

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 والقمر الأحمر

PAKISTAN: TRIPLE TRAIN DISASTER

13 July 2005

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.

In Brief

This Bulletin (no. 01/2005) is being issued for information only, and reflects the status of the situation and information available at this time. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

The Situation

Three passenger trains collided in southern Pakistan killing at least 120 people and injuring approximately a thousand. The accident occurred at around 3:40a.m local time (22:40 GMT) near the Sindh province town of Ghotki which is about 430 kilometres (270 miles) northeast of Karachi.

The Karachi Express train, coming from Lahore to Karachi at about 120 kilometres (75 miles) per hour, crashed into the stationary Quetta Express, resulting in several carriages being derailed. The derailed carriages were then hit by a third oncoming train which was taking passengers from Karachi to Rawalpindi. A total of 17 carriages have been wrecked in the disaster.

The authorities are helping the injured and searching through the wreckage for survivors and bodies. Pakistan rail authorities claim the accident is due to driver error but a full investigation is likely to follow.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) has dispatched volunteers from its newly established branch in Ghotki to help the injured. Three ambulances with paramedic staff have been dispatched from the town of Sukkur (approximately 40 kilometres from Ghotki). The Pannu Akil branch (about 20 kilometres south of Ghotki) has

dispatched a medical team (number not confirmed) comprising of doctors, paramedic staff and volunteers trained in first aid. This medical team is equipped with medicines, tents and other emergency relief items. They will set up a medical camp at the site of the accident and will provide first aid to the injured and also help move patients and bodies to the hospital.

The, PRCS Sindh provincial branch secretary is on his way to Ghotki and is expected to reach there Wednesday evening. Based on his assessment report, further action will be taken by the various PRCS branches.

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