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Information bulletin South Asia: Earthquake

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Information Bulletin n° 1

GLIDE n° [EQ-2015-000147-AFG](#), [EQ-2015-000147-IND](#), [EQ-2015-000147-PAK](#)

27 October, 2015

This joint bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS), Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS), and Pakistan Red Crescent (PRC), with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), are closely monitoring the situation. ARCS and PRC are currently working on a Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) request.

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



ARCS volunteers transferring earthquake victims to the Jalalabad government hospital in Jalalabad city on 26 October 2015. Photo: ARCS

The situation

A magnitude 7.5 earthquake struck Badakhshan Province in Afghanistan at 13:39 (Kabul time) on 26 October 2015. According to the US Geological Survey, the epicentre was 82 km southeast of Feyzabad in the Hindu Kush mountain range and 213 km deep. Two aftershocks were reported in the first two hours after the earthquake hit.

The US Geological Survey initially measured the earthquake's intensity at 7.7 on the Richter scale then revised it down to 7.5. The quake has had a regional impact as significant shaking was felt in Afghanistan's capital, Kabul, and as far as Pakistan – in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), Punjab, Balochistan and Islamabad – and India.

Afghanistan

This has been the worst earthquake in the last 30 years to hit northern Afghanistan. The earthquake has caused extensive damage to property and life in Badakhshan, Takhar, Kunduz, Baghlan, Nuristan, Laghman, Kunar, Nangarhar and Kabul provinces. More of the affected are rural areas. Large swathes of Badakhshan, the

remote province where the epicentre is located, and other areas are effectively controlled by the armed opposition groups, and pose a huge challenge to any official aid efforts.

According to initial information reports received from ARCS eastern regional office in Jalalabad, ARCS north eastern regional office in Kunduz and ARCS Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) in Kabul, a total of 77 people have been killed, 217 injured, 1,447 families affected, and 2,914 houses completely destroyed. A total of 1,202 houses were damaged in Bhadakshan alone. These numbers are likely to increase. The Kabul-Jalalabad highway was blocked by a land slide following the earthquake. A sizeable rock still remains in the middle of the road causing traffic congestion. The provincial disaster management committee in Baghlan Province reported that 286 families have been affected.

Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) is coordinating initial assessments with all in-country humanitarian partners for earthquake response. Shelter and food items are being identified as the priority needs.

India

Based on initial reports received, no significant damage has been reported in Delhi. The metro in Delhi was stopped just after the earthquake and the telecommunication network has been disrupted in Kashmir Valley. The National Coalition of Humanitarian Agencies in India (Sphere India) reports that damages have been reported in shops and market areas of Punjab. State and District Government Administration for Jammu and Kashmir have initially reported low numbers of homes/buildings damaged and death and injuries to its population.

The Government of India has indicated that it is ready to offer assistance to Afghanistan and Pakistan and has initiated an immediate assessment of the situation.

Pakistan

The full extent of the damage and losses is not yet known, but preliminary reports from the Pakistan National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) indicate 206 deaths, 1,381 persons injured and 943 houses damaged across the country. The table below (sourced from NDMA) details the most recent statistics available at this time¹.

| Provinces | Injured | Deaths | Houses Damaged |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|------------|----------------|
| Khyber Pakhtunkhwa | 1,217 | 162 | 513 |
| Gilgit Baltistan | 29 | 8 | 103 |
| Punjab | 67 | 5 | 27 |
| Azad Jammu & Kashmir | 9 | 1 | 0 |
| Federally Administered Tribal Areas | 59 | 30 | 300 |
| Sindh | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Balochistan | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL | 1,381 | 206 | 943 |

The districts of Peshawar, Mansehra, Chitral and Swat in KP are described as being the worst affected. Gilgit Baltistan, FATA, and AJK have also been affected, with reports of damaged houses, landslides and obstructed roadways in AJK. Most of the deaths and injuries are attributed to collapsed roofs and walls. Aftershocks of varying intensity are expected over the coming days..

