

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: STORM/CYCLONE YEMYIN

**Information Bulletin no.
03/2007
27 June 2007
Glide No. TC-2007-
000084-PAK and
TC-2007-000085-PAK**

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. 03/2007) is being issued for information only, and reflects the status of the situation and information available at this time. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

Summary: Cyclone Yemyin has subsided but has resulted in torrential rain in areas of the southern Pakistan province of Baluchistan, particularly near the coast. So far, 17 deaths had been reported in Baluchistan. The port city of Gwadar and the town of Turbat have been flooded and thousands of people have been evacuated. Numerous villages have also been affected. Portions of the coastal highway and bridges have been washed away and communication in several areas has been cut.

The worst of the weather is over in Karachi city, but rainfall continues, making life miserable for the affected population, particularly those living in slum areas. The official death toll is 72 but unofficial figures are estimated at over 200. There has been new flooding in Dadu, the district to the north of Karachi, while the adjoining districts of Thatta and Badin have received heavy rain but haven't suffered significant damage.

The Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) is responding with emergency relief items and medical assistance, and is coordinating with the armed forces to transport relief items to areas which have been cut off.

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

The Situation

Tropical cyclone Yemyin has abated but the after effects are still being felt, with the southern province of Baluchistan being drenched by torrential rain. Flooding from the heavy rainfall has washed out portions of the Baluchistan coastal highway, and several bridges and numerous villages and towns have been flooded. There are reports of 17 deaths in the province so far, as a result of the bad weather.

The worst affected areas are Turbat town and the port city of Gwadar, with access roads inundated by water and thousands of people being forced to leave their homes for higher ground. The Pakistan army has reportedly transported approximately 2,000 people from Gwadar to safer ground.



Billboards were ripped from their hoardings in Karachi city, creating lethal debris



A Pakistan Red Crescent Society mobile health team treating patients in one of the badly affected slum areas of Karachi city

Turbat which sits on the banks of the Ketch river, and 26 adjoining villages in the Ketch district, have been hit by floods. The Mirani dam, 50 kilometers west of Turbat, is overflowing, worsening the flood situation, with three nearby villages being swamped. The overflow has also contributed to the flooding of Turbat.

The Baluchistan provincial branch of the Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) has contacted the executive district officer in Turbat who reports that the situation is dire. According to the official, the town is inundated with water and people are taking refuge on the roofs of schools, mosques and government buildings. He says the rain is continuing and boats and helicopters are required to rescue people.

The Federation Pakistan delegation's disaster management manager says the coastal communities are vulnerable to any form of flooding. According to him, "They are generally poor

and also not used to heavy rain, as this is a predominantly dry area. As people tend to have mud houses in or near dry river beds, a deluge like this will hit them hard".

Meanwhile, Karachi city, in Sindh province, is in clean-up mode following the weekend's violent storm. The official death toll is 72 but private ambulance services report collecting over 200 bodies. The majority of deaths and injuries were caused by flying debris, collapsing houses and electrocution caused by fallen power lines. The poorest areas of the city were the hardest hit, particularly the slum settlement at Gadaab, where 1,000 shanty dwellings were destroyed. The districts of Thatta and Badin, in Sindh province, also received heavy rain, but the situation is improving and no major damage has been reported. However the district of Dadu is suffering from flooding with irrigation canals overflowing.

Government response: The Prime Minister announced a relief package of Pakistan rupees 200 million (US\$ 3.3 million/Euro 2.5 million) for affected people in Sindh province. This includes a compensation package of Pakistan rupees 100,000 each (US\$ 1,650/Euro 1,200) for relatives of those killed in the disaster.

The armed forces have been co-opted to provide transportation of relief materials, including airlifts, to areas cut off by road. The Pakistan navy has been involved in rescue operations of fishing vessels.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Sindh

The PRCS's Sindh provincial branch is continuing to respond to emergency needs in Karachi and adjoining districts. The branch had three medical teams operating on 26th June in Gadaab, Liyari and Manora areas of Karachi. The teams treated a total of 279 patients, mainly suffering from viral infections and diarrhoea. Each team is staffed with two doctors, three paramedics and a driver who assists with registration of patients. Two teams were continuing to operate on the day of reporting.

