toll to over 500 and hindering efforts to aid survivors and reach isolated areas. Rescue operations are ongoing in the provinces of North West Frontier Province (NWFP), Balochistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir. In the latter province, communications have been severely disrupted. A large relief effort by over 4,000 military personnel is ongoing in the worst affected districts. Aid has been airlifted daily by military C-130 aircraft since last week.

NWFP – Nearly nine districts have been badly affected due to the recent heavy rain snowfalls. Over 260 people have now died while 221 have been injured. Snow and landslides blocking roads to badly affected areas in the NWFP are hampering efforts to bring in food, medicines, tents and blankets. Initial assessments reveal 2400 houses have been destroyed, 3,700 damaged while hundreds of livestock have died. In Chitral District, 4,000 people are completely cut off and isolated as a result of continuous snowfall.



Map courtesy www.bbc.co.uk



An aerial view of the devastation caused when a dam near the town of Pasni in southern Balochistan burst (REUTERS/Pakistan Navy/courtesy www.Alertnet.org)

Balochistan – Nearly 40,000 people have been severely affected by two weeks of heavy rains and flash floods (exacerbated by dam bursts) and authorities confirm more than 250 people have died. A further 2,000 people are still listed as missing. Relief efforts are continuing with thousands of troops mobilised to help displaced villagers. Floodwaters have still not receded. On 15 February, the Balochistan cabinet asked the central government to declare the province a calamity-hit region. There is an immediate need for the supply of 1,000 tents and 5,000 blankets following a request by the local government. However, in the long-run, communities will need alternative sources of livelihood as they had lost crops, livestock etc.

Azad Jammu and Kashmir – The official death toll in Azad Jammu and Kashmir is 59, with most of those killed buried by avalanches, landslides and collapsed roofs. However, the number may rise

considerably, as several areas are still inaccessible and, due to bad weather, air links are not possible. There is an estimated 20,000 families stranded in the valleys of Neelum, Leepa and other areas.

The current weather system is likely to continue in Pakistan for the next two to three days especially in Islamabad, the Northern Areas, Kashmir and upper parts of the Punjab and NWFP. The water levels in two small reservoirs, Khanpur and Simli, have been rising and surrounding communities have been asked to remain prepared for a possible evacuation.

Officials have warned of possible disease outbreaks with people facing shortages of clean drinking water.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Through its provincial branch network, the Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) is the only non government organisation (NGO) covering all affected areas. The consignment dispatched by PRCS for Balochistan has been airlifted from Karachi and distributed in affected areas around Pasni and Gwadar, under the supervision of the director of operations, PRCS. A 10-tonne consignment of relief item comprising tents, blankets, and essential food supplies has been distributed in the affected areas of Swat in NWFP by the PRCS NWFP branch. A similar consignment has reached Muzaffarabad and is in the process of being distributed by the PRCS AJK branch to people in the Neelum Valley.



Men walk along a road damaged by a landslide in Muzaffarabad (REUTERS/Amiruddin Mughal/courtesy www.Alertnet.org)

The earlier consignment sent on 12 February by the Balochistan provincial branch in Quetta has reached the affected people in the districts of Khuzdar and Pasni. The relief items consists of tents (500), blankets (400), plastic sheets (2000), jerry cans (1,500), gas cylinders (50), saline drips (2,000), bandages (200), kitchen sets (350), clothes (six cartons), choroquin syrup (500) bottles and oral rehydration solution (ORS) (1,000) sachets.

PRCS has received a donation of USD 29,000 (CHF 34,400) from the United Nations development programme (UNDP). The Chinese Embassy has donated USD 20,000 (CHF 23,800) and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Red Crescent Society has also expressed their desire to contribute. Disaster Relief Emergency Funds of CHF 50,000 were released to assist with the operation.

An appeal for financial support has been launched at provincial level by the NWFP and Balochistan branches. The national society is coordinating with the Pakistan army to deliver relief items through helicopters and C130 aircraft. The operations room at national headquarters, NWFP and Balochistan branches are also functioning.

Other NGOs working with the relief operation are Oxfam-GB, MSF-H, CRS, CWS-P/A, Concern Worldwide, Islamic Relief and Focus.

For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's [Annual Appeal](#).

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