

# **PAKISTAN: CYCLONE**

*11 June 1999*

*appeal no. 13/99*

*situation report no. 1 (Revised budget)*

*period covered: 26 May - 5 June 1999*

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*Cyclone victims are now returning home, after being given shelter in public buildings and emergency assistance from the authorities and local and international relief agencies. The Pakistan Red Crescent/Federation has completed a survey of needs that has led to a more detailed definition of assistance outlined in the preliminary appeal and an adjustment of the appeal budget .*

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## ***The context***

A tropical storm in the northern Arabian Sea developed into a cyclone which reached the south-east coast of Pakistan on 20 May. The cyclone, labelled 2-A, with winds of up to 170 miles per hour, hit the coastal towns and villages of the two districts of Badin and Thatta in Sindh province, causing massive destruction to housing, built mainly from materials such as grass, straw, bamboo and mud. Some 40,000 houses were completely destroyed and 60,000 damaged. At least 600,000 people in 5,200 villages were affected. Officially, 179 people died, but another 1,200 are still missing. An estimated 16,100 livestock perished and over 400,000 acres of croplands were destroyed, mainly rice, sugar cane and banana fields.

The total population of the two districts is 1,600,000 (900,000 in Thatta and 700,000 in Badin). The majority are farmers or fishermen. The cyclone swept away over 200 fishing boats and crushed others. Agricultural land covered by seas water will be unusable for some time. May is the usual planting time and it is estimated the harvest will be down to 30 per cent of the normal level. The infrastructure, roads, communications systems and electricity lines all suffered severe damage, cutting off many villages from the rest of the province, despite the efforts of the local authorities and the army to effect repairs.

## ***Latest events***

### **Government action.**

The government mobilised military and navy teams to rescue and assist people in the two districts, using helicopters and motor boats. The homeless were accommodated in temporary camps in schools and government buildings and provided with food, water and medical care. However, people are now moving back to their villages and the camps will be closed, creating a real need for assistance with health care, food, domestic items, water and house repairs. In addition people also need tools, seeds and fertiliser or fishing equipment, nets and boats in order to earn a living.

The army is repairing the electricity and communications systems and is repairing and levelling roads leading to the affected villages.

The prime minister has announced an allocation of 50 million rupees for relief assistance. The government will give 5,000 rupees to each family whose home was completely destroyed and 3,000 rupees to those with partially destroyed houses. A detailed village survey is being conducted by 130 local survey teams established by the government. They are expected to complete their work in two weeks' time. So far, 70 per cent of the villages have been surveyed. Findings, as of 5 June, are as follows:

Thatta district: 25,509 houses were affected, of which 14,296 were demolished and 11,213 damaged;  
Badin District: 55,691 houses were affected, of which 30,607 were demolished and 25,084 damaged.

The total number of houses affected is expected to be between 100,000 and 110,000 in the two districts.

### **Local community response •**

Although the worst affected people have lost everything and must rely on relief aid to survive, many villages have helped each other cope with the emergency.

Many small local NGOs and private companies collected relief materials and distributed goods to affected people in villages or camps. In the immediate aftermath of the cyclone, collection centres for donations from the public were set up at the roadside in several towns and many villages received short-term assistance in this way.

Some local NGOs collected relief goods, particularly food, and distributed them in villages, sometimes without proper registration or identification of beneficiaries. As a result some villages were well catered for, while others were overlooked. (For PRCS action on this issue, see under External Relations, last page).

NGOs working in the area include international agencies such as Oxfam, SCF-UK, Islamic relief-UK and local NGOs such as Sindh Graduate Association, NRSP and Edhi Trust.

## ***Red Cross/Red Crescent action***

The Pakistan Red Crescent Society was one of the first organisations to respond to the emergency by supplying food and non-food assistance and mobilising volunteer teams and supplies from the provincial Red Crescent Branch in Sindh and other parts of the country.

