

Information bulletin



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Pakistan: Floods

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This bulletin is being issued for information only. Monsoon rains continue to create flood situations in different parts of Pakistan. The Pakistan Meteorological Department has predicted more rainfall over the next few hours. The Pakistan Red Crescent Society's (PRCS) 2008 floods contingency plan has already been activated and an Emergency Operations Committee has been formed at PRCS national headquarters. The national society has carried out distributions of food and non-food relief items in the North West Frontier Province (NWFP) and Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). Health teams are also being sent to the NWFP and Punjab. PRCS/International Federation personnel, trained as part of the national disaster response team (NDRT), reached the affected district of Rajanpur, in the southern part of Punjab, on 5 August 2008 and are carrying out assessments there.

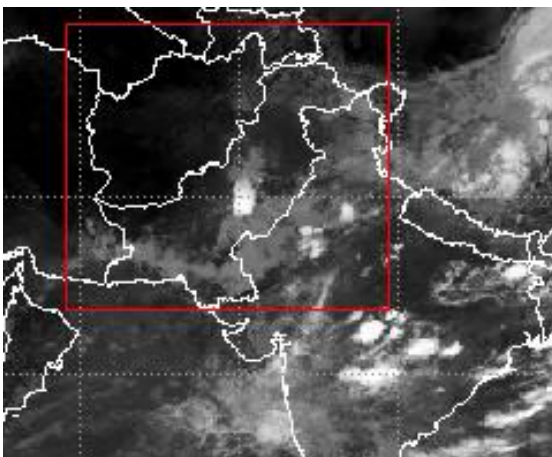
The Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS), with the support of the International Federation, has determined that external assistance is not required, and is therefore not seeking funding or other assistance from donors at this time.



A flooded road in Rajanpur tehsil, southern Punjab (Photo: International Federation/Mubashir Fida)

The Situation

Persistent rainfall during the past 24 hours continued to create flood situations in different parts of Pakistan. According to government sources, the death toll reported so far from various parts of the country totals 40 people.



Satellite picture of Pakistan showing clouds covering the country during the next 24 hours (Source: Pakistan Meteorological Department)

According to the Pakistan Meteorological Department, the Indus river at Tarbela, Kalabagh Chashma, Guddu and Sukkur and Ravi river at Balloki are at a low flood level while the Kabul river at Nowshera is at a medium flood level. All the other major rivers are flowing below low flood level. Scattered thunderstorms and rainfall are expected in Punjab, Kashmir, North West Frontier Province (NWFP) and Northern Areas during the next 24 hours. However, the intensity of rainfall in NWFP is likely to decrease within the next 24 hours. Dry weather is expected in Sindh and Baluchistan provinces during the next two days.

In **Punjab** province, the district of Rajanpur in the southern part of the province was hit by hill torrents (from Baluchistan) and river bank overflows on 3rd August. More rain water hit the area on 5th August. People are being evacuated from nine

villages in three tehsils¹ (Rojhan, Jampur and Rajanpur). In Rajanpur, a total of seven deaths have been reported, with approximately 11,000 families affected. The major crops affected due to floods are rice and cotton. The water level is about four feet and rising. A large part of the population has started moving from this area to other parts of the district. Some people are reinforcing protection walls around their farms and houses to protect these from flooding. In north-eastern Punjab, four areas are on high alert during the next 24 hours, viz. Sialkot, Gujranwala, Hafizabad and Gujrat, as these areas are at risk from persistent monsoon rains.

In the **NWFP**, on 4th August, five union councils² in Peshawar district (Raigi Lalma, Shahi Bala, Harayana, Mathra and Larama) were badly hit by flood waters, killing 30 people and affecting approximately 70,000 people (10,000 families). There have been damages to infrastructure and livelihood. The water is now receding from the areas.

In **Baluchistan** province, links to Jhal Magsi district in the eastern part of the province was restored on 4th August. However, the coastal highway in the southern part of the province is still not operational. According to the Meteorological Department, the weather is expected to remain dry here within the next 48 hours.

In the **Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA)**, according to latest reports, two villages have been badly affected in the Khyber Agency.

The Pakistan government, along with the Pakistan army, has started rescue and relief operations in areas located on the outskirts of Peshawar city (NWFP) on the request of the civil administration on 4th August. The district government in Rajanpur (Punjab) is trying to evacuate people affected in the area and is planning to request the Pakistan army for help with search and rescue work. The local government has also established 16 relief camps (five in tehsil Rajanpur, five in tehsil Jampur and six in tehsil Rojhan) in the area and is providing food and tents to the affected people.

The government/UN floods contingency plan has not been activated as yet. The Provincial Disaster Management Authorities (PDMA) has taken the lead on the flood situation. The Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) provincial branches are in contact with the PDMA offices in the different provinces. The 82 local NGOs registered in Rajanpur district have not as yet activated their resources to respond to the floods.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

As part of the PRCS floods contingency plan, the Emergency Operation Committee (EOC) has held two meetings so far at which information on the floods situation and Red Cross Red Crescent actions have been shared with all participants. This committee is headed by the PRCS Secretary General and comprises of PRCS/International Federation personnel from various sectors including disaster management, health, water and sanitation, administration/logistics, finance, information technology and media.

