

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: TRIPLE TRAIN DISASTER

14 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. 02/2005) 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

At least 132 people were killed and hundreds injured as three passenger trains collided at Sarhad railway station in Ghotki Sindh province, in the early hours of 13 July. A train coming from Lahore, travelling at 120 kilometres (75 miles) per hour, hit a stationary train and caused several carriages to derail. These were subsequently hit by an oncoming train from Karachi. It is the worst rail disaster in Pakistan since 1990.

The president of Pakistan visited the site and has ordered an inquiry into the accident. During his visit, he announced a relief package of PKR 100,000 (CHF 2,160 or USD 1,678) for families of the dead and the same amount for the critically injured.

The death toll is expected to rise, with many of the several hundred injured in serious condition. Bodies were removed from the accident scene and sent to hospitals in different towns and subsequently handed over to relatives, making it difficult to assess the actual figure of casualties.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) took immediate action and dispatched medical teams along with volunteers to the scene. Three PRCS ambulances dispatched from the PRCS Sukkur branch approximately 40

kilometres away, transported patients and bodies to various hospitals. The PRCS Pannu Akil branch has supplied a medical team consisting of a doctor and nine paramedics. They reached the site yesterday (13 July) and set up a medical camp at the location and began providing first aid to the injured.

Around 100 PRCS volunteers from three different branches have gone to the crash site and are assisting with the removal of bodies and providing first aid.

The PRCS Sindh provincial branch secretary arrived at the scene yesterday and is visiting the various hospitals being used to assess needs. He is also involved in tracing activities to address the great confusion and concern of relatives waiting at the various destination train stations.

PRCS staff members are in close liaison with the authorities, providing full support and liaising over how best the national society can assist.

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