

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/LANDSLIDES

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The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in 185 countries.

In Brief

This Bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the situation and the information available at this time. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

Flash floods and landslides caused by heavy monsoon rains have adversely affected parts of Pakistan. The situation in Pakistan-administered Kashmir, Punjab, Balochistan and the North West Frontier Province (NWFP) is worse with damages to property and a death toll of 70 people to date. The Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) has been monitoring the situation and liaising with the government and other agencies to provide assistance. It has distributed food and non-food relief items in the affected areas.

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The Situation

Heavy monsoon rains have caused flooding and landslides across Pakistan, especially in the North West Frontier Province (NWFP), Pakistan-administered Kashmir, Punjab and Balochistan. Many of the affected people in northern Pakistan are still vulnerable and recovering from the devastating earthquake of October 2005.

There were 59 confirmed deaths at various locations in the week prior to reporting, bringing the death toll to 70 people in July.

Recent developments in NWFP are:

- Flooding and landslides in villages across Garhi Habibullah in the Mansehra district. The village of Gul Dheri was particularly affected after the Kunhar river burst its banks on 27 July, causing damage virtually to all houses and affecting 400 families. So far six deaths have been confirmed.



Jaboori village in the Siran Valley was smashed by torrential floods, uprooting trees and sweeping away houses.



Villagers in Jaboori, where eight people died, attempt to move flood debris with their bare hands.

- Overflowing storm drains flooded the area in and around the town of Charsadda, 29 kilometers north-east of Peshawar (the capital of NWFP). Five people were killed.
- In Jaboori village in the Siran Valley, eight people have been reported dead due to flash floods.
- Seven bodies have so far been recovered following flash floods in the Karak district (south-west of Peshawar) on 29 July. Hundreds of people gathering for a weekly fair/market had camped in that area when it was inundated by flood waters.
- It was reported that 21 people had died in the southern port city of Karachi on 31 July. Most of the fatalities were a result of electrocutions and road accidents due to bad weather conditions.

Deaths were also recorded in the cities of Rawalpindi and Lahore (in Punjab). Most of the affected people were those living in shanty accommodation near rivers and streams.

A week prior to the reporting date, 12 people died in a landslide in the village of Cheela Bandi in Muzaffarabad, a district of Pakistan-administered Kashmir.

Coordination

The government's district coordination officer for the district of Mansehra has convened regular coordination meetings since 27 July. The Federation and the Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) have attended these meetings, along with other agencies such as United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), International Medical Corp, Oxfam and the International Organization for Migration. The district coordination officer has assigned PRCS and the Federation with responsibility for two villages near the town of Balakot and to assist and support the Jaba relief camp.

The Pakistan Red Crescent Society is working with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in affected areas in Pakistan-administered Kashmir. The PRCS is monitoring all affected areas and liaising with the government and other agencies on the assistance it can provide.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The PRCS is taking advantage of staff and facilities and using pre-existing branch capacities which had been put in place as part of the ongoing earthquake operation with the Federation.

The PRCSs NWFP provincial branch in Peshawar responded immediately to the flooding in Charsadda. A three-member assessment team visited the affected area, and after recommendations, essential items targeting 300 families were distributed on 29 July in the villages of Utmanzai and Turangzai. The items provided are shown in the table below:

Items	Quantity
Food parcels (rice, pulses, cooked beans, tinned fish)	300
Tarpaulins	200
Jerry cans	250
Kitchen sets	100
Water purification tablets	28,000

A PRCS and Federation assessment team visited flood-affected areas in Garhi Habibullah on 31 July. Their findings, along with discussions with local authorities, will feed into plans for the distribution of tents and hygiene kits in the affected areas.

An initial assessment of Gul Dheri village in Garhi Habibullah was carried out by a four-member PRCS team on 27 July. The assessment found that 400 families had been adversely affected by the flooding. Most of them suffered damage or destruction to their houses. The PRCS and the Federation has committed 400 tents and 400 hygiene parcels to meet the needs of the affected people while the national headquarters is finalising details of food packs for 400 families. On 26 July, PRCS had despatched to Mansehra 110 family food packs supplemented by 1,120 kgs of rice and 21 kgs of tea.

A three-member PRCS monitoring team in Siran Valley is providing support to local communities moving to safer ground.



Villagers in Gul Dheri cleaning up after the Kunhar river broke its banks and swept through the village, damaging 400 houses.

The PRCS and the Federation is providing emergency relief to two villages (Billiyian and Dhari) near the town of Balakot and assisting relief efforts at the Jaba camp. The Jaba camp, established by UNHCR, is a safe site away from hazardous floods. It has a natural freshwater source and was formerly used as an earthquake relief camp which can accommodate up to 400 families. The PRCS and the Federation have provided 150 tents for the camp, which arrived at Jaba on 31 July.

The PRCS responded to the landslide at Cheela Bandi, situated in Muzaffarabad district in Pakistan-administered Kashmir, by sending medical staff and volunteers to assist with rescue and relief operations. They recovered 12 bodies, rescued five people and provided medical attention. The local PRCS branch provided 15 tents, 65 blankets and food items to affected people. National headquarters despatched further supplies of food items constituting 80 family packs.

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The International Federation undertakes activities that are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to achieve the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

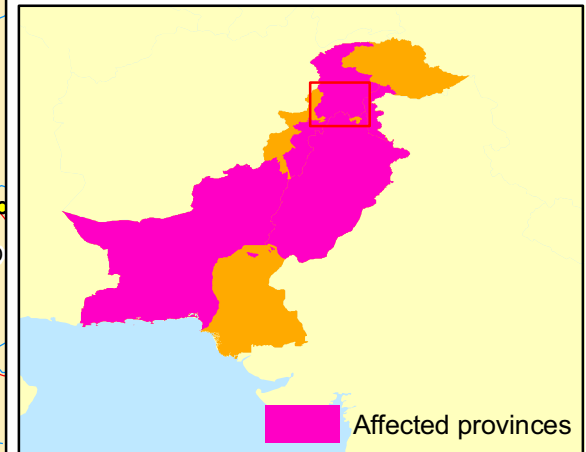
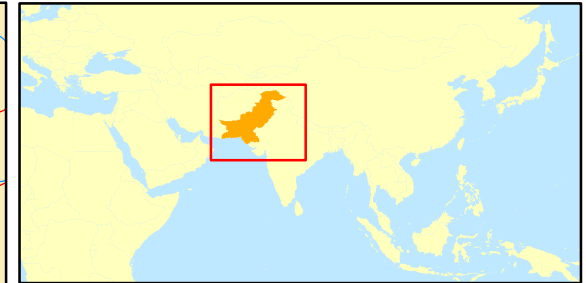
- *Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.*
- *Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.*
- *Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.*
- *Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.*

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>



Pakistan: Floods/Landslides



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Map data sources: ESRI, Keyobs, DCW, GIST, Federation