A state of emergency has been declared in one province at this point, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. At national level the NDMA has taken the lead in coordinating the response. At provincial and district levels, the response is being coordinated by the respective provincial, state and district disaster management authorities. The Government of Pakistan has mobilised all resources to support the earthquake-affected areas. Already, the NDMA has released 2,000 tents, 2,000 blankets and 2,000 floor mats to KP. The Pakistan Army has started

¹ Preliminary Losses/Damages: Earthquake 26 October 2015, National Disaster Management Authority, Government of Pakistan: <http://www.ndma.gov.pk/new/disasters/losses.php>

search and rescue operations in affected areas. United Nations agencies are mobilizing emergency stocks as a preparatory measure in case support is required.

This past weekend, the northern areas of Pakistan experienced heavy snowfall, blocking roads and leaving many areas inaccessible even before the tremor occurred. The prediction is that these areas will experience a long, severe winter.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

IFRC Secretariat are augmenting the efforts to coordinate with in-country Movement partners, including ICRC in Afghanistan, India and Pakistan. RDRT and FACT information alert were sent out, there is a possibility to deploy two IFRC colleagues as surge to Afghanistan in providing support. A joint statement with NSs and ICRC is being drafted regarding this earthquake response and cooperation.

IFRC and ICRC are cooperating closely. IFRC has disaster preparedness stocks in Kuala Lumpur, Dubai and Afghanistan that can be mobilized immediately to affected areas in Afghanistan and Pakistan, if needed. ICRC has indicated that they have 10,000 neutral stocks (comprising kitchen sets, tarpaulins, blankets, hygiene sets, and 20 litre collapsible jerry cans) available at their regional logistics hub in Peshawar for use in Pakistan and re-deployment to Afghanistan.

Within the three countries, the following actions have been taken:

Afghanistan

The Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) immediately responded by deploying a Disaster Response Unit (DRU) in Jalalabad to assist the earthquake affected people. DRU teams have conducted assessments in schools around Jalalabad city. No casualties were reported. On 27 October, DRU teams have left for Rodat district which has been the most affected in Nangarhar province to carry out assessment for earthquake response.

In Badakhshan province a DRU was deployed and ARCS volunteers have been mobilized in Iss Kah Zar village in Kiran Mengjan district where four families have been assisted with 39 tents, one tarpaulin, six blankets, one jerry can, and one kitchen set.

A total of 170 ARCS volunteers have been mobilized in Badakhshan, Thakkar and Nangarhar provinces to transport affected people to hospitals and assist with blood donation services. Five DRUs have been mobilized to be on standby. ARCS stock reports have been updated in the regional warehouses and Kabul. The EOC in Kabul has been operational and coordinating information and updates from the field to Headquarters. Alert messages have been sent out National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) members to be on standby for deployment to affected areas.

On 26 October, the ARCS Disaster Management Director attended the government coordination meeting called by ANDMA to coordinate initial assessments for earthquake response among in country humanitarian partners. On 27 October, an emergency coordination committee meeting was convened by ARCS with IFRC and ICRC to monitor the situation and coordinate with government and field offices for information from affected areas. ARCS President will attend a second meeting organised by the government on 27 October where ARCS will be assigned to work in certain areas/regions. Joint assessment teams will be determined and deployed based on need.

Provincial Disaster Management Committee (PDMC) meeting was convened in Baghlan province where ARCS was asked to support PDMC in conducting assessment in Borka, Dani, Ghorri and Narin districts. In Thakkar province, disaster management committee meetings have been conducted to coordinate earthquake response between ANDMA, ARCS, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) and UN agencies. All members of the committee reported that they have enough prepositioned stocks of non-food items but not food items.

The ARCS mobile health teams (MHT) will remain on standby and will only be mobilized to the affected areas once ICRC has given the green light on the security situation, specifically in Kunduz region of Afghanistan which recently came under attacks by armed opposition groups.

