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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 Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS), with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), is currently considering a Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) request for this response.

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

### The situation

A 7.7-magnitude<sup>1</sup> 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). At least 15 aftershocks have been reported with a magnitude of up to 5.7 17:45hr PST on the same day.

The epicenter lies in a thinly populated mountainous area of Balochistan province (approximately 5 persons per square km), 66 kms north-east from Awaran district capital, 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 Kech (also known as Turbat), Panjgor, Chagi, Khuzdar, Gawadar and Awaran. Awaran district has been most severely impacted with all three Tehsils of Awaran, Mashkay and Jhaho affected.

The Pakistan Army forces and law enforcement agencies are conducting search and rescue efforts with the assistance of helicopters to reach the hilly and difficult to access areas, as well as providing relief and mobilizing medical teams and medicines. Affected population with serious injuries is being transported to Karachi and neighboring districts by helicopter. The remoteness along with security concerns in the area is likely to slow the ability to gather accurate and comprehensive damage assessment information. There have been two rocket attack incidents in the past two days targeting a helicopter with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) chairman visiting Maskay Tehsil (Awaran), and another a medical team travelling by road to Awaran. No casualty was reported in both incidents; however this heightened the security concern for any humanitarian response in the affected areas.<sup>2</sup>

The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) of Balochistan on 26 September at 11:31hr PST has reported 355 people dead and another 619 people injured (from Awaran and Kech districts).<sup>3</sup> Although the extent of the damages and losses are yet to be confirmed, the latest information indicates that approximately 21,000 houses (mostly of mud-brick construction) have been damaged, and 300,000 people affected. In



PRCS Team loading medicines in the helicopter for Awaran. A Health team consisting of two doctors and two paramedics has been heli-dropped with medicines in Awaran City. **Photo:** PRCS

<sup>1</sup> Richter magnitude scale

<sup>2</sup> <http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/pakistan-struggles-quake-victims-271-dead-20367620>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.pdma.gov.pk/wp-content/publication/Earthquake2013/Updates25sep3.pdf> and <http://www.ndma.gov.pk/Ex/Documents/26-9-2013Situationreport.pdf>

response to the immediate needs of the affected population, PDMA, NDMA and the armed forces have dispatched non-food items (NFIs) and food items to Awaran district primarily<sup>2</sup>.

**Table 1: Summary of relief distribution as of 26 September 2013<sup>3</sup>**

	PDMA	NDMA	Army	Total
Tent	3,910	5,000	90	<b>9,000</b>
Food Packet	4,060	7,000	1,212	<b>12,272</b>
Blanket	300	5,000	0	<b>5,300</b>
Plastic Mat	1,700	0	0	<b>1,700</b>
Mosquito Net	300	0	300	<b>600</b>
Jerry Can	300	0	0	<b>300</b>
Water Bottle	0	0	3,900	<b>3,900</b>

The Government health department has mobilized support services comprising of:

- One Mobile Health Unit (MHU)
- One truck of medicines from Quetta.
- 26 doctors and 16 paramedical staff with eight ambulances from provincial health department.
- Five doctors with two ambulances from Kech to Hoshab (Dandar)
- 18 ambulances from the Edhi Foundation.
- One medical team with medicines from the Pakistan Army forces

Other humanitarian actors continue to monitor developments and stand ready to support the Government's efforts to assist earthquake affected population if needed. WHO has provided kits for the delivery of emergency primary health care services for 100,000 people, and WFP has arranged for the delivery of high energy biscuits<sup>4</sup>

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 deployed from Lasbella DM Cell has reached Awaran and has been assisting the medical team (two doctors and four paramedics) that arrived on the morning of 26 September from Karachi via helicopter to establish operations. Initial rapid assessments demonstrate a need for food items, emergency shelter, NFIs, and health care along with medications. Three additional PRCS assessment and support teams have been deployed and are currently en route to Awaran from the neighbouring DM Cells of Kharan and Gwadar (approximately eight hours travel time by road), and from the provincial headquarters in Quetta. The two additional PRCS health teams have been deployed for deployment from Quetta to join teams in Awaran. Information gathered from the assessment is limited due to the security situation and the lack of internet or communication access from the affected areas; however secondary information is received from the Pakistan Army forces.

PRCS has NFIs from its disaster preparedness (DP) stock in country 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. Quetta of Balochistan province takes approximately 20 hours road travel to cover the 654 kms to Awaran, whilst it takes about eight hours to travel the 323 kms from Karachi of Sindh province. 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.



PRCS staff mobilizing medicines to the affected area via helicopter. **Photo:** PRCS

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.unocha.org/pakistan>

PRCS is in the process of transferring funds to the Baluchistan and Sindh Provincial Branches for immediate operating costs from emergency funds and is making initial arrangements for the dispatch and distribution of 1,000 NFI kits and 1,000 food parcels to assist approximately 7,000 affected people in Awaran district. PRCS has also dispatched two trucks equipped with medicines from Karachi to Awaran.

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 four units in Quetta.

PRCS Sindh Provincial Branch has activated its Emergency Control Room since the onset of earthquake and is still in operation. The branch has also 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.

