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DREF operation update

Pakistan: Earthquake in Balochistan

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation n° MDRPK009
GLIDE n° [EQ-2013-000121-PAK](#)
Operation update n°2
29 November 2013

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and Red Crescent emergency response. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of National Societies to respond to disasters.

Period covered by this update:
30 September to 8 November 2013.

Summary: CHF 154,425 was allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 30 September, 2013 to support the Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) in delivering assistance to some 7,000 beneficiaries.

An earthquake of 7.7-magnitude hit the southwestern region of Pakistan on Tuesday 24 September 2013 at 16:29 hrs. Pakistan Standard Time (PST), affecting approximately 27,030 families (185,150 persons)¹.

PRCS was on the ground for initial assessments within 36 hours after the quake, and operational by 27 September providing emergency health services following with basic relief to the affected 72,890 people



Earthquake affected families of Balochistan receiving much needed emergency food assistance in Teertej village of Awaran District. **Photo:** PRCS.

IFRC, in supporting PRCS, closely monitored the situation and coordinated with the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) and Red Cross Red Crescent Partner National Societies (PNS) present in the country to ensure support for the operation.

¹ <http://www.pdma.gob.pk/wp-content/publication/Earthquake2013/SituationReport30.pdf>

This DREF supports PRCS to deliver immediate assistance to the population affected by the earthquake with emergency health services, food packets, non-food items (NFIs) and emergency shelter supplies. NFIs and shelter supplies have been mobilized out of existing PRCS pre-positioned stocks, while the DREF covers food items, transport and distribution cost. The DREF does not cover the replenishment of NFIs.

The majority of relief response operation by the PRCS in Balochistan has been completed on 8 November, with the final report available by March 2014.

[<click here for contact details>](#)

The situation

A 7.7-magnitude earthquake hit the southwestern region of Pakistan on Tuesday 24 September 2013 at 16:29hrs Pakistan Standard Time (PST) with a focal depth of 10 kilometers (kms), followed by a series of aftershocks over the following days. The epicenter was 66 kms north-east from Awaran district capital, with tremors felt in neighboring Sindh province, but also in neighboring countries. Awaran district was the most struck amongst the six affected districts in Balochistan province², with all three Tehsils of Awaran, Mashkay and Jhaho affected.

The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) of Balochistan has reported 399 people dead and another 599 people injured (as of 17 November, 2013, from Awaran and Kech districts), with an estimated 27,030 families (185,150 people) affected by the earthquake.

The PRCS Chairman, Retired Major General Chaudary Muhammad Nawaz Khan visited the area on 3rd of October 2013, together with the Chairman and Director Operations of NDMA, joining representatives from NADRA (National ID card issuing authority), the Assistant Commissioner of Awaran and security forces for a briefing on the situation in the earthquake affected areas. The efforts and contributions of PRCS in the response operation were much appreciated.

For further details on the situation please refer to the 1st operation update posted on 18th of September 2013.

Coordination and partnerships

From the onset of the earthquake, supported by IFRC, PRCS took lead in the coordination among the RCRC movement partners. Disaster Management and Logistical Unit (DMLU) at PRCS national headquarters act as operational centre where briefings were held and from which operational updates were disseminated.

**Table 1: Summary of relief distributions by PDMA
Balochistan as of 17 November 2013**

Relief items	Quantity
Tent	49,638
Blanket	39,002
Plastic mat	20,936
Mosquito net	28,000
Jerry can	400
Water bottle	55,535
Food packets	255,656

² Kech (also known as Turbat), Kharan, Panjgur, Washok, Gawadar, and Awaran Districts.

The PRCS maintained contacts with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), and IFRC with international humanitarian community.

The Pakistan Army, Frontier Corps and District Administration together with NDMA and PDMA carried out relief activities in the affected areas, including health services, search and rescue, distribution of food and NFIs.

The Government’s health department also mobilized support services comprising of 52 doctors, 71 paramedic staff, medicines and 31 ambulances deployed in Awaran, out of which 23 were from EDHI Foundation Karachi. Five Emergency health kits (with a capacity of 1,000 persons each) and 100 trauma kits are also provided to the affected areas.

