

# Information bulletin

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Pakistan: Humanitarian assistance to internally displaced people

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This bulletin is being issued for information only.

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With the increased intensity of the fighting going on in Swat (North West Frontier Province), large movements of internally displaced people (IDPs) have been taking place. It is estimated that 2.3 million people are now displaced. Large numbers of these IDPs are living with their relatives in safer areas, posing increased burdens on their host families. The remainder are staying in 21 camps, which have been established by the government and other humanitarian agencies.



The PRCS/ICRC managed camp in Swabi at night time.  
Photo: Abdullah/PRCS

The Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) and the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) are jointly managing six of the IDP camps.

[<click here for a map of the affected areas and here for detailed contact information >](#)

## The situation

In May 2009, the government of Pakistan announced a military operation against the militants in Malakand division (North West Frontier Province) and the Federally Administered Tribal Area. Due to this operation, there has been a massive movement of population from Swat and its surroundings towards safer areas.

According to the latest UN-OCHA report, more than 2.3 million people have been displaced by the conflict. The majority (88 percent of 2.3 million) of the internally displaced people (IDPs) are living with their relatives or friends, referred to as host families. The absorption capacity of the host families/friends is now near exhaustion as they themselves are badly affected due to the overall economic crisis/food insecurity situation prevailing in the country, making both IDPs and host families increasingly vulnerable. Only the remaining 12 percent of the displaced are residing in the camps.

The government, along with the UN agencies and other local and international humanitarian actors are coordinating to cope with the situation. The UN has launched an appeal for USD 543 million to support the IDPs. The main coordinating body of the government is the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).

At the moment, a total of 21 IDP camps are being run by the government and its partners. The PRCS and ICRC are running six of these camps.

The people travelling to the camps are finding it difficult to find transport. The increasingly hot weather is making the living conditions for the IDPs very harsh, especially for the women as culturally they observe purdah (observing the veil). The increasing heat is also threatening the health and hygiene conditions of the IDPs.



The children residing at the PRCS/ICRC camp in Swabi enjoying the cool waters from the water stands. Photo: Abdullah/PRCS

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

In coordination with the NDMA, the PRCS and ICRC are running a joint operation for IDPs through managing six camps which are housing around 50,000 people. The PRCS currently plans on operating the camps through December 2009. If IDPs are not able to return home soon, their presence will impose a significant burden on host families. Out these six camps, three were established in August 2008, while three new ones have been established in May 2009. In the camps, the IDPs are receiving food and non-food items, while provisions for water and sanitation, health and care, and psychosocial support are also being made available. To date, more than 6,500 tents have been pitched in these six camps. The PRCS/ICRC camps are being managed according to the sphere standards.

The details of these six camps are as follows:

Camp Location	Families	Individuals
Rang Mala, Malakand	620	4,094
Pallai Adda, Malakand	210	1,653
Shah Mansoor Township, Swabi	1,994	12,756
Govt. College, Timargarah	300	2,238
Commerce College, Timargarah	383	2,635
Benazir Camp	400	2,503
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,907</b>	<b>25,879</b>

The Pakistan Red Crescent Society is currently expanding its response to the displacement crisis and assessing how best to respond to the unprecedented need for humanitarian aid in the area, with the support of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

**Relief:** Since August 2008, the PRCS/ICRC has distributed food (both cooked and dry rations) to more than 18,000 families. Non-food items have also been distributed to all the families at the camps. Each family has received a kitchen set, one hygiene kit, two blankets, seven mosquito nets, one hurricane lamp and other basic items.

**Health and care:** The PRCS has deployed seven health teams in the six camps. Each team consists of a male doctor, a female doctor, one lady health visitor, an epidemiology technician and a health educator. Since August 2008, these teams have provided health and care to more than 75,000 patients. The most common diseases being found among the IDPs in the camps are malaria, diarrhoea, scabies, acute respiratory infection and heat stroke. These PRCS health teams were mobilized from the Federation supported earthquake recovery operation (appeal M05EA022).

**Water and sanitation:** In the six PRCS/ICRC managed camps, water bladders have been installed for the provision of drinking water. A total of 585 pit latrines have been constructed while 193 community showers have been put in place. Hygiene promotion activities are also being carried out in the camps. Like the health teams, the PRCS water and sanitation teams were mobilized from the Federation supported earthquake recovery operation.

**Psychosocial support:** PRCS is also providing psychosocial support to the IDPs in the camps. This activity is enabling the displaced to recover from their traumatic experiences. The psychosocial support team is organizing sports activities among the children. The team is also conducting regular debriefing sessions with the IDPs.

### ***Support from other Red Cross Red Crescent partners:***

**American Red Cross:** The American Red Cross has pledged US \$80,000 in relief items (3,150 mattresses, and 2000 water coolers) for the PRCS to distribute in IDP camps

**Canadian Red Cross:** The in-country Canadian Red Cross delegation carried an assessment with the PRCS of the camps. The Canadian Red Cross health team from Allai Valley (NWFP) (part of the 2005 earthquake operation) is working in the PRCS/ICRC Swabi camp. Non-food items consisting of 500 pedestal fans, 1,000 hygiene kits, 1,000 (70 litres capacity) waste bins and 250 canopies will soon be handed over to PRCS by the Canadian Red Cross.

**Danish Red Cross:** The Danish Red Cross representative in Pakistan carried out assessments in the camps in Swabi, Mardan and Nowshera. The Danish Red Cross has also pledged EUR 100,000 to the PRCS/ICRC operation. 1,000 pedestal fans have been given to PRCS by Danish Red Cross. A Danish Red Cross assessment team for psychosocial and food support is travelling to Pakistan by 30 May.

**German Red Cross:** The German Red Cross has provided satellite phones to PRCS. The in-country office of German Red Cross is also in talks with the PRCS to provide communication (hardware) and human resource support to PRCS.

**Turkish Red Crescent:** The Turkish Red Crescent has handed over a shipment of 10.5 tons (costing USD 500,000) of medicines and medical equipment to the government of Pakistan (to the IDPs special support group). This shipment has been funded by the Turkish government. The Turkish Red Crescent office in Pakistan is coordinating with the PRCS and is ready to provide any further support.

**United Arab Emirates Red Crescent:** The UAE Red Crescent has provided food items (rice, sugar, beans, oil and flour), blankets and tents to the PRCS. These items have been distributed in the PRCS/ICRC camps.

Other partner national societies that have committed their support include American Red Cross, Australian Red Cross, Qatar Red Crescent and Iranian Red Crescent.



A PRCS doctor providing a check-up for a girl in the camp. Photo: Abdullah/PRCS.

## 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 operation please contact:**
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# Pakistan: Internally displaced people situation

