

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/CYCLONE YEMYIN

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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 (no. 05/2007) is being issued for information only, and reflects the status of the situation and information available at this time. The Federation today has released an amount of CHF 250,000 out of its Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF). Un-earmarked funds to repay DREF will be encouraged. A preliminary emergency appeal is being developed and will be launched shortly.

Summary: It is estimated that 1.5 million people have been affected in Baluchistan province, in southern Pakistan, and 250,000 have been left homeless as a result of the effects of cyclone Yemyin and subsequent flooding.¹ The official death toll for Baluchistan on the day of reporting was 100. A total of 15 out of 29 districts across the province have been affected.

In the neighboring province of Sindh to the east, a total of five districts (including the provincial capital Karachi) were affected by flooding. The official death toll in Karachi and surrounding districts, following the bad weather which began on 23 June 2007, is 100. However, 29 fisherman who were at sea when the cyclone hit are still missing. Flood waters are flowing from Baluchistan into Sindh, causing flood canals to overflow and inundate villages and farmland.

There has also been flash flooding in the Khyber agency and Chitral areas of the North West Frontier Province. A total of 23 fatalities have been officially confirmed. Flood waters were receding on the day of reporting.

A low pressure system crossing India is expected to bring heavy rain, accompanied by gusty winds, to Sindh and Baluchistan over the next four days, according to the Pakistan meteorological office. Heavy rain is forecast for Baluchistan over 5-6 July.

The government of Pakistan is launching a national appeal for assistance and, while it is not requesting international aid this stage, it says it would welcome international support.

For further information specifically related to this operation please see [contact details](#) on the last page.

Please see the following pages for details on the current situation and Red Cross and Red Crescent action.

¹ Official figures from the Baluchistan Relief Commissioner on 02 July 2007

The Situation

Baluchistan:

According to the Baluchistan Relief Commissioner's office, 15 districts in the province have now been affected. These are the coastal areas of Kech, Gwadar and Lasbela, the northern districts of Qila Abdullah, Qila Saifullah, Pashin and Nushki, and the north-eastern districts of Jalmugsi, Bolan, Nasirabad, Jaffarabad, Chaghi, Khuzdar, Awaran and Sibi. The worst affected district is Kech (particularly the town of Turbat and surrounding union councils), followed by Sibi and Jaffarabad.

Road, bridges and communications infrastructures have been badly damaged and many areas remain inaccessible by road. Significant portions of the Baluchistan coastal highway have been torn away and various bridges washed out. The provincial government estimates that it will take another two weeks to repair the coastal highway, while the Quetta-Karachi road will be closed for another 3-4 days. However the Gwadar-Turbat highway is now open and access roads from Iran to Turbat are operational. According to the Baluchistan Relief Commissioner, roads and trains to Chaghi and Bolan districts are now operational and relief items are able to be transported to these areas.

The two-person assessment team from the Federation, which reached Turbat on 27th June, reports that water, food and shelter are the priority needs. Cases of diarrhea and skin complaints have been reported in some union councils. Turbat town has only intermittent electricity and there is still no electricity in the adjoining areas.

Sindh:

The northernmost district of Jacobabad is the newest area to suffer from flooding in Sindh province. Flood waters are flowing from the adjoining province of Baluchistan. Flood canals have been breached at six points. The 25,000 people living in Shadadkot town are particularly vulnerable. The districts of Larkana and Dadu are still suffering from flooding, while Karachi and Thatta district were recovering from the deluge which began on 23rd June.

North West Frontier Province (NWFP):

Heavy rain and flash flooding hit Chitral and the Khyber agency areas, following heavy rains which commenced on 28th June. Parts of the Peshawar-Turkham road and several bridges have been washed out. The deluge led to part of a glacier breaking loose in Chitral district, destroying some houses and killing 23 people.

While earthquake-affected areas have received heavy rain since 28th June, no significant damage has been reported. The Pakistan meteorological office issued a warning, on the day of reporting, to communities in Balakot town and surrounding areas, with the Kunhar river expected to run high over the next 48 hours. People in low-lying areas are being advised to move to safer ground.