According to the Sindh branch medical officer, poorer areas such as Gadaab have major medical needs mainly due to the lack of clean water. He says that water supplies remain cut while the sewerage system has collapsed. The Federation Pakistan delegation is arranging for 100,000 water purification tablets from the World Health Organisation, to be supplied to the Karachi medical teams.

A medical team is also supporting a PRCS basic health unit in Thatta district, but no progress report has been received to date due to power and phone lines being down.

The Sindh branch is also organising food parcels for 500 families in Gadaab and these should be distributed by 27th June. The food parcels will each consist of a 10 kilogram bag of rice, two one kilogram bag of lentils, a one kilogram bag of sugar, matches and candles.



Pakistan Red Crescent Society's Sindh branch staff loading relief items for distribution in affected districts

PRCS relief teams are continuing to conduct assessments in affected areas of Thatta and Badin districts. The branch has pre-positioned 200 family packs (each consisting of a tent, 5-6 blankets, utensil set, jerry can, two plastic sheets and rice packs) in each district and will commence distributions as soon as assessments are finalised. The branch was also sending a team to respond to flooding in Dadu district, and had despatched an initial 50 family packs for distribution there.

Baluchistan

The progress of PRCS's Baluchistan branch assessment team from Quetta was halted by bad weather at Khuzdar, about 150 kilometres from the coast. The team, however, has liaised with the district coordination officer at Gwadar who has reported a need for tents, food and medicines.

Due to a large number of roads being cut off by the flooding, the planned transportation of 400 family packs (each containing a tent, two tarpaulins, jerry cans and a hurricane lamp) from Quetta has been delayed. The branch headquarters have arranged for an armed forces helicopter to deliver all 400 packs to Turbat. On the day of reporting, a chopper was still being located. It is planned that a PRCS staff member will accompany the relief items. Due to the lack of PRCS branch presence in Turbat and Gwadar, the items would be distributed by the military and local authorities. Owing to the transportation changes, the original plan of splitting the family packs between Turbat and Hub Chauki towns has been dropped.

The PRCS disaster response team, consisting of a disaster management officer and 30 volunteers, has been in place at Hub Chauki town since 25th June, has assisted the local community with relocating to safer areas and providing basic medical assistance.

Coordination

The Baluchistan and Sindh provincial branches of the PRCS are liaising with their respective local government authorities. The Sindh and Baluchistan provincial government have both established disaster coordination offices and are collating data and information. The Baluchistan branch held a meeting with army officials on the day of reporting, to coordinate transportation of relief supplies.

Both branches are in frequent contact with the PRCS national headquarters and the Federation Pakistan delegation is also being kept fully informed on developments. Information is also being shared with in-country partner national societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross. The disaster response teams are coordinating with the district coordination officers in their respective areas.

A disaster management manager and an information officer, from the Federation Pakistan delegation, arrived from Islamabad in Karachi on 26th June. On the day of reporting, they were heading towards Gwadar to try to link up with the Baluchistan branch assessment team making its way from Quetta, to support them.

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.