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. This severely limits access to the area, and is likely to slow the ability to gather accurate and comprehensive damage assessment information rapidly. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Society (IFRC) and Partner National Societies (PNSs) under the shared security umbrella are currently unable to travel to this area given its 'Red Security Zone' status<sup>5</sup>. The PRCS is mobilizing its resources and leading the provision of Movement assistance in the affected areas.

PRCS national headquarters and 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.

IFRC, in supporting PRCS, is closely monitoring the situation and coordinating with the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) and other PNSs present in the country to ensure resources and support services are available when required. The first Red Cross Red Crescent Movement coordination meeting was held on 26 September at the PRCS national headquarters. The South Asia regional office under coordination by the Asia Pacific zone office has shared the potential support it can render when required. PRCS and IFRC are currently considering a DREF request for this response.

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<sup>5</sup> The Movement Security Framework

## 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.

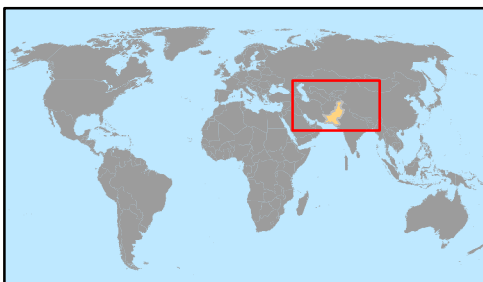
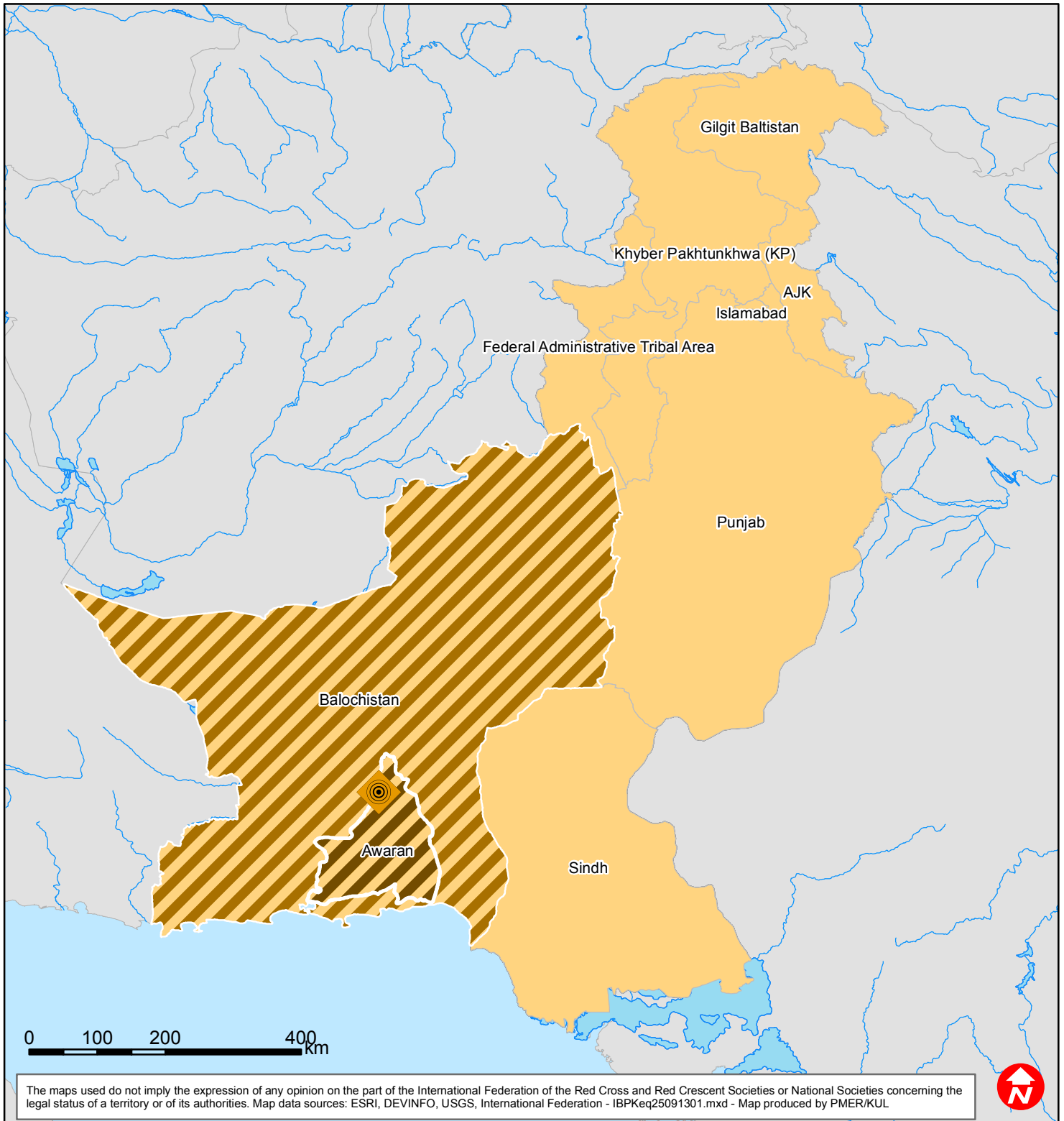


The IFRC's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

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: Earthquake 2013



 7.7 Magnitude Earthquake

 Affected area

 Affected province