A number of local organizations in the area responded with assistance to the earthquake affected people³. The World Health Organization (WHO) has provided kits for the delivery of emergency primary health care services for 100,000 people, and the World Food Programme (WFP) has arranged for the delivery of high energy biscuits⁴.

The Government of Pakistan has not requested for international assistance.



An earthquake affected beneficiary of PRCS assistance in Bazdad village of Awaran District, Balochistan province. **Photo:** PRCS.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Progress towards outcomes

The operation has so far delivered immediate assistance through the provision of food packets, NFIs, emergency shelter supplies, and emergency health services to 72,890 people.

The food packets are being procured locally while the NFIs and shelter supplies are being provided out of PRCS pre-positioned stocks.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Outcome 1: The basic food and essential household needs of 1,000 earthquake affected families (approx. 7,000 people) are met in the affected districts (Awaran, Kech/Turbat) of Balochistan province.

Output 1.1: 1,000 earthquake affected families (approx. 7,000 people) have received basic food assistance.

Activities planned:

- Conduct rapid emergency needs assessment.
- Selection and verification of 1,000 families with community participation in planning and distribution process.

³ HANDS, the Institute for Development Studies and Practices (IDSP), the National Commission for Human Development (NCHD), the Helping Hand for Relief and Development (HHRD), Al-Khidmat Foundation, the Friendship International (FI), the National Rural Support Programme (NRSP), Today’s Women, and the Islamic Relief

⁴ <http://www.unocha.org/pakistan>

- Procurement, warehousing, and transportation of 1,000 food parcels at distribution sites according to distribution plan.
- Provide assistance to 1,000 families through distribution of food parcels.
- Establish a beneficiary feedback and monitoring system for the continuous improvement of the delivery system.
- Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on the distributions.

Output 1.2: 1,000 earthquake affected families (approx. 7,000 people) have been assisted with emergency shelter and essential household items which will be deployed from PRCS pre-positioned stock.

Activities planned:

- Conduct rapid emergency needs assessment.
- Selection and verification of 1,000 families with community participation in planning and distribution process.
- Mobilization of existing DP stocks from PRCS warehouse, to distribution sites according to distribution plan.
- Provide assistance to 1,000 families through distribution of emergency shelter and essential household items.
- Establish a beneficiary feedback and monitoring system for the continuous improvement of the delivery system.
- Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on the distributions.

Progress:

The selection of areas for PRCS response assistance was done in coordination with the district government authorities and the Awaran Disaster Response Forum (ADRF)⁵. Beneficiaries' identification was conducted with the support of local communities, with blanket coverage provided in the targeted villages due to the full extent of the impact of the earthquake. Despite reluctance to share National Identity Card (NIC) cards for assistance registration given the security sensitivities in the areas, (PDMA Balochistan had endorsed relaxation of this requirement), 50 to 60 per cent of the beneficiaries were able to provide their NICs for assistance registration. Adjustment was made for those with no identification document, with the endorsement from the District authorities.

PRCS mobilized its Disaster Preparedness (DP) stocks (emergency shelters and essential household items) to assist the identified beneficiaries in Awaran district from PRCS Quetta (Balochistan) and Karachi (Sindh) warehouses, in addition to the local procurement supported by local and international donors.

To date PRCS has reached 9,753 families (68,271 people) with relief items, within these families, 2,000 of them received emergency shelter and essential household items, and 9,753 received food assistance.

