

# Information bulletin



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

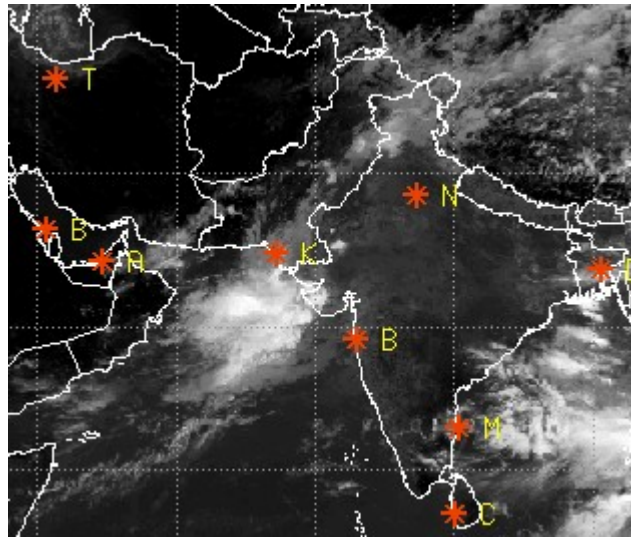
## Pakistan: Monsoon/Floods

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24 July 2009

This bulletin is being issued for information only. Due to heavy monsoon rainfall in the Sindh and Baluchistan provinces of Pakistan, around 200 families have been affected. The Pakistan Red Crescent Society's (PRCS) provincial branches in Karachi (Sindh) and Quetta (Baluchistan) are actively involved in assessments and distributions in Thatha (Sindh) and Barkhan (Baluchistan).

The Pakistan Red Crescent Society, 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.

[<click here to view the map of the affected area, or here for detailed contact information>](#)



Map showing a cloud mass over the Arabian Sea near the southeast coastal areas of Pakistan. (Source: Pakistan Metrological Department)

## The Situation

The metrological department of Pakistan has forecasted monsoon rain in Sindh; north eastern Baluchistan; northern Punjab and in some parts of the North-West Frontier Province (NWFP), in the coming two to three days. There is also a possibility of heavy rainfall in south eastern Sindh during the next 24 – 36 hours. However, during the previous week there was flooding in the coastal districts of Thatha (in Sindh) and Barkhan (in Baluchistan).

### Sindh:

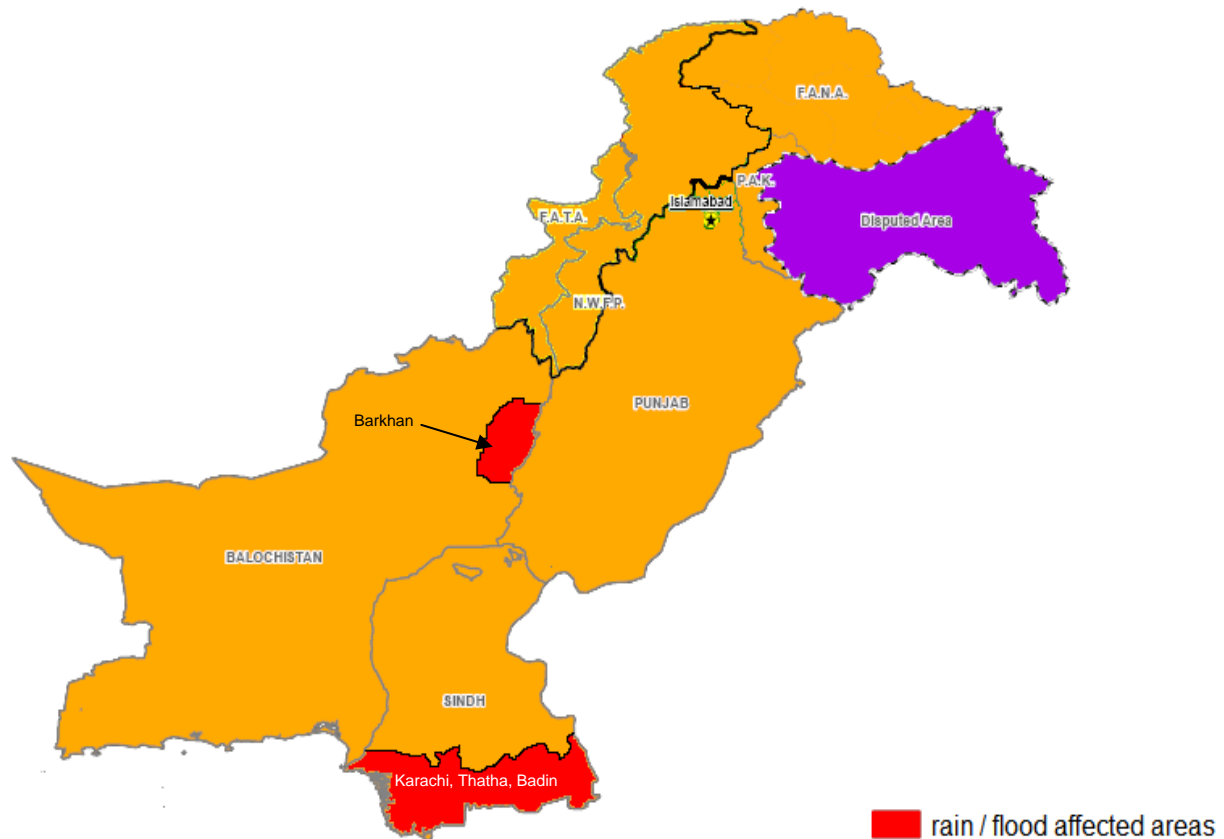
On 19 July, Thatha district was badly affected by heavy rainfall; with some streets of the city completely inundated. In the nearby Peer Pathani hills, a river bank broke and flooded Haji Asif Palii Joo area affecting three hamlets. Around 40 houses were completely surrounded by water and the families left out in the open. Standing crops were destroyed by the flooding and electricity was suspended. Although, electricity has been restored since.