The PRCS has distributed approximately 45 MT of food items supplying family packages which include rice, wheat flour, lentils (dal), sugar, salt, vegetable oil (ghee) and matches. In addition non-food

items have been distributed in small quantities, including plates, spoons, pots, pans glass mugs, plastic jerry cans (25lts), hurricane lanterns, mixed clothes (women and children) and blankets.

### **Assessment of needs and appeal budget revision •**

An initial assessment was carried out by the Sindh provincial Red Crescent branch as was used as a basis for the Federation's preliminary appeal, launched on 26 May, and seeking CHF 1,540,000 to assist 25,000 people. This first assessment was followed by a much more detailed evaluation conducted by the Sindh Provincial branch, with the assistance of the International Federation, in the affected areas of Thatta and Badin from 26 May to 3 June. As a result of its findings the original budget has been modified, to CHF 1,310,000, chiefly because the needs for tents and building materials are being met from other sources. The survey has also confirmed the initial objectives of the appeal and has provided a more detailed picture of needs, which are described below.

### **Food •**

Food was among the immediate needs of the affected people, since many lost their crops and their food stocks. Food stores have been built up in some areas, but these are insufficient in the coastal areas of Thatta. A two to three month food assistance programme is essential as many agricultural workers and fishermen have lost their livelihood and the November harvest could be down to 30-40 per cent of the normal level. The food situation in the affected areas will continue to be closely monitored.

Family food parcels will be provided for two months to 2,500 of the most vulnerable families. Each family will receive the following food for one week :

Wheat flour	5 kgs
Rice	3 kgs
Dal (Lentils)	2 kgs
Sugar	1 kg
Salt	1 kg
Ghee (cooking oil)	1kg
Matchboxes	

The total cost of each parcel is 385 Pakistan rupees/ month (CHF 12.8).

### **Domestic needs and fuel •**

Many people lost all their property, including their household cooking utensils. The following will be provided to 2,500 most vulnerable families.

Blankets	2
Jerry cans	1
Hurricane lanterns	1
Plates	6
Spoons	6
Pot	1
Frying pan	1
Glass	6
Water mug	6
Towel	1
Mixed clothing (often available in kind)	

**Medical and Health Needs •**

The health situation is very poor, due to the limited number of health facilities in the area : some villagers have to travel 50 km to the nearest clinic. The stagnant water and the poor sanitation as well as the newly contaminated water have increased the health risks, but so far there has been no outbreak of disease. PRCS intends to send health specialists to the affected area to work through the existing health facilities and to use mobile teams to reach remote villages.

No clean drinking water is available locally, making people very vulnerable to water borne diseases. A huge area is covered by stagnant water with many dead and decaying animals floating in it. The latrine system is not functioning in most of the villages, since latrines are either surrounded by water or broken. This issue is being addressed by the Government, but the Federation / PRCS will keep a check on developments.

The requirements for basic drugs and water purification tablets have now been defined as follows :

100,000 water purification tablets  
 50,000 packets of ORS powder  
 10,000 tablets Ceritrimexazole, Erythromycine, Paracetamol, Choloroquine and Furozone  
 10,000 bottles of Actifed DM  
 Other supplies, to be identified on the spot

**Shelter •**

Shelter is not part of this appeal, since the Government intends to provide cash grants for the repair or reconstruction of homes. Materials can be purchased on the local markets. The Federation / PRCS are continuing to monitor this process.

**Rebuilding livelihoods •**

The livelihoods of agricultural workers and fishermen have been temporarily destroyed. The Federation / PRCS will continue to review this need and may present a separate proposal later on.

***Red Cross / Red Crescent Objectives***

The overall objective of the relief and rehabilitation operation is to provide the most vulnerable with immediate help to sustain life and livelihood. Specifically the objectives are as follows :

- To provide help with immediate food needs ;
- To help families re-established to themselves, by providing basic domestic sets ;
- To provide water purification tablets and, where needed, fresh water supplies ;
- To increase the disaster coping skills of families through health education, focusing on hygiene and sanitation ;
- To supply construction materials and tools for families that have had their homes totally destroyed ;
- To build upon the capacity of the Pakistan Red Crescent Society and the local community.

