



## ***PAKISTAN: EARTHQUAKE***

**Appeal no:06/01**  
**7 February 2001**

***THIS APPEAL SEEKS CHF 557,303  
IN CASH, KIND AND SERVICES  
TO PROVIDE RELIEF ITEMS FOR 22,500 BENEFICIARIES***

### ***Summary***

The fallout from last month's huge earthquake in western India has had marked consequences beyond Gujarat. In remote and highly inaccessible areas of Sindh province in neighbouring Pakistan, thousands of families have lost everything as their houses collapsed in the wake of the jolt, measured at 7.9 on the Richter scale. It was some days before the extent of the destruction became known. This appeal for CHF 557,303, following a request from the Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) seeks to provide temporary shelter and blankets in a 'one-off' distribution for 1,500 of the worst hit households in the most affected district of Sindh province - people already trying to come to terms with the aftermath of the extensive drought at the end of last year.

### ***The Disaster***

The devastating earthquake which struck the Indian border state of Gujarat on the morning of 26 January 2001 left the neighbouring country of Pakistan far from unscathed. At a massive 7.9 on the Richter scale, it was inevitable that severe damage and loss of human life would occur beyond Gujarat. And so it has proved in Pakistan's Sindh province where, reportedly, 12 people have been killed - five in Hyderabad, two in Badin and five in Mirpurkas - and a further 100 injured, more than half in the remote district of Tharparkar. According to preliminary estimates, the affected population stands at more than 900,000 with some 10,000 houses collapsed. While deaths and injuries are comparatively low, the impact of the quake on the lives of communities - still suffering from a widespread drought in the second half of 2000 - has been significant.



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## *The Response so far*

### **Government Action w**

In the more densely populated affected areas, the Pakistani authorities are said to have the situation under control and have been distributing relief items, including tents. However, in view of the substantial damage to property, Sindh province's additional relief commissioner has requested relief assistance, including shelter items, for the worst affected population.

### **Red Cross/Red Crescent Action w**

Following the earthquake, PRCS officials in the provincial capital Karachi, supported by the International Federation, have already despatched 450 tents, 1,000 blankets, 1,000 food parcels and 200 family packs of basic items to the Tharparkar district for immediate distribution.

### **Other Agencies' Action w**

The UN resident coordinator's office in Islamabad has been monitoring the situation in consultation with the Pakistani authorities, including the chief secretary and governor of Sindh province. The UN's office for the coordination of humanitarian affairs (OCHA) is releasing USD 50,000 from its own resources for relief purposes.

### **Co-ordination w**

This appeal is being made in the context of a request by the Pakistani authorities and the PRCS and against the background of the on-going drought relief operation, which is targeting some of the same beneficiary groups.

## *The Intended Operation*

### **Assessment of Needs •**

Within the district of Tharparkar, the provincial PRCS relief officer - who knows the area well - has carried out detailed assessments in six sub-districts, including the district headquarters of Mithi. He reports that 1,546 houses have been completely destroyed, leaving some 23,000 people (3,100 families) homeless.

The sub-districts targeted by this appeal - Nagarparkar, Diplo, Islamkot, Chachro, Chelhar and Mithi - are very inaccessible with limited telecommunications and first indications of the severity of the situation only surfaced at the end of last week. Ironically, drought relief distributions had taken place in two of the outlying sub-districts just a few days before the earthquake and local officials had returned to Mithi.

The International Federation and PRCS are concentrating their efforts on Tharparkar for this operation because: it is the district hardest hit by the quake, as confirmed in the OCHA report; the PRCS have a well developed local branch network; and it is also a centre for the ongoing drought relief operation - hence the population have been doubly affected by disaster in recent months.

### **Immediate Needs •**

For the 1,500 households (1 household has an average of 15 family members) which are worst affected and without any other access to relief assistance, shelter provision - tents and, particularly, blankets - are the highest priority, with night-time temperatures dropping close to zero at this period of the year. A single distribution of these much needed items is anticipated.

