

# INFORMATION BULLETIN



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies  
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge  
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja  
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

## PAKISTAN EARTHQUAKE

07 November 2002

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*This Information Bulletin is for information only. The Federation is not seeking any funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.*

### The Situation

A earthquake measuring 5.3 on the Richter scale struck early Saturday, 2 November, in remote northern Pakistan. The earthquake killed at least 17 people and injured dozens more. It devastated 250 homes and affected some 3,000 people. The Government is still assessing the situation and casualty figures remain unclear but it is expected that the number will rise. The worst affected areas were the villages of Racket, Mutt, Jail, and Tattoo in the remote Dialer district, 120 km north of Gilgit. This is a mountainous rural area and access is a problem, especially as winter is closing in.

The earthquake was "moderate", but the area also received 35 aftershocks with three of them prominent - ranging from 4.7 and 5.0 on the Richter scale. Although it was localised, an area of 30 to 40 sq. kilometres was badly affected. The depth of the epicentre was shallow at 32 km.

### Red Crescent Action

The Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) immediately contacted the Government and sent emergency relief materials to affected areas for distribution through the Relief Cell of Pakistan Government. The relief items were:

Double-ply tent	100
Blankets	1'000
Cooking Sets	100
Cooking Stoves	100
Hurricane Lamps	100
Jerseys	1'000
Used Clothing	30 bales
Fabrics for Clothing	20,000 meters
Shawls	1'000

Due to the inaccessibility of the location and weather conditions, the authorities are responsible for the distribution of the assistance. Helicopters are being used to dispatch the relief items.

The Federation's Pakistan Delegation is monitoring the situation and maintaining coordination with the PRCS, ICRC and other international organisations working in Pakistan. The Minister for Kashmir and Northern Affairs acknowledged on national television the speedy response of the Pakistan Red Crescent Society.

**Action taken by GO/NGOs:** Rescue efforts continued on Monday. Assistance was being provided as many people remained without shelter. 'Immediate relief is being provided by the civil administration and army,' an official explained, adding that there still remained an urgent need for tents, blankets, warm clothing and food.

Meanwhile, an official of the Agha Khan Development Network (AKDN), which has a strong presence in the area, is working with the government to provide all the necessary support required. AKDN had already dispatched a rescue team to the area over the weekend, followed by a disaster relief team on Monday. On Sunday, AKDN had provided the authorities with blankets and tents for distribution. As some sections of the Karakoram highway had been closed because of the quake, helicopters remain the main source of transportation into the affected area. According to local media, as a result of landslides, large boulders have blocked some parts of the road while damaging others.

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*All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.*

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*For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.*

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