**Procurement •**

All procurement will be carried out locally in Pakistan through collaboration between the Pakistan Red Crescent and Federation. Standard Federation procedures will be applied. Emergency stocks maintained by the PRCS have already been drawn on to begin the relief operation and will be replaced as procurement begins.

**Duration •**

The operation will be completed within three months (assuming timely and adequate funding).

**Distribution •**

The PRCS will be responsible for organising the central distribution. State and local branches will carry out distribution in the field with guidance and support from National Staff field co-ordinators, volunteers and youth members. Overall monitoring will be responsibility of the Federation / PRCS.

**Selection of beneficiaries •**

Beneficiaries will be those who have lost their homes and their livelihood. A selection of the most vulnerable has already been made by the local authorities and Pakistan Red Crescent. The Federation Relief Delegate will further assist in the area.

**Warehousing •**

Wherever possible, local suppliers will be found who can transport the food to the nearest distribution point thereby reducing the need for stockpiling and redistribution of food between warehouses.

**Transportation •**

It is anticipated that all distribution will be conducted using Pakistan Red Crescent vehicles - a small charge has been added to the local cost in order to cover these costs. Other vehicles will only be used if strictly necessary.

## ***Outstanding needs***

Rapid financial support will enable procurement of goods and an effective and rapid response to needs.

### ***External relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media***

The overall co-ordination of the cyclone operation remains with the local authorities. Co-ordination between the PRCS and the authorities is good, since the Head of State is the national PRCS President and the Provincial Governor is the provincial Red Crescent Branch president. Furthermore, PRCS has representatives at the district level in the two affected areas.

Co-ordination between the NGOs working in the area is however weak, and in some areas is non-existent. PRCS took the initiative of calling a meeting of organisations working in the disaster area in order to co-ordinate the assessment and implementation of humanitarian assistance, with a particular focus on the rehabilitation phase.

The PRCS has already raised public awareness of the work being carried out by the Red Cross and Red Crescent. An Information Officer has recently been recruited and is working alongside the Federation Regional Information Delegate. PRCS and Federation representatives have already carried out a number of national and international media interviews.

## ***Contributions***

See Annex 1 for details.

## ***Conclusion***

The preliminary appeal has now been substantiated with data drawn from a detailed joint Federation/PRCS assessment in the affected area and the budget has been adjusted accordingly. The operation is designed to provide targeted support to the most vulnerable people affected by this disaster. The most urgent need is for immediate financial support to enable the PRCS to continue with relief and rehabilitation activities already under way.

Peter Rees-Gildea  
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**BUDGET SUMMARY**  
**PAKISTAN CYCLONE**

**APPEAL No. 13/99**  
**IN CHF**

ANNEX 1

Revised budget

NON FOOD ITEMS

Tents (2.500 units x CHF 160)	50,000
Building tools	240,000
Domestic needs (clothing/blankets/cooking sets/ stoves/water containers/lamps/plastic sheeting)	240,000

FOOD ITEMS

Food parcels (25.000 units x CHF 12,8) (rice, beans, lentils, cooking oil, sugar, tea, salt, milk)	320,000
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MEDICAL ITEMS

Basic drugs / water purification tablet	160,000
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**TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS** **1,010,000**

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**Transport, storage & vehicle costs** 65,000

**Personnel**

Personnel (1 expat staff x 3 months, RD support)	70,000
Personnel (NS local staff)	25,000

**Administrative, office & general expenses** 40,000

Travel & Communication	20,000
Monitoring/Survey mission/Evaluation	5,000
Printing Costs/Information	10,000
Secretariat operational support	65,000

**TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS** **300,000**

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**TOTAL APPEAL CASH & KIND** **1,310,000**

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LESS CASH ON HAND 540,677.00

**NET REQUEST CASH & KIND** **769,323**

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All items are going to be purchased locally, quantities of relief supplies will be indicated in the confirmed budget