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Information bulletin

Pakistan: Sindh Flash Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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This bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS), with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), has determined that external assistance is not required, and is therefore not seeking funding or other assistance from donors at this time.

[<click here to view the map of the affected area, or here for detailed contact information>](#)

Summary: The southern parts of Pakistan were the worst hit by the monsoon spell that started on 9 August 2011. Intense rains have caused flooding and affected the populations of Punjab and Sindh provinces. According to the provincial disaster management authority (PDMA) updates on 29 August, 39 people have died in Sindh as a result of these floods. At least 52 people have been killed in the two provinces with several injured and a huge loss to the livestock, standing crops and mud (*katcha*) houses. The weather advisory issued by the Pakistan metrology department on 2 September raised a high alert in Sindh, southern Punjab and eastern Baluchistan intimating heavy rainfall for another three days. All the concerned departments and organizations working in these areas were informed to remain alert during this time. The increased intensity of rainfall in the northern parts of the country was also predicted from 2 September onwards, which wreaks havoc in southern parts later on as it makes its way to the Arabian Sea.

The Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) response teams including trained staff and volunteers (response, first aid, health and care) were on stand-by in case of any emergency and the PRCS branches in Punjab and Sindh have been closely monitoring the situation; along with regular coordination with the local government and authorities. PRCS is also conducting assessments to investigate the extent of damages and needs of the approximately 750,000 affected and/or displaced people (as reported by local authorities). PRCS Sindh provincial branch has prepositioned relief stock for distribution at PRCS branch in Mirpurkhas.



PRCS has reached at least 5,785 families with food and non-food items to flood-affected people in Sindh. **Photo:** PRCS

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is preparing a preliminary emergency appeal, which will be launched in the coming days.

The situation

The southern parts of Pakistan – mainly the coastal regions of Sindh – were the most affected by the monsoon spell that started on 9 August 2011. The Pakistan Meteorological Office warned about more widespread heavy rainfall in Sindh including Karachi, southern Punjab and eastern parts of Balochistan from 3-5 September. Heavy rains over the same period also generated more flooding in Sindh and flash flooding in D.G. Khan division and at a number of places in Baluchistan.

On 2 September, the Pakistan Meteorological Office further informed that the current spell of monsoon rains would continue for another four days, and scattered rain/thundershowers are also expected in rest of the country (upper Punjab, Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa and Kashmir) during the period.

During last 27 days, intense and scattered heavy rainfall has caused flooding in seven districts and almost 155 union councils in Sindh. This also brought huge losses in southern Punjab and Eastern (coastal) regions of Baluchistan.

According to PRCS assessments, the total affected population exceeds 0.3 million in district Benazirabad (formerly, Nawabshah). The two *talukas* Dorr and Benazirabad are facing flash flooding caused by the rain water and breaches occurred at the saline drains and irrigation links. Benazirabad city is severely affected by the flash floods, with some 2,500 houses damaged and partially submerged. About 49 people have been killed and 365 peoples are seriously injured, 350,000 people have become homeless. The government has provided government buildings and schools as shelter and relief camps.

Media reports indicate that Benazirabad is in a critical situation due to widespread rains. There are reports of heavy losses occurring across Dadu, Kamber Shahdadkot, Naushero Feroze, Tando Allahyar, Mirpurkhas, Badin, Hyderabad and Tharparkar districts. The worst-affected districts (taking into account earlier rains from 12 to 15 August) are Badin, Mirpurkhas, Tando Muhammad Khan and Benazirabad. Media reports indicate 10-15 deaths occurring during the current spell, widespread damage to crops, mud (*katcha*) houses, communication and agricultural infrastructure.

