

# **PAKISTAN : CYCLONE**

24 June 1999

*appeal no. 13/99*

*situation report no. 2*

*period covered: 26 May - 21 June 1999*

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*Pakistan Red Crescent mobile medical teams are providing services in cyclone affected areas and helping to define needs and identify beneficiaries for the relief operation. Purchasing of relief items is under way. The National Society reports that people will need help with their economic recovery and re-establishing their livelihood.*

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## ***The context***

A cyclone struck the south-east coast of Pakistan, in the vicinity of the Indus delta, on 20 May, causing massive destruction to housing in the coastal towns and villages of the two districts of Badin and Thatta in Sindh province, and to agriculture and the fishing industry. At least 600,000 people in 5,200 villages were affected. and 191 people, mostly fishermen, were killed. Several hundred persons remain missing and are presumed dead. Over 75,000 houses were destroyed and some 59,000 damaged. 400,000 acres of agricultural land were inundated with salt water and 28,000 head of livestock perished. 675 fishing boats were destroyed. Much of the infrastructure of the two districts -- roads, communications systems and electrical lines -- was damaged.

## ***Latest events***

This storm had both immediate and long term effects. This season's harvest has been destroyed, producing food shortages. Agricultural land is not expected to return to normal levels of production for two to three years. Without fishing boats and nets, communities have lost their livelihood. The monsoon is expected in six weeks and shelter is thus urgently needed. Injuries sustained in the storm, unclean water and a proliferation of snakes have increased the need for medical care.

The government and army have completed their survey of the affected areas and have made significant progress in repairing the local infrastructure. The army has set up a clean water distribution system as well as stocks of food for approximately four weeks. The government has paid approximately CHF 250,000 to persons displaced by the cyclone.

Fresh water has returned to the channels and canals of the area. People are moving back to their villages. Some are beginning to rebuild their lives. The worst affected, mostly fishermen who have lost not only their homes but also their livelihood, are totally dependent on assistance. They are often far

from roads and other infrastructure and many live on family islands scattered throughout the Indus delta.

Local people have donated food and clothing which have been distributed by local NGOs and the Red Crescent.

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

Now the acute emergency phase is over, the PRCS has decided to identify the worst hit communities and focus its relief efforts and rehabilitation support on them. This updated assessment of the needs and capacities of the affected people is being done by the Sindh provincial PRCS with input from the government and the Federation Relief Delegate who arrived in Karachi on 19 June. This revised assessment is expected to be completed in one week's time.

The PRCS has established roving medical clinics. These are not only providing immediate medical assistance but are also helping the PRCS to identify the most needy.

The Federation Relief Delegate is a member of the Comparative Bid Analysis Committee. Requests for quotations for goods to be distributed according to the Federation appeal are being publicised nationally, with the actual tendering being conducted by the NHQ of the PRCS. Both the NHQ and the PRCS Sindh branch will be involved in ensuring quality and quantity control. Distribution is controlled by the Sindh branch. A report on the quantities of goods distributed so far is expected shortly.

## ***Outstanding needs***

The relief items identified in the Federation appeal, i.e.. tents, building supplies and tools, domestic items, food parcels and medical supplies, will provide immediate assistance to victims and also help to set them on the road to recovery. However, some longer term needs are already evident: people need help in re-establishing their capability to feed themselves, and basic transportation is required. Fishing boats and nets are important items for the people of the Indus delta, since besides providing a livelihood the boats in some cases also serve as homes. These items may be added to the Appeal when the current assessment has been completed.

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

Co-ordination of the relief effort is under the auspices of the government Relief Co-ordinator who is in touch with all the agencies and organisations operating in the area. There is limited direct co-ordination between agencies, and between agencies and the Red Cross/ Red Crescent. One meeting, to which all agencies were invited, was held on 12 June.

## ***Contributions***

See Annex 1 for details.

## ***Conclusion***

Once procurements have been completed and the new assessment has been finalised, the relief operation will move ahead, providing the worst hit members of the community with urgently needed goods and also some of the basic support needed for economic recovery and rehabilitation. Any revised needs will be indicated in subsequent reports.

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