Government action:

The army, navy and air force are being used for relief and rescue work. A total of 12 C-130 Hercules aircrafts are making relief flights (38 flights so far) and 12 helicopters are operational in Baluchistan province and Jacobabad district in Sindh province. So far, helicopter rescue missions evacuated 1,500 people from Bolan, Jalmugsi, Nasirabad and Jaffarabad districts in Baluchistan.

Relief items will be distributed from Karachi to various parts of Baluchistan, as the coastal areas in Baluchistan are closer to Karachi than Quetta (the Baluchistan provincial capital). The army has established a base in Sukkur district in Sindh, to target relief supplies to affected districts in the northern part of the province.

The army has been deployed to all vulnerable districts in Baluchistan and Jacobabad. Army medical personnel are being deployed to affected areas and army engineers are working on reestablishing road links. The navy has been engaged in a number of rescue missions of fishing boat crews. Seaborne relief is being considered from Karachi to Gwadar.

The Federal government earlier announced relief packages of Pakistan rupees 200 million (USD 3.3 million/Euro 2.5 million) each for Baluchistan and Sindh provinces.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Baluchistan:

The Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) has commenced the procurement of 6,000 food parcels for affected areas in Baluchistan. Each food parcel (consisting of 10 kilograms of rice, 2 kilograms of lentils, 2.5 kilograms of clarified butter, 2 kilograms of sugar, 500 grams of dried milk, 400 grams of tea, 1 kilogram of salt and 1 pack of matches) is sufficient for one week's ration for a family of seven members. Of this, 3,000 parcels are being procured in Quetta and will be distributed in two union councils in Turbat town. The other 3,000 parcels are being procured in Karachi and will be distributed in Sibi, Jaffarabad and Jalmugsi districts. The items will be transported by road or military aircraft, depending on the weather and road access available.

Following assessments by a two-person team from the Federation, which arrived in Turbat on 28th June, four water pumps and tanks have been procured and supplied to four communities in Koshkalat union council. These pumps are being used to source water from wells, and chemicals supplied by a local NGO are being utilized for purification of the water. The units are providing drinkable water for 782 families. Two 125 litre water tanks have also been provided to two schools in Turbat town, which are acting as relief centres for displaced families. The Federation assessment team has been strengthened by the arrival of a four-member PRCS team from Quetta, on 30th June. PRCS's district branches in Sibi and Jaffarabad have deployed assessment teams, which will send their findings to the provincial headquarters in Quetta.

On the request of the Federation team in Turbat, the PRCS national headquarters, in Islamabad, dispatched 1,000 tents, 500 jerry cans, 2,000 blankets and 1,000 plastic tarpaulin sheets. The items have been handed over to the national disaster management authority, for airlifting to Turbat where they will be distributed by the army to affected families. A military C-130 aircraft has delivered 400 family packs (each containing a tent, two tarpaulins, two jerry cans and a hurricane lamp) from the PRCS's Baluchistan provincial headquarters in Quetta to Gwadar, where they are being distributed by the army and local authorities.²

A total of 2,100 kilograms of essential medicines, with an estimated value of CHF 30,550 (USD 25,000/Euro 18,500), have been shifted from the PRCS medical warehouse in Mansehra (NWFP), to Islamabad. On the day of reporting, the items were awaiting transportation to Baluchistan by a military C-130 aircraft, and were to be shifted as soon as cargo space became available.

Two PRCS medical teams (each consisting of a doctor, female health visitor and a dispenser) arrived in Turbat on the day of reporting. Another two medical teams are on standby in Lahore.

Sindh:

The PRCS's Sindh provincial branch began distributions of food parcels (each containing a 10 kilogram bag of rice, two one kilogram bags of lentils, a one kilogram bag of sugar, matches and candles) for 500 families in the slum area of Gadaab in Karachi, on the day of reporting. The distribution was postponed from 30th June due to security concerns resulting from protests by local residents over electricity availability. Another 1,000 family packs, for distribution in other parts of Sindh province, are currently being procured.

The PRCS medical camp in Gadaab (supplemented by two mobile teams) saw a total of 1,026 patients over 26-29 June. A total of 350 cases of gastroenteritis, caused by drinking contaminated water, were recorded. The medical camp will be focusing on gastroenteritis patients in the coming days. The team consisted of three doctors, four paramedics and four volunteers. A total of 2,000 hygiene kits have been sent from the PRCS national headquarters, for distribution pending assessments/feedback from medical and disaster response teams.