In Karachi, heavy rainfall on 20 July disrupted daily life and various areas of the city were affected. The electricity system of the city nearly collapsed due to the rain, which hindered the performance of various pumping stations that are used to pump water out of the low lying areas. Power cuts also affected the water supply of the city and people had difficulty in accessing safe drinking water. Around 30 people died in various rain related incidents in the city.

The metrological department has forecasted heavy rain in the south eastern parts of the Sindh province (including Thatha, Badin and Karachi) between 23 and 25 July. An emergency situation has been imposed in Thatha by the district government, whereas, in Karachi the local government is on high alert.

### Baluchistan:

On the night of 22 July, Barkhan district received heavy rainfall and several villages were affected by flooding in the hill torrents of the area. A dam that was under construction broke down due to heavy rain. According to the district coordination officer (DCO) of Barkhan, around 15,000 people (approximately 2,150 families) have been affected. The district is located 400 kilometers north east of the provincial capital Quetta and 70 kilometers east of Loralai district. Various areas have been cut-off as the roads have been washed away at several places. According to the metrological department 98 mm of rain has been recorded in Barkhan and more rain is expected in the area in the coming 24 to 48 hours.



## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) remains vigilant in the monsoon season and has already put its provincial branches on alert. PRCS has also made a monsoon contingency plan for possible flooding during the monsoon season.

### Sindh:

The PRCS Sindh response team consisting of the provincial disaster management manager and the Thatha disaster management officer, reached the affected area in Thatta on 20 July and conducted an initial assessment. According to the report of the team:

- There is no access to the affected villages due to broken bridge and flood water around the area.
- 20 – 25 mud houses were completely damaged and some 40 families were affected.
- The team moved with 32 tents which were distributed immediately to the affected families, having damaged houses, while government authorities distributed food packs.
- An information centre has also been setup in the DCO's office. And PRCS representatives are participating actively in the full relief operation process. This also includes future planning.
- There are further plans to distribute more tents, stoves and hygiene kits to the affected people.
- Presently no health intervention has been made by PRCS.

PRCS has its disaster management (DM) cells in Thatha and Badin. Emergency stocks for 200 families have been maintained both at the DM cells of Thatha and Badin, and stocks for around 2,000 families are stored at the provincial branch in Karachi. Each package contains:

**Emergency stock for one family (seven people)**

Items	Number
Family hygiene kit	1
Stove	1
Jerry can	2
Family tent	1
Kitchen set	1
Hurricane lamp	1

**Baluchistan:**

The PRCS Baluchistan provincial branch has activated its disaster response team at district of Loralai. According to the initial assessment of the PRCS disaster response team at the district of Loralai, the village of Pahari Muhallah has been hit hardest and the team has so far identified 185 families (approximately 2,000 people who need assistance). The team is continuing the assessment and is trying to reach various affected areas. There is emergency stock of non-food items in Loralai for 200 families and in provincial branch (in Quetta) for 3,000 families.

**Emergency stock for one family (seven people)**

Items	Number
Stove	1
Jerry can	2
Family tent	1
Kitchen set	1
Hurricane lamp	1

The provincial branch disaster management manager and provincial disaster management officer in Quetta are actively coordinating with the provincial disaster management authority in Baluchistan. In addition, the district coordination officer in Barkhan, the news agencies and other related government departments are also working to gather accurate information.

## 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

For further information specifically related to this report, please contact:

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