The following table gives an overview of people affected in different districts in Sindh:

Name of Districts	Union Councils affected	No. of people affected	Houses damaged (fully)
Badin	46	1,021,301	438,099
T.M.Khan	16	267,368	50,800
Mirpurkhas	30	316,089	37,304
Tharparkar	11	127,454	15,458
Umerkot	27	70870	24,000
Thatta	6	61,749	7,278
T.Allahyar	19	159,870	20,926
N.Feroze	-	-	-
Khairpur	-	-	-
Benazirabad	51*	-	300,000*
Shikarpur	-	-	10
Jaccobabad	-	-	1
Sanghar	27	-	190
Dadu	33	5,205	537
Hyderabad	-	-	3
6 Tehsils	266	2,029,906	894,606

(Source UNOCHA update as of 2 September 2011 (*) provided by PRCS with coordination of DCO office)

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The PRCS disaster management cell in Badin was activated to respond to the floods from early days of the floods. The secretary of Sindh branch had a meeting with all the field, disaster management staff, recovery coordinator and programme managers to get the updates on the previous response and prepare a plan of action to cope with the emerging situation of the current monsoon spell in the country and particularly in Sindh. Implementation of the response plan was immediately started and three teams were formed for the targeted districts Benazirabad, Badin and Mirpurkhas.

A team consisting of two assessment team members and two WatSan team members has already reached Benazirabad. They have started sending reports, collecting further base line data and had meetings with government officials and other non-governmental organisations working in the district. The WatSan team is finding a suitable place for installing a water purification plant for the affected people. A WatSan plant has been dispatched on 5 September on the basis of assessment. A mobile health unit (MHU) has also reached Benazirabad and has started treating patients. MHUs in Mirpurkhas and Badin have continued their work as of 5 September. The secretary of Sindh branch visited Benazirabad district for rapid assessment on 4 September and has had meetings with the government officials at DCO office, DDO (coordination), PRCS managing committee member and PRCS relief team to start the relief operation as soon as possible. Other teams have reached their respective districts by 5 September. The relief goods (food and non-food including tents) have started being dispatched since 6 September. More food parcels have been ordered to keep the supply chain for distributions in affected areas maintained. It was also found that some of the districts in the 2010 floods are also affected due to current rains and flash floods.

PRCS started emergency relief support for the flood affected people in Sindh as of 19 August, soon after the flash flooding started. An overview of the relief distributions of food and non-food items is given below:

Food and non food items:

Province	District	House holds reached	Food parcels distributed
Sindh	Mirpurkhas	1,435	1,435
Sindh	Badin	3,200	3,200
Sindh	Thatta	1,000	1,000
Sindh	Tharparkar	150	150
	Total	5,785	5,785

Two kinds of food parcels were distributed according to the availability: 3,850 families got 27.5 kg food parcel and 1,375 families got 14.5 kg food parcel to meet the emergency food needs. Along with food, some necessary items like tents, tarpaulins blankets, hygiene parcels and kitchen sets were provided to the affected people where needed.

Emergency health:

Since 24 August, PRCS mobilized its emergency health teams to start MHU for the affected people in Sindh. As of 28 August, PRCS has reached 6,263 individual consultations in Badin, Tharparkar and Mirpurkhas.

WatSan:

Since 23 August, PRCS has distributed 146,000 litres of clean drinking water in flood affected areas. Moreover 280 people have been reached through hygiene promotion activities.

Collectively, it is understood that the monsoon season is not over. The Pakistan Meteorological Department has predicted chances of 10 per cent above normal rainfall in parts of northern Pakistan and that the interaction of the easterly and westerly monsoon systems may cause localized flooding in the coming months. Regular monitoring of the forecasts and actual local situation will need to continue. IFRC country office will continue supporting PRCS with technical support and mobilization of resources.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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How we work