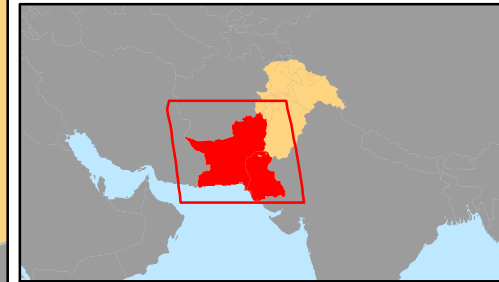
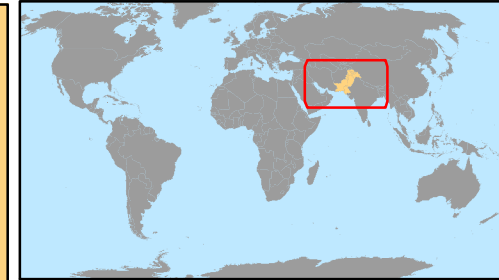
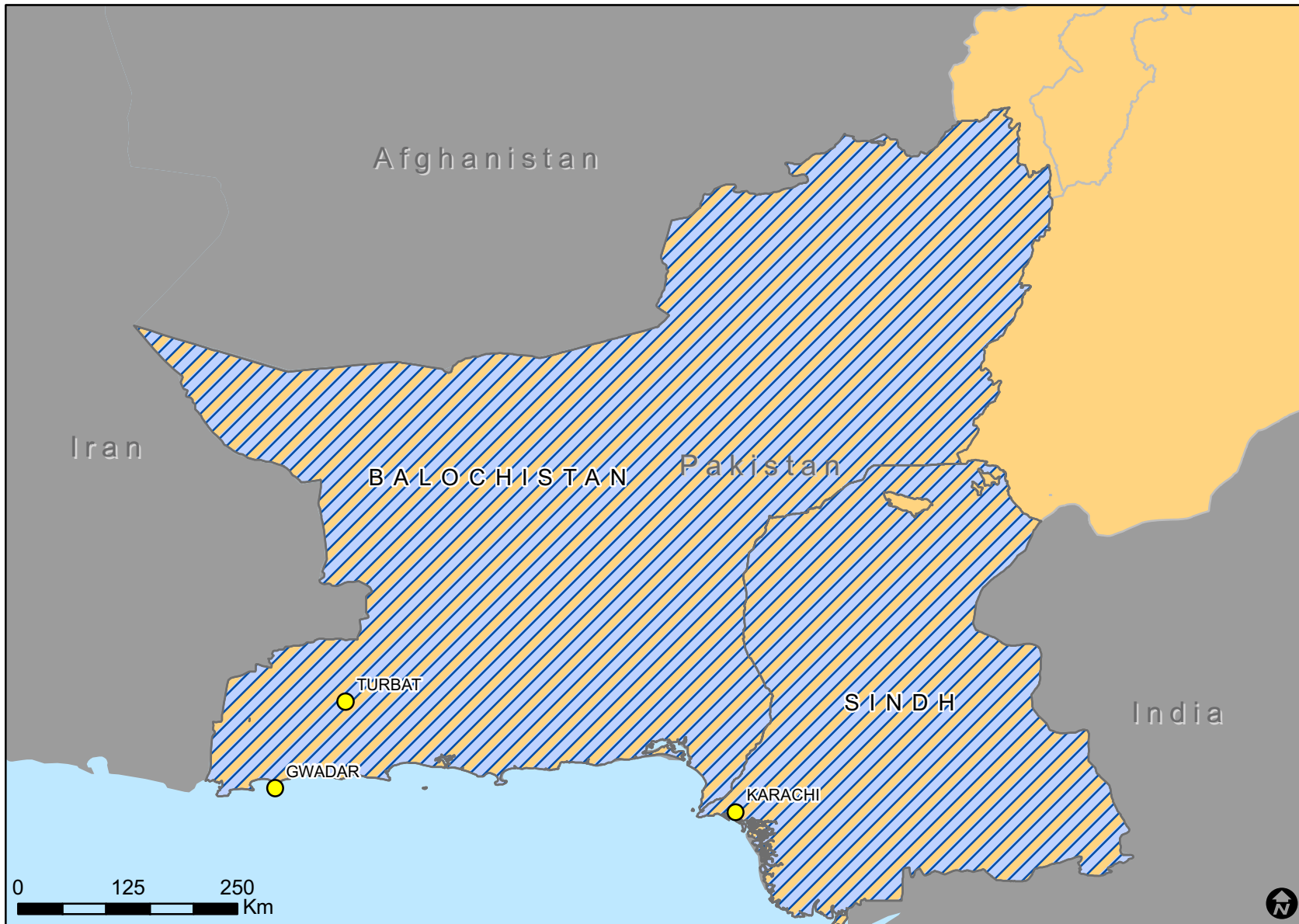
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Pakistan: Storms



Cyclone Yemyin has subsided but has resulted in torrential rain in areas of the southern Pakistan province of Baluchistan, particularly near the coast.

A total of 17 deaths had been reported in Baluchistan by 27 June. The port city of Gwadar and the town of Turbat have been flooded and thousands of people have been evacuated. Numerous villages have also been affected. Portions of the coastal highway and bridges have been washed away and communication in several areas has been cut.

The Pakistan Red Crescent Society is responding with emergency relief items and medical assistance and is coordinating with the armed forces to transport relief items to areas which have been cut off.