Note that although according to the PRCS 2013 Monsoon Floods Contingency Plan , PRCS's 61kg-standard food pack includes 20kg of wheat flour, 15kg of rice, 6kg of split chickpea pulse, 6kg of pink lentils, 1kg of salt, 1kg of tea, 7kg of sugar and 5kg of ghee, however due to the sudden onset of the disaster and the urgency to provide assistance, and making use of different sources and channels of support, four different food packs were distributed in the size of 61kgs, 53kgs⁶, 20kgs⁷ and 25kgs⁸. The 53kg food parcels were as per the specifications of the PRCS 2012 Monsoon Floods Contingency Plan, whereas the 20kg- and 25kg- packs were a mixture of donated and existing stocks

⁵ List of participants is available in the [Operation Update no. 1](#)

⁶ PRCS Non-standard Food package (53kg) contents are: 20kg wheat flour, 10kg rice, 5kg split chickpea pulse, 4kg pink lentils, 2kg dates, 3kg ghee, 6kg sugar, 1.5kg tea, 1.5 litre milk

⁷ PRCS Non-standard food package (20kg) TRC Supported contents are: 10kg red lentils , 10kg chick peas

⁸ PRCS Non-standard food package (20kg) TRC Supported contents are: 10kg red lentils , 10kg chick peas, 5kg rice

Food distributions took place between 8 October and 8 November in the Awaran district. The details are as follows:

Tehsil	UC	Village/Moza	# of families	Donor	Size of food packs
Awaran	Awaran	Labach	1,000	PRCS	61kg
		Pirandar, Chedagi	1,640	PRCS-TRC	20kg ⁹
	Teertaij	Teertej	1,000	PRCS-IFRC	61kg
		Bazdad	353	Zong	53kg
		Cheri Malar, Sari Malar, Khanay Zeelag	2,660	PRCS-TRC	20kg
	Gishkor	Zeek, Gishkor, Sandom, Hore	2,400	Telenor	61kg
		Maashi	700	PRCS/ TRC	20kg
Grand total			9,753		

As per PRCS 2013 Monsoon Contingency Plan, the standard NFI package for Balochistan province includes one tent, two tarpaulin sheets, one kitchen set, two 10-litre jerry cans, five blankets, one hygiene kit and two mosquito nets.

In the first phase, all the items were distributed as planned in addition to one stove, one hurricane lamp and one shelter tool kit. However in second phase of NFI distributions, in consultation with local authorities and other humanitarian organizations, it was decided to remove tents and provide one mosquito net less from the NFI pack as these were already distributed by other entities to the affected population.

Meanwhile, NFI distribution was undertaken in Awaran district between 1 and 8 October covering the following items:

Tehsil	UC	Village/Moza	# of Families	Items per family
Awaran	Awaran	Labach	500	1 tent, 1 tarpaulin sheet, 1 shelter toolkit, 5 blankets, 2 mosquito nets, 1 jerry can (20 litre), 1 hygiene kit, 1 kitchen set, 1 stove, 1 hurricane lamp
	Teertaij	Bazdad	500	
	Awaran	Liaquat Bazar, Rehmat Bazar	500	1 tarpaulin sheet, 1 shelter toolkit, 5 blankets, 1 mosquito nets, 1 jerry can, 1 hygiene kit, 1 kitchen set, 1 stove, 1 hurricane lamp
	Teertaij	Teertaij	500	

⁹ Approximately 150 families received also 5 kgs of rice.

The relief distributions were carried out by eight PRCS staff members, four volunteers and the assistance of local communities/ labourers. PRCS NHQ deployed four national disaster response team (NDRT) members (one from NHQ, one from PHQ AJK¹⁰, and two from the operational areas in Balochistan) for monitoring and facilitation during the relief response operation.

PRCS assistance teams suspended activities on 12 October for the Eid-UI-Adha celebrations (Muslim religious festival), returning to Awaran on 22 October to recommence response operations.

The NDRT team undertook a post-distribution visit to Teeteij UC where NFIs had been distributed a few days ago, receiving positive feedback from the beneficiaries regarding the content and quality of the items received from PRCS. The team were also acknowledged for their efforts to provide assistance personally, given the security situation of the area and the difficult terrain (whereas some other aid had been air dropped)

Challenges:

- Safe storage options in Awaran were a challenge in the beginning and were overcome by renting a house in the local area to utilise as a temporary storage facility, which also accommodated to the PRCS response teams.
- The relief activities were hampered by the sensitive security situation in the area given long standing separatist struggles, with the Pakistan government and law enforcement agencies limiting access and movements to far flung affected areas.

