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Information bulletin

Pakistan: Earthquake 2013

 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 International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is currently not seeking international funding or other assistance from donors for this operation. The Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS), however, can be approached for discussions on direct assistance to the affected population.

[<click here for detailed contact information>](#)

The situation

A 7.7-magnitude¹ earthquake hit the southwestern region of Pakistan on Tuesday 24 September 2013 at 16:29hr Pakistan Standard Time (PST) with a focal depth of 10 kilometres (kms). An aftershock of 5.7 magnitude was experienced at 17:45hr PST on the same day. The epicenter lies in a thinly populated mountainous area of Balochistan province 66 kms north-east from Awaran, with tremors felt in neighboring Sindh province, but also as far as India, Iran, UAE and Oman. The six affected districts in Balochistan province included Turbat, Panjgor, Chagi, Khuzdar, Gawadar and Awaran (most severely impacted).



Hundreds were killed and injured in the earthquake in the Awaran district of Balochistan. Dozens more were reported dead and injured in other parts of the country. Photo: Mujeeb Ahmed / NBC News.

The Pakistan Frontier Constabulary and Army forces are conducting search and rescue efforts with the assistance of helicopters to reach the hilly and difficult to access areas, as well relief resources and mobilizing medical teams and medicines. The remoteness along with security concerns in the area is likely to slow the ability to gather accurate and comprehensive damage assessment information.

The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) of Balochistan on 25 September at 15:16hr PST has reported 271 people dead and another 446 people injured (from Awaran and Turbat districts).² Although the extent of the damages and losses are yet to be confirmed, the latest information indicates that many mud-brick houses are either partially or fully damaged. In response to the immediate needs of the affected population, PDMA has dispatched non-food items (NFIs) from the provincial capital Quetta to Awaran district. The NFIs included 1,600 tents, 300 blankets, 300 mosquito nets, 600 plastic mats, 300 jerry cans and 1,300 food parcels.² A government medical team from Lasbella health department, comprising of 4 doctors, 3 paramedical staff and 2 ambulances have been dispatched to Awaran to assist with the operations for the affected, joining two other medical teams with 10 doctors deployed by the Provincial Health Department.

Other humanitarian actors continue to monitor developments and stand ready to support the Governments' efforts to assist earthquake affected population if needed.

¹ Richter magnitude scale

² <http://www.pdma.gov.pk/wp-content/publication/Earthquake2013/Damages%2025Sep.pdf>

The Government of Pakistan has not requested for international assistance at this stage.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) assessment team has been deployed from Lasbella DM Cell to Awaran. Findings from the mission will be made at the soonest. The remoteness of the earthquake affected areas, coupled with a complex working environment due to a long-standing insurgency involving different separatist groups result in serious security concerns for access in the area, and are likely to slow the ability to gather accurate and comprehensive damage assessment information rapidly.

PRCS has NFIs from its disaster preparedness (DP) stock on standby to assist approximately 30,000 families. PRCS warehouses located in Karachi of Sindh province and Quetta of Balochistan can provide NFI stocks for approx. 9,000 families and 4,700 families respectively and Quetta of Balochistan province (654 kms with NFI stocks for 4,700 families). Six of the 37 Disaster Management (DM) Cells established to respond to emergencies are located in Balochistan province, with both Lasbella DM Cell and Gawadar DM Cell able to provide NFI stocks for 200 families. All these prepositioned stocks are available for rapid distribution by PRCS once immediate needs are confirmed.

To support the response operation, the Balochistan branch of PRCS will draw on its roster of 37 Provincial Branch Disaster Response Team (BDRT) members, and 52 District Disaster Response Team (DDRT) members. Furthermore 115 National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) members are on standby for deployment. Additionally PRCS has an extensive pool of volunteers within the province of which 553 are ready to support relief activities. PRCS has 21 water treatment units ready to be deployed to different locations in the country. Six units are stored in Karachi and 4 units in Quetta. Four Mobile Health Units (MHUs) are available to be deployed at short notice using existing resources from Basic Health Unit (BHUs) and other medical facilities operated by PRCS.



Children evacuated from the affected area where the earthquake destroyed the mud houses. Photo: Sallah Jan/Reuters.



An young girl receiving treatment in a hospital in Awaran after being injured in the earthquake. Photo: Musa Farman/EPA.

PRCS Sindh activated their Emergency Control Room, and deployed assessment teams to the five districts bordering with Balochistan (Dadu, Badin, KSK, Jacobabad and Shikarpur) where minor quakes and tremors were also felt. No significant damage has been reported from these districts.

