

Information bulletin

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Pakistan: Hunza landslides and floods

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This information bulletin is being issued for information only and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation. The Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) will, however, accept direct assistance to provide support to the affected population.

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

Massive landslides hit Hunza (Gilgit Baltistan) on 4 January 2010, sliding two villages into the Hunza river. This resulted in the blockage of the river and the Karakorum highway, thereby creating an artificial dam. According to latest news reports, 13,000 people have been evacuated from the down stream area. The displaced people are residing in 12 camps in Hunza, 11 camps in Gilgit or with host families. According to the latest updates, 2,170 people (310 families) have been registered in the camp established by Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) at Chilmisdass Gilgit. Due to landsliding, 22km of Karakorum highway has been blocked, impeding road access to up stream areas for the last four months. The relief goods are being transported to these areas through boats and helicopters, but now the water level has reached a critically high level, thus the government has planned to stop boat services. There is a critical need for food, non-food items and health services to the upper stream areas, whose estimated population is 25,000 people.



Evacuation from the areas where road access has been blocked is taking place through boats. Photo: local website.

The Situation

A series of landslides hit Hunza valley in Gilgit Baltistan province on 4 January 2010. According to local authorities, two villages slid into the river following the landslides. The landslides blocked Hunza river and created an artificial dam, where water level is rising at a rate of 2.7 feet per day. The dam has stretched from three km to 18.5 km. Frontier Works Organization has excavated a spill way to reduce the risk of massive flooding. According to local authorities, the water is expected to start flowing into the spill way between 15-30 May.

According to the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), 4,983 people from Hunza Nagar have shifted to 12 camps in Hunza. From Gilgit district, 4,476 people have been shifted to 11 camps. A total of 3,393 people are residing with host families in Gilgit. Around 1,700 individuals have been evacuated.

Karakoram Highway has further been damaged, disconnecting Gojal valley from the rest of Hunza. This will affect the supply of relief items by road.

According to NDMA on 22 May 2010, only three metres remains to be completed for the water to start flowing into the spill way. However, if the dam breaches, an estimated 25 villages in Hunza and 14 villages in Gilgit are likely to be affected. Moreover, the provincial disaster management authority (PDMA) notified four vulnerable districts (Shangla, Kohistan, Battagram, and Mansehra) with an estimated population of 41,300 people, are expected to be affected if the dam breaks.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) has been assisting the affected communities from the first day of the landslide disaster through the district branch staff. The PRCS Gilgit Baltistan branch responded with immediate distribution of non-food items to 200 families in January. On 30 April, the district government requested PRCS to establish a camp for the affected people. Initially there was a need to accommodate 195 displaced families. However, with the changing scenario, the need is rising every single day. PRCS has established an internally displaced people (IDP) camp in Chilmisdass Gilgit. To date, 310 families have been registered and are residing in the PRCS IDP camp. PRCS has been providing food, non-food items, health services and psychosocial support to the affected people. To date, PRCS and the International Federation have provided support to 4,519 individuals. Details are given in the table below:

Phase	Area of operation		Targeted households	Targeted people	Assistance provided
1	Altit	4 camps	253	2,024	Food packs, non-food items, medicines, health and psychosocial support programme (PSP) services, restoring family links (RFL) services.
2	Ainabad Shishkat	By helicopters boats	80	640	Food items, tents (40) and health services.
3	Altit	4 camps	141	987	Food and non-food items (NFI).
4	Chilmisdass	PRCS camp	124	868	NFI kit: Blankets, tarpaulin sheets, jerry can, kitchen set, hygiene kit, hurricane lamp and stove.
Total number of households/ people targeted			598	4,519	

PRCS is currently working in close collaboration with the local government, district disaster management authority and all other key stakeholders for the smooth running of the operation. NDMA requested PRCS to provide 2,500 non-food items kits for out-of-camp distributions. These kits have been dispatched to Hunza, with the logistic support of the World Food Programme. PRCS has utilized the disaster preparedness stocks available at strategic locations to cater this need. The deputy district commissioner of Hunza has provided PRCS a storage space in the Boys' Degree College Aliabad, to establish a warehouse for the storage of the contingency relief items.

