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Information bulletin

Pakistan: Drought

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Glide n° DR-2018-000428-PAK	Date of issue: 28 January 2019
Date of disaster: Slow onset of drought since October 2018	Point of contact: Maqsood Akram, Programme Manager Response (PRCS)
Operation start date: to be confirmed	Expected timeframe: 3 months
Host National Society(ies): Pakistan Red Crescent Society	
Number of people affected: 2,807,350 (401,050 families)	Number of people to be assisted: 32,800
N° of National Societies currently involved in the operation: Canadian Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, German Red Cross and Norwegian Red Cross.	
N° of other partner organizations involved in the operation: National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and provincial government through Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) in Sindh and Balochistan.	

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 support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), is considering a Disaster Emergency Relief Fund (DREF) request. As of now, no external assistance is determined yet. Only coordination and field-based assessments are ongoing.

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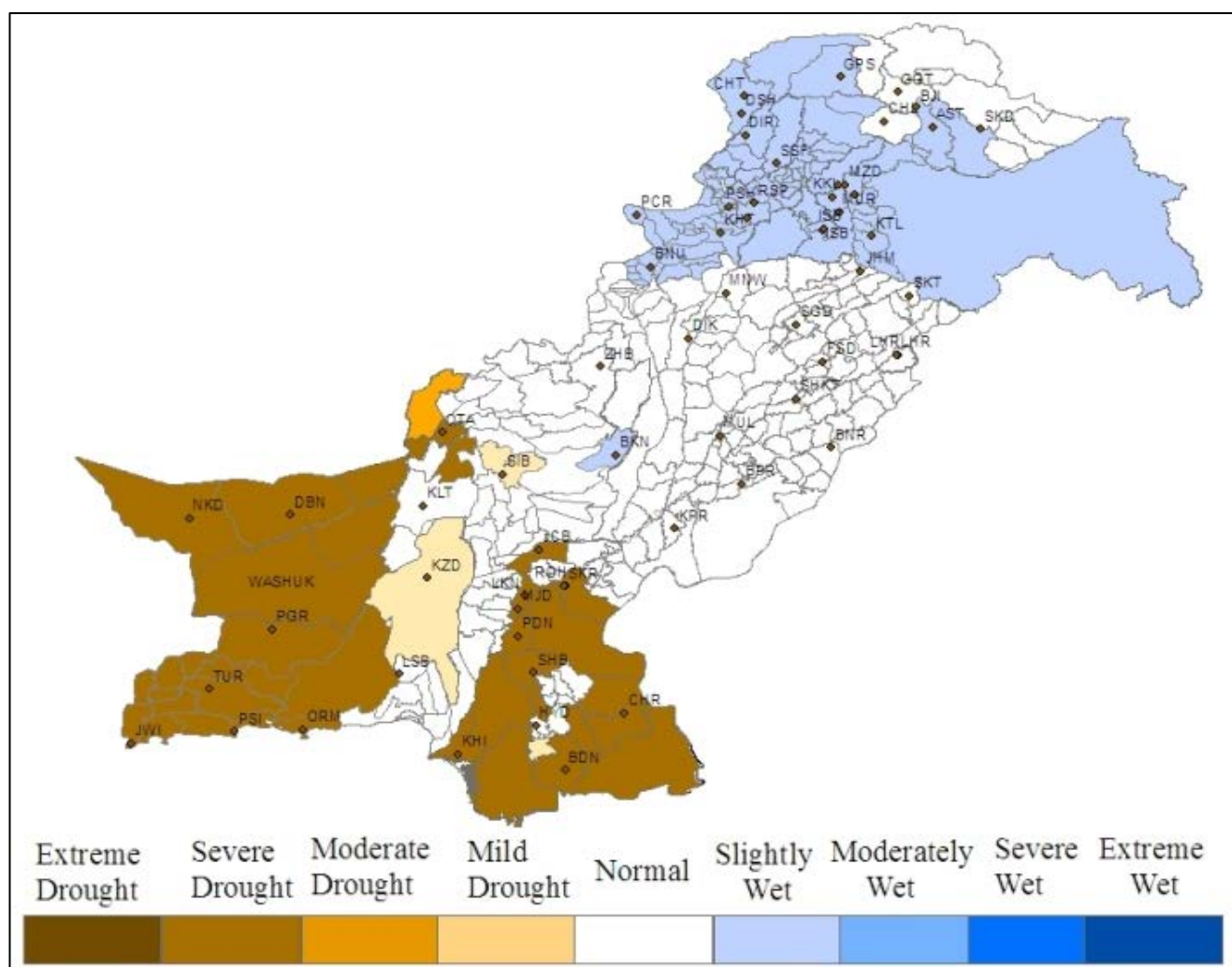
The situation

The drought situation in Sindh and Balochistan is rapidly developing into one of the worst disasters in Pakistan. Upland Balochistan and Sindh in south are the most heavily affected by severe drought. These affected areas of Balochistan and Sindh have been prone to water shortages, rainfall measured over the last many years has reached a record low, with minimal or sometimes no rainfall. Pakistan Meteorological Department said in its alert that “severe to extreme drought-like conditions” have emerged over most of the southern parts of Pakistan due to lack of summer rain.

The abrupt decline in rainfall in most of the upland areas of the province has caused a complete drying up of the surface drinking water resources and has decreased water output from springs and tube wells. This has caused the water table to drop in most of the valleys and low-lying areas. This prolonged period of drought badly affected food production systems hence the health of community members, especially women and children. During the severe drought conditions, there is scarcity of nutritional food and potable water, which leads to the spread of disease. Recent drought, caused by less than average and erratic rainfall and long dry spell led to out-migration of rural population to barrage areas to seek food, water, and gainful employment. In the face of no feasible alternatives, communities’ resort to drinking saline or unfit water and suffer from abdominal diseases and discoloration of teeth over time.