### **Red Cross Red Crescent Objective •**

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### **Red Cross Red Crescent Objective •**

{ *To provide essential temporary shelter and blankets to 1,500 worst affected households in six earthquake stricken sub-districts of Tharparkar district in Pakistan's Sindh province.*

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## ***National Society/Federation Plan of Action***

With the exception of 380 tents and 5,000 blankets, the required items are held as disaster preparedness stock either at the PRCS national headquarters in Islamabad or in Karachi. Essentially, the International Federation is seeking to replenish these stocks and supply the shortfall through local procurement, undertaken in conjunction with the PRCS provincial branch. Based on the logistics arrangements already in place for the drought operation, warehousing will be handled in Badin, some two hours drive from Mithi, which will be the hub of the distribution. To expedite the operation, stocks from PRCS national headquarters in Islamabad will be convoyed by road (12 trucks) to reach Tharparkar later this week. A 'one-off' distribution is planned - to be completed during the second half of March - based on the drought operation model, whereby consignments of goods are transported to village distribution points and collected (and signed for) by heads of household, according to lists previously agreed with community leaders.

### **Local capacity of the National Society •**

As demonstrated during the current drought relief operation, the PRCS has a well established and effective branch network in Tharparkar, which is thoroughly capable of undertaking the planned distribution of family tents and blankets to beneficiaries, whose circumstances are already known. Also supporting Red Crescent staff and volunteers in this district is the PRCS provincial branch headquarters in Sindh, which has long experience of disaster operations.

### **Present Capacity of the Federation in Pakistan •**

The International Federation's team in Pakistan currently comprises three delegates (two relief, one health) assigned to the drought operation and the regional health delegate, based in Islamabad, with responsibilities covering South Asia. On present plans, an additional relief delegate will be recruited to handle the specifics of the earthquake programme, including overseeing local procurement and distribution activities.

### **Evaluation •**

An evaluation of the operation will be conducted on its conclusion in late March, undertaken by the delegate charged with responsibility for monitoring and support to the drought operation.

## ***Budget summary***

See Annex 1 for details.

## ***Conclusion***

While the world's attention has been directed, understandably, to the suffering of earthquake victims in Gujarat, it is important not to forget the plight of families in remote areas near India-Pakistan border, who have also lost everything, just as they were beginning the recovery process after last year's cruel drought. Donors are urged to support this appeal with cash contributions, since the required items can certainly be purchased locally and then directed towards the replenishment of disaster preparedness stocks drawn down to carry out this emergency operation expeditiously.

Jean Ayoub  
Director  
Disaster Management & Coordination

Didier J. Cherpitel  
Secretary General

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<b><u>BUDGET SUMMARY</u></b>		APPEAL No. 06/2001
<b>Pakistan earthquake</b>		
TYPE		VALUE
		IN CHF
<b>RELIEF NEEDS</b>		
Tents: 1,500 units		247,500
Blankets: 15,000 units		165,000
<b>TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS</b>		412,500
<b><u>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</u></b>		
Vehicles		23,000
Computers		4,000
<b><u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u></b>		
Programme management		37,579
Technical support		11,249
Professional services		12,475
<b><u>TRANSPORT STORAGE &amp; VEHICLE COSTS</u></b>		17,000
<b><u>PERSONNEL</u></b>		
Expatriate staff (1 delegate, 2 months)		20,000
National staff		3,000
<b><u>ADMINISTRATIVE &amp; GENERAL SERVICES</u></b>		
Travel & related expenses		6,500
Information expenses		5,000
Administrative & general expenses		5,000
<b>TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS</b>		144,803
<b>TOTAL APPEAL CASH, KIND, SERVICES</b>		557,303
<b>LESS AVAILABLE RESOURCES (-)</b>		
<b>NET REQUEST</b>		557,303

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