Turkish, Iranian, Qatar and Pakistan Red Crescent and Government of China have given their commitment for support earthquake affected people in Afghanistan.

IFRC's Regional Logistics Unit in Kuala Lumpur, as part of a Canadian Red Cross-funded replenishment of pre-positioned stock, is in the process of sending to Afghanistan: 20,000 jerry cans and tarpaulins, 10,000 kitchen sets, and 70,000 blankets. Last week, ICRC Pakistan, in response to the Kunduz hospital bombing incident, had already sent 400 body bags from Peshawar to Kabul.

India

IRCS is currently collecting information from its branches on damages. No casualties have been reported.

Pakistan

From the Emergency Operational Centre at PRC headquarters in Islamabad, coordination with field teams, Red Cross Red Crescent Movement Partners and the NDMA is ongoing, while at Provincial and District Branch levels, coordination with and Provincial and District Disaster Management Authorities is taking place.

PRC dispatched Emergency Response Teams (ERT) from the district branches in Peshawar, Chitral, Swat, Battagram, Mansehra and KP provinces, Ghizar, Astore and Skardu in Gilgit Baltistan, as well as Mirpur in AJK. PRC branches in all affected provinces and states are working in coordination with the Disaster Management Authority at respective provincial/state and district levels to carry out initial assessments of the affected areas and ascertain damages and needs.

Two PRC teams consisting of 20 ERT members were deployed - one static team to Lady Reading Hospital of Peshawar to assist the injured, and the second deployed in different affected areas to provide first aid and transportation of the injured in PRC ambulances to nearby hospitals. This resulted in safe transportation of 16 injured people.

The Disaster Management Information System has been updated, and 20 PRC emergency response volunteers are on standby at PRC headquarters in Islamabad for deployment, along with essential medicines and relief items to support the field teams if requested. The national society has dispatched alert messages to its National Disaster Response Team members while volunteers have been placed on standby for deployment as the extent of the earthquake impact becomes clearer.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), and other in-country Movement partners – ICRC, Canadian Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, German Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Turkish Red Crescent and UAE Red Crescent remain ready to support the National Society's response. Already, the Turkish Red Crescent deployed a team to KP to support the PRC Provincial Branch.

On 27 October, the PRC will convene its first briefing session for International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners to update on the current situation, the immediate response actions, planned activities and the support needed.

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For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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Click here

1. Map [below](#)
2. Click [here](#) to return to the title page

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 Humanitarian 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.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