The basic health unit in Keti Bandar, in Thatta district has seen 997 patients over 26-30 June. PRCS relief teams distributed a 10 kilogram bag of rice per family, to 200 families, in Keti Bandar on 28th June. Non-food relief items have been pre-positioned and may be distributed depending on need.

The relief teams in Dadu district, north of Karachi, distributed 200 bags of rice (10 kilograms each) amongst

² These items were originally intended for Turbat but the flight was diverted to Gwadar due to bad weather.

affected communities in Juhi union council. This is in addition to an earlier distribution of 100 bags of rice (five kilograms each), 61 plastic tarpaulin sheets, 79 utensil sets, 91 blankets and 11 stoves. The provincial branch headquarters dispatched a medical team, consisting of a doctor and four paramedics, to Juhi on the day of reporting.

Meanwhile the flood-affected district of Larkana is to receive emergency relief assistance from the provincial headquarters. The following items - 200 utensil sets, 200 plastic tarpaulin sheets, 200 blankets and 100 stoves - were sent to Kambar town in Larkana on the day of reporting.

North West Frontier Province:

The PRCS's provincial branch in NWFP dispatched relief items (consisting of 200 tents, 200 plastic tarpaulin sheets, 400 blankets, 200 quilts, 400 jerry cans, 200 wood-burning stoves, and cooking oil) for 200 families in the Khyber agency area on 29th June. These items were distributed by the relief team from the provincial branch, in coordination with the local government, on 30th June. The provincial branch has requested the PRCS national headquarters for the replenishment of these stocks.

The PRCS/Federation is on standby in the earthquake-affected areas. A disaster response team undertook a field visit to Balakot and Garhi Habibullah, in Mansehra district, during the three days prior to reporting. PRCS volunteers in a number of communities have been put on alert by the disaster response team.

Coordination

The PRCS national headquarters is liaising with its provincial branch headquarters in Sindh and Baluchistan. National headquarters is convening a meeting of in-country partner national societies on 5th July, to collate information on possible bilateral assistance.

The Federation acting head of delegation, liaising with all relevant sectors in the delegation, is coordinating with the PRCS and the International Committee of the Red Cross (head of delegation). The Federation delegation is coordinating with the Geneva Secretariat and, on the day of reporting, a Federation Assessment and Coordination Team was being assembled for imminent deployment to Pakistan. The Federation team in Turbat is participating in a coordination group of local and international agencies, and government officials. Due to the large role being played by the military in Baluchistan, the Federation team is liaising with the Baluchistan Frontier Corp.

The United Nations (UN) Resident Coordinator's office launched the cluster system, on the day of reporting, to deal with the emergency. The Federation acting head of delegation attended the inter-agency standing committee meeting and the shelter cluster meeting immediately afterwards. The Federation will take the lead on shelter needs in the initial phase and the UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) will then take the lead on long-term shelter solutions. The International Organisation for Migration has indicated a willingness to take the lead on camp management.

How we work

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.

The Federation's Global Agenda

The International Federation undertakes activities that are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out **four broad goals** to meet 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.