Communities in affected areas of Balochistan province are losing their livestock, which is a major source of nutritious food and income for vulnerable farmers especially women headed households. **(Photo by: PRCS)**



Drought watch bulletin: Drought condition of Pakistan 2018, (Source: National Drought Monitoring Centre of the Pakistan Meteorological Department)

According to Pakistan National Drought Monitoring Centre, severe drought is prevailing in most parts of the Sindh province. The provincial government of Sindh declared that the eight worst drought affected districts are Tharparkar, Umerkot, Dadu, Thatta, Sanghar, Kambar Shadadkot, Jamshoro and Badin. The Natural Disasters Consortium (NDC) comprised of IOM, FAO, UNICEF, ACTED and HANDS conducted Drought Needs Assessment in the eight districts. The World Food Programme (WFP) and World Health Organization (WHO) also provided technical support for the assessment.

Table 1: Families affected by drought in Sind province

Province	Name of district	No. of affected families
Sindh	Thatta	10,681
	Dadu	23,067
	Sanghar	9,159
	Tharparkar	39,450
	Umerkot	31,390
	Kambar Shadadkot	8,008
	Jamshoro	29,738
	Badin	32,751
Total		184,244

Source: Sindh Drought Need Assessment (SDNA) by the NDC Pakistan

The detailed assessment was conducted in January 2019, to assess the impact of the drought on agriculture (crop cultivation, production, water availability and livestock), livelihoods and food security, access to water and

sanitation and hygiene practices of the households and communities and to provide recommendations to the Government of Sindh, NDC partners, and other decision/policy makers to prioritize actions (short, medium and long term) in relevant sectors and geographic areas to address immediate needs, build back better and increase future resilience to drought.¹

After the rapid drought need assessment, the government of Balochistan declared that the 18 worst drought affected districts are Pishin, Killa Abdullah, Noshki, Chaghi, Kharan, Washuk, Panjgur, Kech, Jhal Magsi, Awaran, Zhob, Jaffarabad, Barkhan, Quetta, Killah Saifullah, Kohlu, Naseerabad and Kachhi. The assessment aims to understand the current drought phenomenon in Balochistan and its impacts on agriculture, livelihood and water resources and to identify existing coping mechanisms adopted by rural households in the drought affected areas.

Table 2: Families affected by drought in Balochistan province

Province	Name of district	No. of affected families
Balochistan	Pishin	18,571
	Killa Abdullah	54,134
	Noshki	4,760
	Chaghi	15,000
	Kharan	6,488
	Washuk	12,000
	Panjgur	714
	Kech	1,900
	Jhal Magsi	11,158
	Awaran	6,425
	Zhob	18,347
	Jaffarabad	7,520
	Barkhan	15,000
	Quetta	6,000
	Killah Saifullah	4,286
	Kohlu	1,000
	Naseerabad	24,835
	Kachhi	8,668
Total		216,806

Source: Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Balochistan, Pakistan

Response and rehabilitation directorate, operation wing of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has been declared as "Drought Secretariats" for effective coordination of efforts. NDMA on the request from PDMA has submitted summary to the office of prime minister for approval and support to drought affected population in 26 severe drought affected districts in Sindh and Balochistan. NDMA has also approached to United Nations Agencies, humanitarian actors to augment the government's efforts and support in ongoing response for affected population.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

PRCS remains vigilant and has been monitoring the situation since the start of the dry spell. The National Society has been in coordination with National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), observing the deteriorating situation since the month of October 2018. PRCS national headquarters requested to its provincial branches to submit primary information reports regarding drought situation in their respective provinces. PRCS provincial branches mobilized its branch trained staff and volunteers to conduct the rapid assessment in drought affected provinces with the support of national headquarters technical capacity. In line with government policy, PRCS conducted its rapid assessment from 8-13 January 2019 in six most vulnerable districts: three in Sindh province (Tharparkar, Umerkot and Badin) and three in Balochistan province (Noshki, Kharan and Pishin). While keeping in view the security, operational feasibility, acceptance, need, gap analysis and PRCS presence. To start the operation, PRCS has targeted one each district from

¹ Sindh Drought Needs Assessment (SDNA) Report, January 2019

Balochistan and Sindh and intends to expand the operation to other areas of completing the detailed need assessment during the DREF operation.

Pakistan Red Crescent Society has participated in 'National Consultative Workshop on Drought Mitigation' conducted by National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on 18 January 2019 in Islamabad. The key objective of the workshop was to devise an all-inclusive and well-coordinated immediate response plan, work out extent and nature of possible support from UN and humanitarian actors and donor agencies; and to formulate comprehensive National Strategy based on short, medium and long-term sector-wise mitigation measures. The detailed gaps analysis was carried out by PDMAs and humanitarian agencies to ascertain gaps which need to fill in health & nutrition, food security, agriculture, WASH, livelihoods, awareness and education; and exploring the opportunity for implementation of Cash-based interventions to support affected families. As part of the workshop agenda, all humanitarian organizations including PRCS were requested by NDMA to support the drought affected population. PRCS is now waiting on formal letters of request for support from PDMAs of both Balochistan and Sindh provinces.



Rapid assessment in drought affected areas, (Photo by PRCS)

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is having regular coordination and communication with PRCS and movement partners regarding the drought situation and PRCS response planning. The IFRC, ICRC and Partner National Society (PNS) with in-country presence have been part of the situation update and response preparation meetings hosted by PRCS. A particular attention shall be given to the analysis of the prevailing severe drought situation in the country and on the PRCS response to affected areas. The IFRC Pakistan country office is supporting PRCS in disseminating updates to the Asia Pacific regional office and Movement partners.



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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 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.

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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.**