Save lives.
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



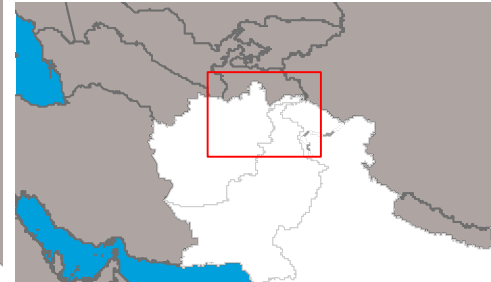
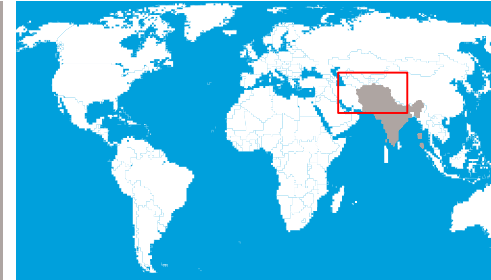
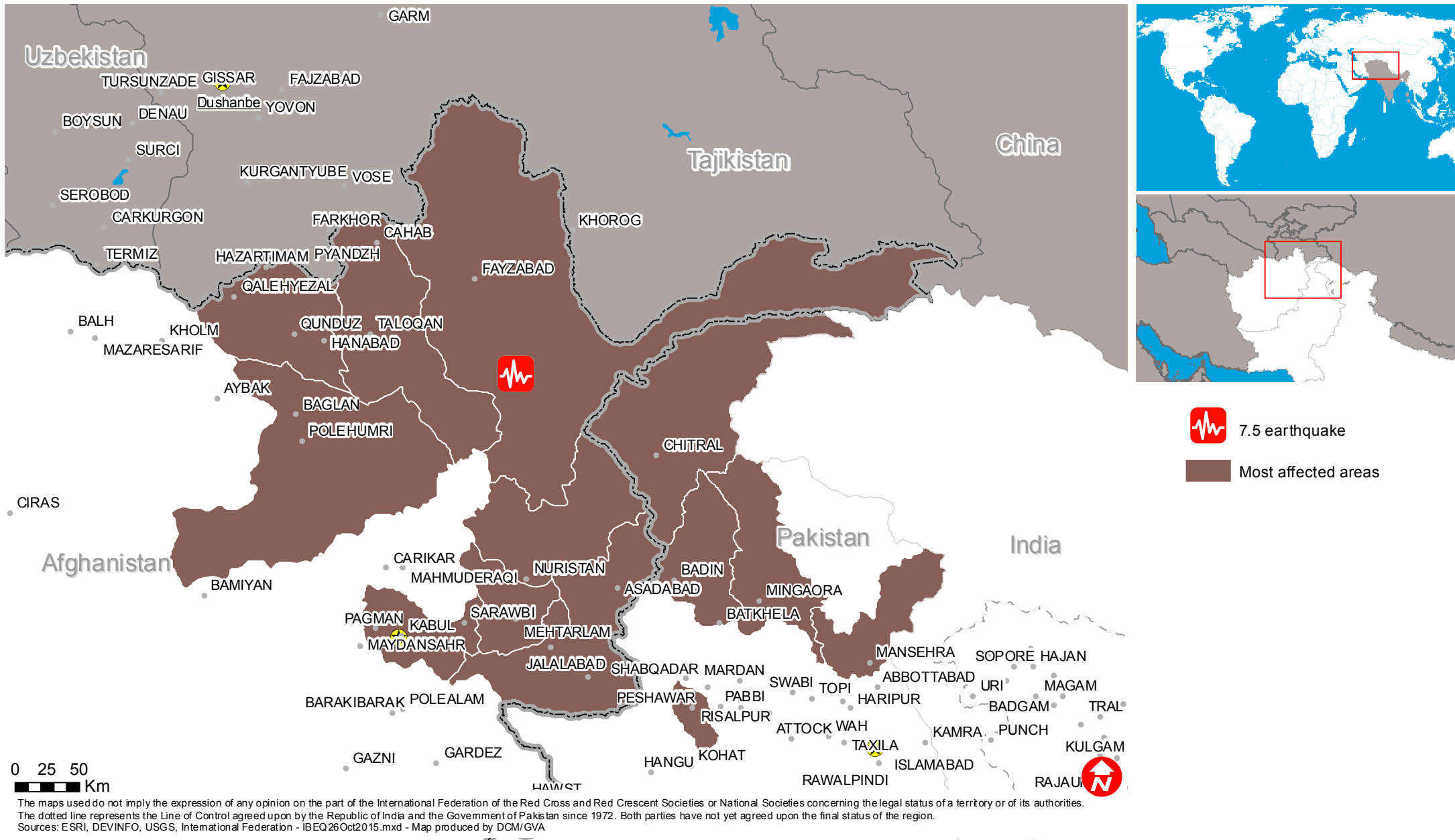
Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.





Promote social inclusion
and a culture of
non-violence and peace.



South Asia : 7.5 earthquake



-  7.5 earthquake
-  Most affected areas

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.
The dotted line represents the Line of Control agreed upon by the Republic of India and the Government of Pakistan since 1972. Both parties have not yet agreed upon the final status of the region.
Sources: ESRI, DEVINFO, USGS, International Federation - IBEQ26Oct2015.mxd - Map produced by DCM/GVA