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

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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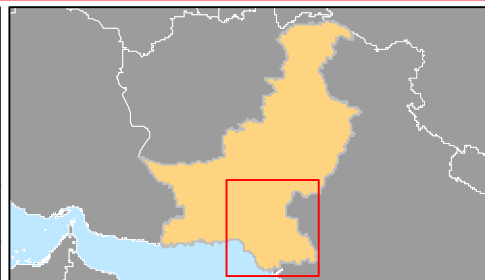
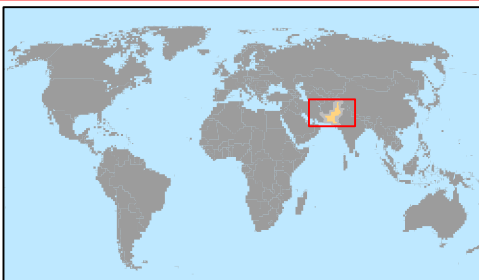
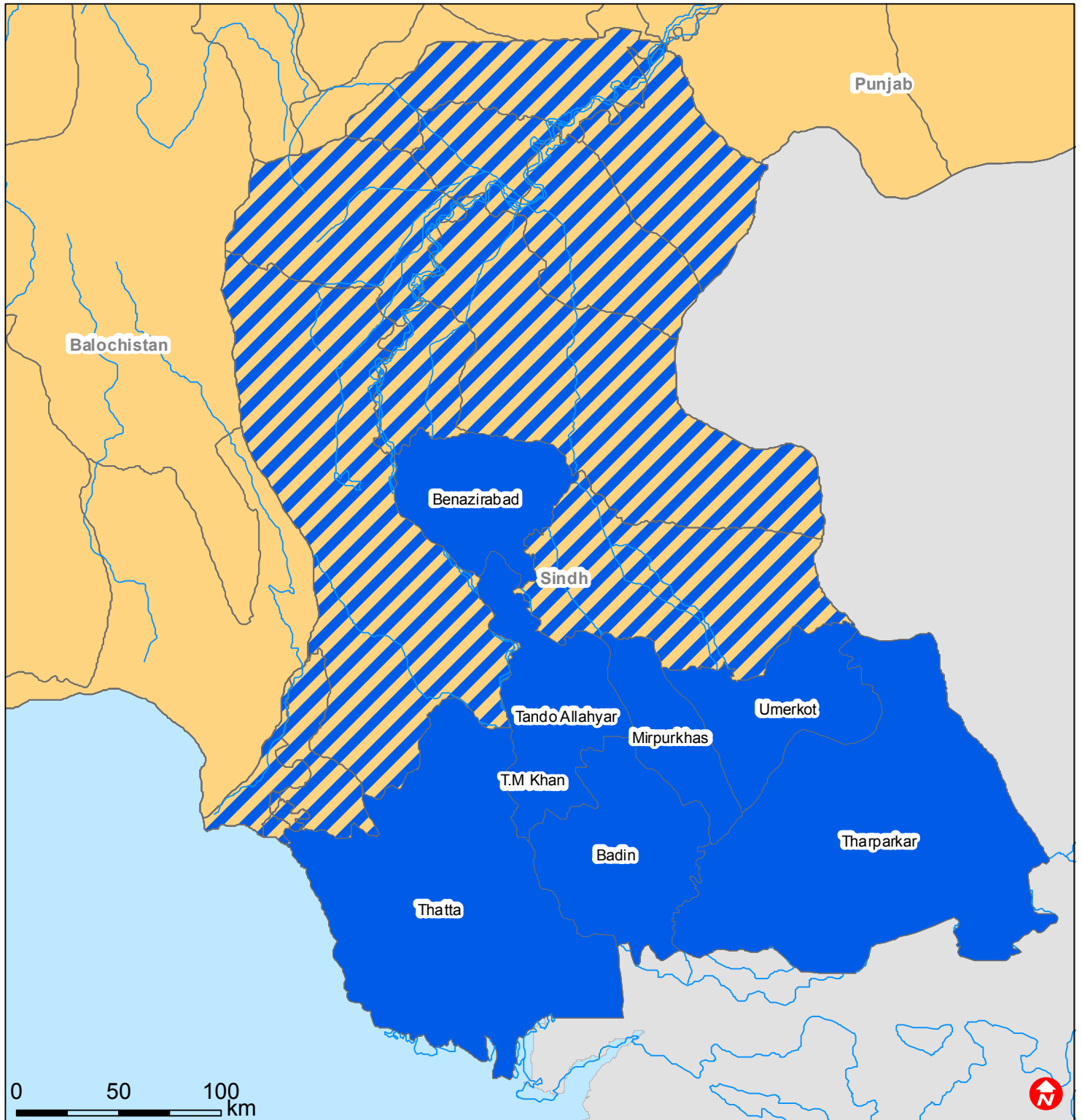




The IFRC's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
 2. Enable healthy and safe living.
 3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.
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Pakistan: Sindh floods



-  Affected districts
-  Affected province