Emergency health

Outcome: Immediate health risks of the earthquake affected population are reduced.

Outputs: Basic curative and preventive health services are provided through mobile medical services.

Activities planned:

- Conduct rapid health assessments and monitor evolving situation.
- Deploy to and operate mobile medical units in severely affected but underserved areas.
- Refer severe/critical cases to appropriate health facilities.
- Coordinate with district health department/authorities and health partners.

Progress:

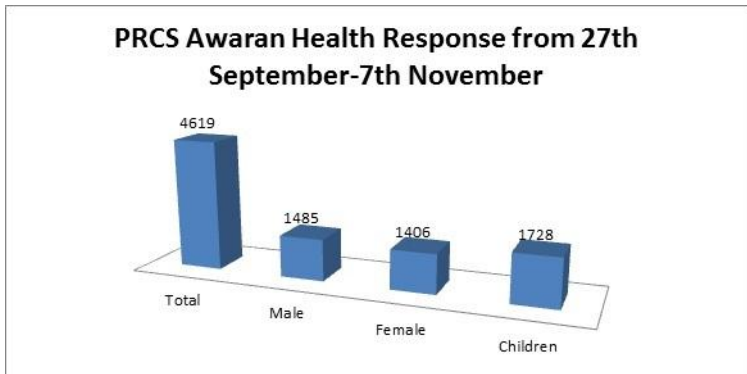
On 26th of September 2013 PRCS deployed a health team - comprising of two doctors and four paramedics - via helicopter from PHQ Sindh for provision of emergency health services in the affected district of Awaran. The team started providing health services from 27 September for a one-week period, and were joined by the two teams (each comprised of one doctor and two paramedics) from the provincial branch of Balochistan and remained operational until 7 November. One team supported the District Headquarter (DHQ) hospital in Awaran and the other provided mobile health unit (MHU) services to approximately 20 villages. Most of the cases presented were of injuries, wounds, acute respiratory infections, acute diarrhoea, skin and eye infections as well as psychological conditions. The health teams also



PRCS medical team attending to a girl at District Headquarters Hospital Awaran, in the earthquake affected areas of Balochistan province. **Photo:** PRCS.

¹⁰ Azad Jammu & Kashmir State

reported concerns over existing levels of malnutrition, poor living conditions¹¹, lack of safe drinking water and sanitation in the area, posing a serious health threat to the affected populations. PRCS undertook a limited relief operation in which has completed, and longer term programming is planned, with the exception of an operational DM cells for DP within the proximity.



During a six-week period between 27 September and 7 November, PRC health teams have provided emergency health services – including dispensing of essential medicines – to 4,619 persons in the Union Councils of Awaran, Teertaij and Gishkor in Awaran District.

Challenges:

Security concerns and the lack of availability of, female medical health care providers was a significant challenge in the affected areas to reach women with a more comprehensive female-oriented package of health services. However, committed PRCS medical teams from Sindh and Balochistan provinces made deliberate efforts to reach as far as possible.



A PRCS medical team member, deployed to support the District Headquarters Hospital Awaran, providing emergency medical consultation to a person affected by the recent earthquake in Balochistan province. **Photo:** PRCS.

Logistics

Logistics department provided technical support to ensure the efficient delivery of assistance and services to the affected by the earthquake. NFIs were supplied by PRCS pre-positioned stocks in Karachi and Quetta warehouses, whilst IFRC provided support for the procurement of 1,000 standard PRCS food parcels through this DREF. After completing lab tests for quality and safety assurance, the food parcels were dispatched by the supplier to the Karachi (Sindh) warehouse, before further delivery to the affected areas in Balochistan by PRCS. PRCS completed the procurement of other food parcels with the financial and in-kind support of other bilateral assistance.

¹¹ The living condition refers to chronic pre-existing conditions in the area now further compounded/ aggravated by this disaster.

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1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.