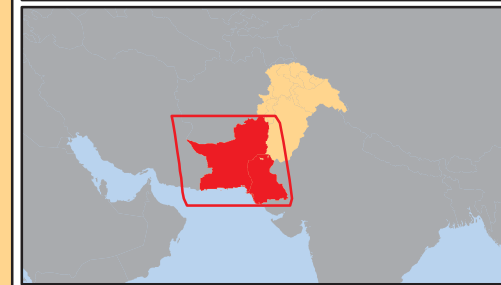
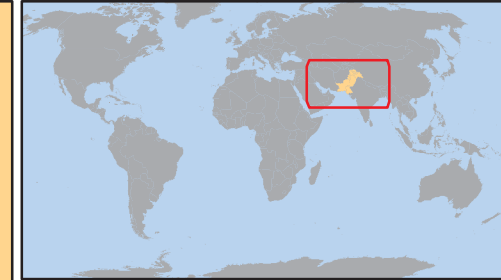
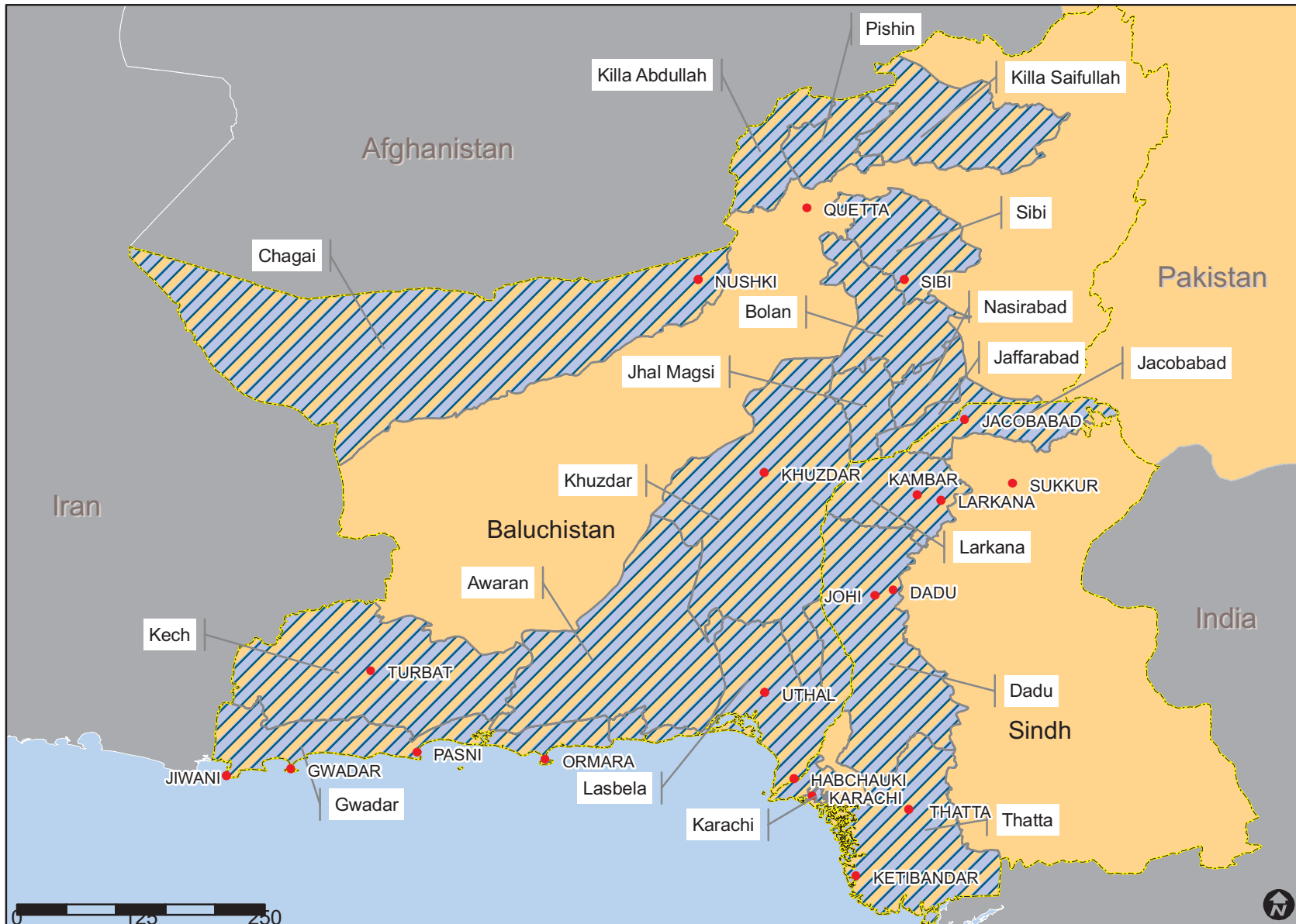
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Pakistan: Floods and cyclone Yemyin



Districts affected by floods in Baluchistan and Sindh provinces

- Cities
- Provinces in Pakistan
- Districts affected
- Other countries
- Pakistan



The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.

Map data sources: ESRI, GIST, Federation