

PAKISTAN: FLOODS

29 January 1999

appeal no. 8/98

situation report no. 2 (final Report)

period covered: March - December 1998

The operation to assist victims of flooding in Balochistan province with shelter, food, clothing, household items and health care was completed in September 1998. Delivery delays slowed down distributions and a funding shortfall prevented any rehabilitation assistance. However preparedness training was begun and emergency stocks put in place for the future.

The context

Unprecedented rains wreaked havoc in the Turbat district of Balochistan province, western Pakistan, on 3 and 4 March 1998, causing flash floods along the Dasht river system that swept through more than 100 villages. The waters spread across entire river valleys, washing away houses, structures, irrigation systems and some 43,000 acres of standing crops. At least 300 people died in the disaster, while 4,000 homes were destroyed and another 8,000 were damaged. Altogether some 200,000 people in the area were affected by the disaster.

Red Cross/Red Crescent action

The Federation launched an Appeal on 13 March, 1998 seeking CHF 720,000 to assist the 200,000 people affected, most of whom are farmers.

The objectives of the relief operation were:

- To provide the most vulnerable with efficient help to start rebuilding their homes
- to help the authorities in the provision of safe drinking water
- to provide medicines and supplies for treatment for flood related injuries and diseases
- to build upon the capacity of PRCS and to further strengthen the local branches
- to ensure that adequate DP stocks are pre-positioned for the flood season
- to provide additional training for PRCS staff and volunteers in disaster preparedness and response.

Plan of Action •

To supply emergency relief items from mid March to April while replacing buffer stocks to allow adequate response for the next flood season.

To purchase and distribute relief items for the reconstruction phase and to replenish exhausted stocks of relief items between April to July.

To provide the Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) with additional training opportunities to increase its response capacity.

The Operation

After initial information on the disaster was received on 6 March from the PRCS Branch in Quetta, the Federation sent an assessment team to the area, consisting of the Federation's field delegate from Peshawar, accompanied by PRCS's Director of Operations, from 7 to 9 March. Their findings formed the basis for the Federation Appeal, issued at the request of the National Society, to enable it to undertake the relief operation, extend and reinforce its disaster preparedness and replenish relief stocks.

Tender Notices inviting tenders for the purchase of relief supplies were published in leading English-language daily newspapers on 16, 17, 18 and 19 March, 1998. The tenders were to be opened on 24 and 31 March, plus 6 and 7 April, 1998. Due to a poor response for some items, as well as public holidays, the tender notice was republished in Urdu dailies and the deadline was extended to 11 April.

The tenders were accordingly received and opened in the presence of the suppliers by a Board of PRCS officers and the Federation's representative. All tenders and samples were signed by the Board and the comparative statements in respect of each item were also separately made, signed by the Board and countersigned by the Secretary General/PRCS.

In all cases, the tendered supplies met the required standards, though in many instances the time-lag between the procurement order and delivery of the goods was far greater than expected.

The PRCS HQ charged the Balochistan Branch with the responsibility for implementing the health and relief distribution programme in the affected area, while the Federation delegation assisted and advised the National Society throughout. The Secretary of the Balochistan Branch visited the affected area throughout the operation and assisted personally in surveys and deliveries to the most vulnerable.

The Balochistan Branch hired a truck, and also used two vehicles from the National Headquarters, in addition to transport given by the District Authority, for delivery of relief items, which started in March with medicines and tents, and continued until mid September.

As in previous disasters, the Army assisted the PRCS in transporting relief goods and personnel to the affected area.

A medical team from PRCS was despatched to affected areas to address immediate health issues and free medical camps were set up at Malgi Bagh, Dehat, Kuddan and Tanzag. Treatment focused on women and children and free medicines were issued.

PROCUREMENT OF RELIEF STORES

DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	PRICE PKR
Tents - 1st lot	500	2,100,000
Medicine - 1st lot		310,300
Medicine - 2nd lot		339,370
Food Packs	1,000	1.224.550
Kerosene Stoves	1,000	180,000
Hurricane Lamps	2,000	210,000
Kitchen utensils (sets)	2,000	1,010,100
Blankets	2,000	355,600
Pick Axes	1,000	109,000
Shovels	540	36,720
Plastic Water Containers 10ltr	4,000	73,360
Ladies Shawls	3,000	405,000
Tents	100	286,000