The national society's disaster preparedness stock has been made ready for deployment in any part of the country. The stock position in the country is as follows:

Items	NHQ	Sindh	Baluchistan	Punjab	NWFP	Kashmir	Northern Areas	FATA	Mansehra	TOTAL
Tents	7,536 ³	5,787	19,909	7,524	2,104	956	300	271	5,573	49,960
Blankets	55,874 ⁴	22,439	28,373	33,000	21,301	3,167	2,100	2,945	3,875	173,074
Kitchen sets	2,587	1,451	3,143	2,995	404	0	300	0	0	10,880
Plastic sheets	3,051	5,898	10,408	6,050	6,164	728	600	642	16,640	50,181
Hurricane lamps	1,780	3,100	7,428	3,000	2,520	610	300	221	16,808	35,767
Stoves	1,700	6,764	6,083	3,001	3,051	450	300	321	12,633	34,303
Jerry cans	663	3,011	6,580	3,160	3,540	577	300	92	18,245	36,168
Sleeping bags	984	1,957	1,963	1,990	2,073	159	0	0	775	9,901
Hygiene kits	1,700	2,901	5,948	3,000	2,882	807	300	0	33,002	50,540
Quilts	118	0	0	0	0	0	900	700	9,933	10,751

¹ Local government/administrative divisions in a district

² Local government/administrative divisions in a tehsil

In addition, the emergency response units or ERUs (water and sanitation plants) donated to the PRCS by partner national societies during the Cyclone Yemyin/Floods emergency operation in 2007, are being made ready for deployment, if needed based on assessments carried out. Further, 25 PRCS/International Federation staff, trained as part of the national disaster response team (NDRT), have been put on alert. The PRCS' district branch in Bhawalpur (in south Punjab) has been put on alert.

The PRCS/International Federation NDRT reached Rajanpur in Punjab on 5th August to conduct an assessment there. The team consists of a team leader, a water and sanitation focal person, a health focal person, supported by the International Federation's disaster management manager and information officer. The team held meetings with the local government and visited some affected areas. It plans to carry out further assessments during the next few days. Further interventions will be based on the assessment team's report. The PRCS' provincial branch in Punjab sent an ambulance, with a doctor and a paramedic, to Rajanpur. Two PRCS water and sanitation personnel are being sent to PRCS' Bhawalpur district branch to prepare a water and sanitation plant (ERU), which was donated by the Swedish/Austrian Red Cross Societies during the Cyclone Yemyin/Floods operation in 2007.



Farmers inspecting their flood hit cotton crop in Rajanpur district, southern Punjab (Photo: International Federation/Mubashir Fida)

Based on the provincial disaster response team assessment, the PRCS' provincial branch in NWFP has identified 600-800 families for food and non-food distributions. The provincial branch carried out distributions for 200 families on 5th August in Raigi Lalma union council. Each package consisted of a tent, two plastic sheets, one jerry can, a stove and hygiene kit. These families also received mosquito nets (a total of 400 nets were distributed). Apart from the relief team, a total of 10 PRCS volunteers participated in the distributions. Three health teams will be sent to Peshawar district from the earthquake affected areas and comprise health personnel from the health teams in Besham, Oghi, Balakot and Banna. The first team comprises a PRCS health monitor (from Besham), a male doctor (from Balakot), a female doctor (from Besham), a female health visitor (from Banna), a dispenser (from Besham) and an EPI technician (from Balakot). The second team comprises a male doctor (from Banna), a female doctor (from Oghi), a female health visitor (from Banna), a dispenser (from Balakot) and an EPI technician (from Banna). The first team will go to Garhi Balouch, the second team will go to Hassan Garhi and the area for a third team is still in the process of being finalized. These teams will provide general health and care to the flood affected people. The teams have already held meetings with the local government.

In the FATA area, the PRCS' FATA branch carried out food and non-food distributions for 50 families in two affected villages in the Khyber Agency. These distributions were based on the assessments done by the assessment team on 4th August. Food distribution for each family consisted of 5 kg clarified butter, 20 kg flour, 5 kg sugar, 5 kg rice, 5 kg lentils, 400 gms tea, 1 kg salt, 1 kg dry milk, 1 match box and 1 pack of soap. Non-food items distributed so far consisted of 30 tents, 100 plastic sheets, 60 jerry cans, 210 blankets and 50 clothing kits (comprising items like sweaters, shawls and cloth piece to make clothing items for men and women). The PRCS' FATA branch has further identified 141 families and relief assistance will be provided to them on 7th August. A health team along with doctors and paramedics has also been sent to the area. The relief items have been provided by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The PRCS is maintaining coordination with the ICRC for the FATA operation as this is a conflict area.

³ Also consists of 2,500 tents that were stored in Karachi (Sindh) for Cyclone Yemyin/Floods emergency operation in 2007.

⁴ Also consists of 15,360 blankets that were stored in Karachi (Sindh) for Cyclone Yemyin/Floods emergency operation in 2007.

How we work

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Contact information

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