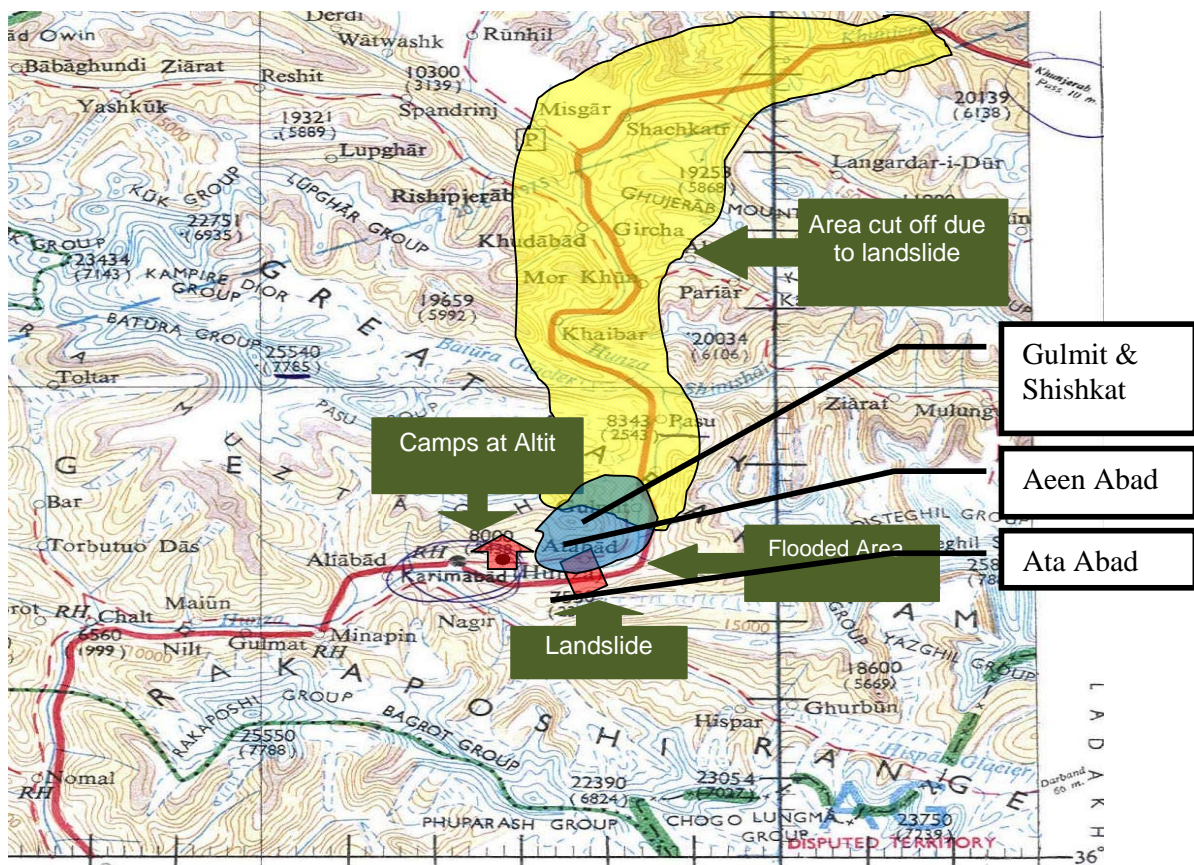
In response to the evolving situation, the PRCS health teams are providing possible assistance to the in-camp IDPs. On the request of the local authorities, another health team shall move to Gilgit, to be dropped by helicopters to in accessible areas. PRCS, along with the government, is making its



Collapsed houses in the affected areas where water level is continuously rising. The local inhabitants have been shifted to safe places. Photo: Local website.

utmost efforts to facilitate the population of upper Hunza. PRCS national headquarters is ready to deploy medicines for 2,000 individuals for a three-month period as soon as the logistic support is available. The transporters are reluctant to dispatch relief goods to Hunza because of unpredictable weather and bad road situation. The PRCS water and sanitation team has been monitoring the water and sanitation facilities at the camp and have established 30 latrines so far. The local trained psychosocial support programme (PSP) volunteers are already providing the necessary psychosocial support to the affected people. Moreover, the PRCS PSP coordinator is assessing the need for any further PSP intervention in the area.

The International Federation's country office is closely assessing the situation and is prepared to extend any support to the national society. Currently, the contingency plan and budget are ready for providing support to 500 in-camp families and 2,000 out-of-camp families for three months. The International Federation's country office is in close collaboration with PRCS for any assistance required. The International Federation assessment team, along with the focal persons from partner national societies, is visiting the affected areas to consider any support needed in this operation. Also, the PRCS, with the support of the International Federation and partner national societies, is working for the preparedness in case of sudden dam breach. Additionally, the International Federation zone disaster management unit in Kuala Lumpur is ready to provide any possible assistance. PDMA has issued a notification of vulnerable districts which are expected to be affected if the dam breaks. The PRCS and International Federation disaster management teams are also working with the district branches of Mansehra, Kohistan, Shangla and Battagram for contingency plans of evacuation. According to an assessment conducted by PDMA, an estimated 41,300 families are most likely to be affected in four districts of Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa province in case of the sudden breakage of the dam at Hunza.



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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[<map below; click here to return to the title page or contact information>](#)



NASA Earth Observatory image created by Jesse Allen, using EO-1 ALI data provided courtesy of the NASA EO-1 team. Caption by Michon Scott.