PRCS branches are in close coordination with the local authorities and district, provincial and national disaster management authorities and continue to assess the situation and possible support needs.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Society (IFRC), in supporting PRCS, is closely monitoring the situation and coordinating with the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) and other Partner National Societies (PNSs) present in in the country to ensure resources and support services are available when required.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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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.

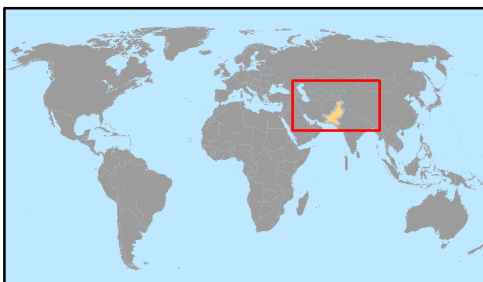
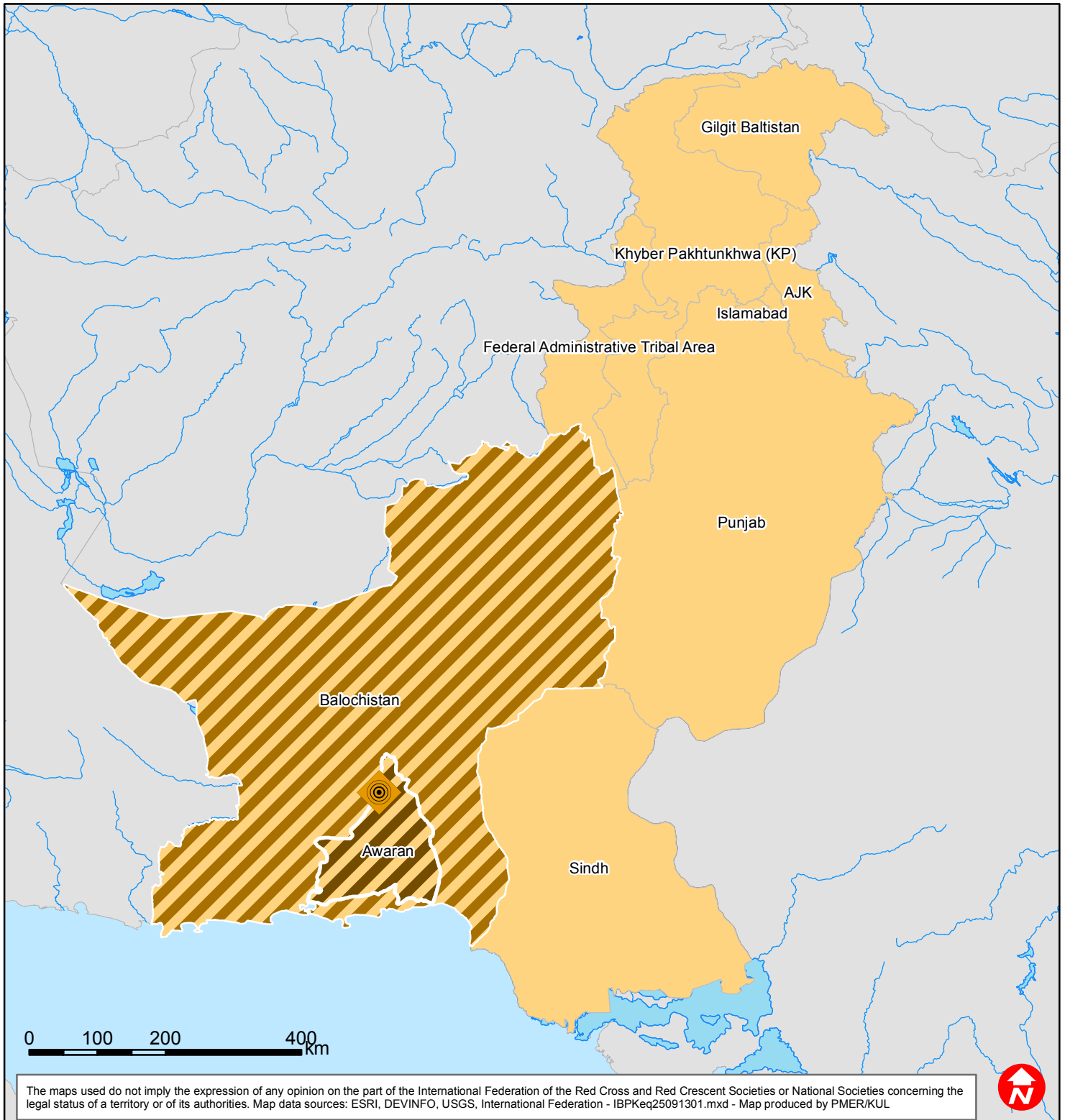



The IFRC's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

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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 7.7 Magnitude Earthquake

 Affected area

 Affected province