DISTRIBUTION OF RELIEF SUPPLIES

Tents	109	6/5 to 9/5/98	
Blankets	725	6/5 to 9/5/98	from old stock
Chador Cloth	960	6/5 to 9/5/98	from old stock
Cotton Chadors	100	6/5 to 9/5/98	from old stock
Used clothing	2 bales	6/5 to 9/5/98	from old stock
Hand towels	80	6/5 to 9/5/98	from old stock
Medicines	list attached	6/5 to 9/5/98	from 1st lot
Food packs (1000)	14 tons	June	11 villages
Kitchen Utensils sets	1,500	July /August	50 villages
Hurricane Lamps	1,000	July / August	50 villages
Kerosene cooking stoves	500	July / August	50 Villages
Tents	230	August	40 villages
Pick Axes	500	August	44 villages
Shovels	340	August	44 villages
Ladies shawls		September	50 villages
* Used clothing	17 bales	March	To ERC
* Tents	100	March	To ERC
* Blankets	1,225	March	To ERC

*ERC = Emergency Relief Cell

Disaster preparedness •

Funds were set aside from the appeal to conduct four workshops for training in disaster preparedness; two of these were held during the summer and two others are scheduled to take place in early 1999. Participants are drawn from all provincial branches as well as other National Societies within the Region.

Achievements and Constraints

Within the limited scope of this appeal, the objectives as well as the plan of action were realised; and the operation was carried out as initially planned, although as the Appeal was not fully covered, some items could not be purchased, and delays in deliveries meant that distributions lasted longer than planned. Road transport also had to wait until the roads had dried out sufficiently to make them useable. Financial resources, communications, warehousing and transport were identified as areas of concern.

It is unlikely that the planned rehabilitation phase will be forthcoming. As many as 4,000 houses were completely destroyed, and since people lost livestock, standing crops and agricultural land, they are not able to rebuild. A straw hut will cost approximately Pkr 5,000 to build, whereas the cost of a mud house is estimated at Pkr. 60,000. With the onset of winter, (desert areas can have freezing temperatures at night), it may be necessary to supply shelters.

The public health situation in the area should be monitored carefully due to the disrupted water/sanitation system. The tubewells were either washed away or are filled with mud. Drinking water is still a serious concern.

One lesson learnt from this operation is that it would be preferable to have relief stores in place, in order to respond effectively when an emergency occurs. A rub hall for storage would have been useful, as storage capacity is limited both at Quetta and Turbat. In Dasht Area, the Municipal Committee Hall was used for storing goods prior to distribution.

External relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media

Through the ICRC the Federation managed to have 500 tents and medicines delivered for immediate use. The co-operation between the ICRC and the Federation in Islamabad was excellent and meetings were held at regular intervals.

The National Council of the Church of Christ /USA (an NGO with a base in Quetta) assisted with the delivery of tents released from PRCS stocks.

Other agencies such as the Edhi Trust also participated in providing relief to the flood victims.

Contributions

See Annex 1 for details.

Conclusion

The National Society was able to maintain a substantial role in the flood relief operation, thanks to quick financial contributions from local donors, as well as from sister Societies, and the release of funds from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF).

The emergency demonstrated PRCS's ability to respond at provincial level, despite lack of equipment and human resources.

In general, PRCS, assisted by the Federation, succeeded in providing much needed assistance to flood victims in the affected area. This success was due to the close co-operation between the National Society and the Federation Delegation, as well as good co-operation between the PRCS national headquarters and its local branches.

During the relief operation, a new District Branch of PRCS was established in Mekram division. This will be followed up and further strengthened by PRCS/NHQ.

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This and other reports on Federation operations are available on the Federation's website: <http://www.ifrc.org>

**PAKISTAN FLOODS 1998
RELIEF OPERATIONS**

MEDICINES LIST

ITEMS	Unit	QUANTITY
Co-trimoxazole	Tablets	10,000
Erthomycine	Tablets	5,000
Paracetomal	Tablets	20,000
Disprin	Tablets	10,000
Chloroquine	Tablets	20,000
Actifed-DM	Tablets	5,000
Entamizole	Tablets	5,000
Tetracycline	Capsules	5,000
Erthomycine Syrup	Bottles	2,500
Paracetamor Syrup	Bottles	5,000
Furoxone Syrup	Bottles	3,000
Actifed Cough Syrup	Bottles	1,000
Chloroquin Syrup	Bottles	5,000
ORS Powder	Packets	10,000