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Information bulletin

Pakistan Administered Kashmir: Earthquake

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Glide n°	Date of issue: 25 September 2019
Date of disaster: 24 September 2019	Point of contact (name and title): Muhammad Atif Khan, Management Manager, AJK
Operation start date: -	Expected timeframe: -
Category of disaster: Yellow	
Host National Society: Pakistan Red Crescent Society	
Number of people affected: 500	Number of people to be assisted: TBC
N° of National Societies currently involved in the operation (if available and relevant): -	
N° of other partner organizations involved in the operation (if available and relevant): -	

This bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS), with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), has determined that external assistance and a DREF support are being considered.

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

The situation

A powerful earthquake jolted several parts of Pakistan Administered Kashmir on 24 September 2019 at 4.02pm local time, particularly areas of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The earthquake severely affected Jatlan in Mirpur district, Azad Jammu and Kashmir. According to the US Geological Survey (USGS), the 5.8 magnitude earthquake struck at a shallow depth of 10 kilometers with its epicenter lying one kilometer southeast of Mirpur, Azad Jammu and Kashmir. According to the preliminary information, 19 deaths reported and more than 300 injured. The high intensity earthquake also caused severe to moderate damages to houses, buildings, and other infrastructure in Mirpur district. The main road along Mirpur to Jatlan along the Jatlan Canal is damaged and caused damages of vehicles on the road when the earthquake struck.



Severe main road damaged in Mirpur district due to the strong earthquake in Pakistan. (Photo: PRCS)

The number of deaths and injuries and affected families are likely to be increased in the coming days once official report is issued. Electrical power supply, mobile and landline telephone services coverage are disrupted. The District Administration along with Pakistan National Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA), National Police Bureau, Pakistan Armed Forces and Civil Defense are currently concentrating on the search and rescue operation. The Government of Pakistan has declared emergency in all the hospitals in Mirpur district. The PRCS Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) is deploying its local first aid team consisting of district first aid training officer together with trained first aid responders to the affected area for the provision of first aid services and emergency evacuation.

Mirpur is one of the three divisions in the State of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK). It is also a district in which there are two sub-divisions; Mirpur and Dadyal consisting of 176 and 70 villages respectively with 18 union councils. Mirpur district comprises of partly plain and partly hilly areas. Mirpur lies on 33.1491°N latitude and 73.7534°E longitudes. It is 134 km

from Islamabad and 190 km from Lahore via Dina through Grand Trunk Road. Mirpur is also connected to Bhimber (49 km) and Kotli (99 km) districts of the State of AJK. Mirpur district is bounded by Kotli district in the north and east, by Potohar (Punjab) in the west and by Bhimber district in the in the south. According to the Pakistan 2017 Census data, the total population of Mirpur district was approximately 456,000 people.

The government has declared state of emergency for Mirpur district. The SDMA through DDMA and District Administration have initiated search and rescue and emergency evacuation of affected population to the safer areas. And emergency has been declared in all the hospitals of Mirpur district. NDMA has issued high alert for potential aftershocks in the affected areas of Mirpur district.

Actions by SDMA/DDMA/District Administration/Rescue 1122:

- Supporting the search and rescue and first aid.
- Mobilized a team of trained staff from Muzaffarabad for search and rescue and emergency need assessment.
- Rescue 1122 is providing search and rescue services and shifting the injured to the hospitals.
- A team of Punjab Provincial Disaster Management Authority has also deployed its teams to the affected areas for search and rescue and emergency need assessment.
- A stock of SDMA already sent to Mirpur district consisting of family tents, blankets, plastic mats etc.
- NDMA dispatched 200 sets of tents, 800 sheets of blankets, 200 kitchen sets and 100 sets of medical kits together with professional teams to the affected area (Source: Gen. Muhammad Afzal Chairman NDAM).

Action by Pakistan Army:

- Deployed Professional teams of search and rescue operation.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

A PRCS first aid team has been deployed to the affected areas for the provision of first aid services to the people affected by the earthquake in Mirpur. The government agencies along with Pakistan Army will carry out Emergency Need Assessment and a detail report will be shared. According to the local staff and volunteers the immediate need is to provide the first aid to the injured.



Pakistan Red Crescent volunteers are attending injured population due the due to the earthquake. (Photo: PRCS)

- Local staff (DFATs) and first aid trained (FAR) providing first aid services in Divisional Headquarters Teaching Hospital Mirpur (DHQ Hospital Mirpur) in Mirpur district.
- Four ambulances with medicines and trained personnel have been deployed from PRCS National Headquarters to affected AJK districts.
- 10 first aid responder teams have been mobilized from districts adjacent to Mirpur to the affected areas for first aid services.
- Restoring family link (RFL) volunteers were also mobilized to provide the free call services to the people affected by the earthquake at DHQ Hospital Mirpur.
- PRCS has operationalized its emergency operations center (EoC) working in PRCS at National Headquarters.
- PRCS is in close coordination with local authorities at state level and district branch at district level for any possible emergency response.
- An alert has been issued to all the trained staff and volunteers for potential deployment and AJK programme staff are on standby.

PRCS is continuously in communicate and coordinate with the IFRC Country Office and the IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office in Kuala Lumpur on monitoring the situation and considering for external funding and a DREF to support the affected people.

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Contact information

For further information specifically related to this disaster please contact:

In the Pakistan Red Crescent Society

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For Performance and Accountability support (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting enquiries)

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How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



Save lives,
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.

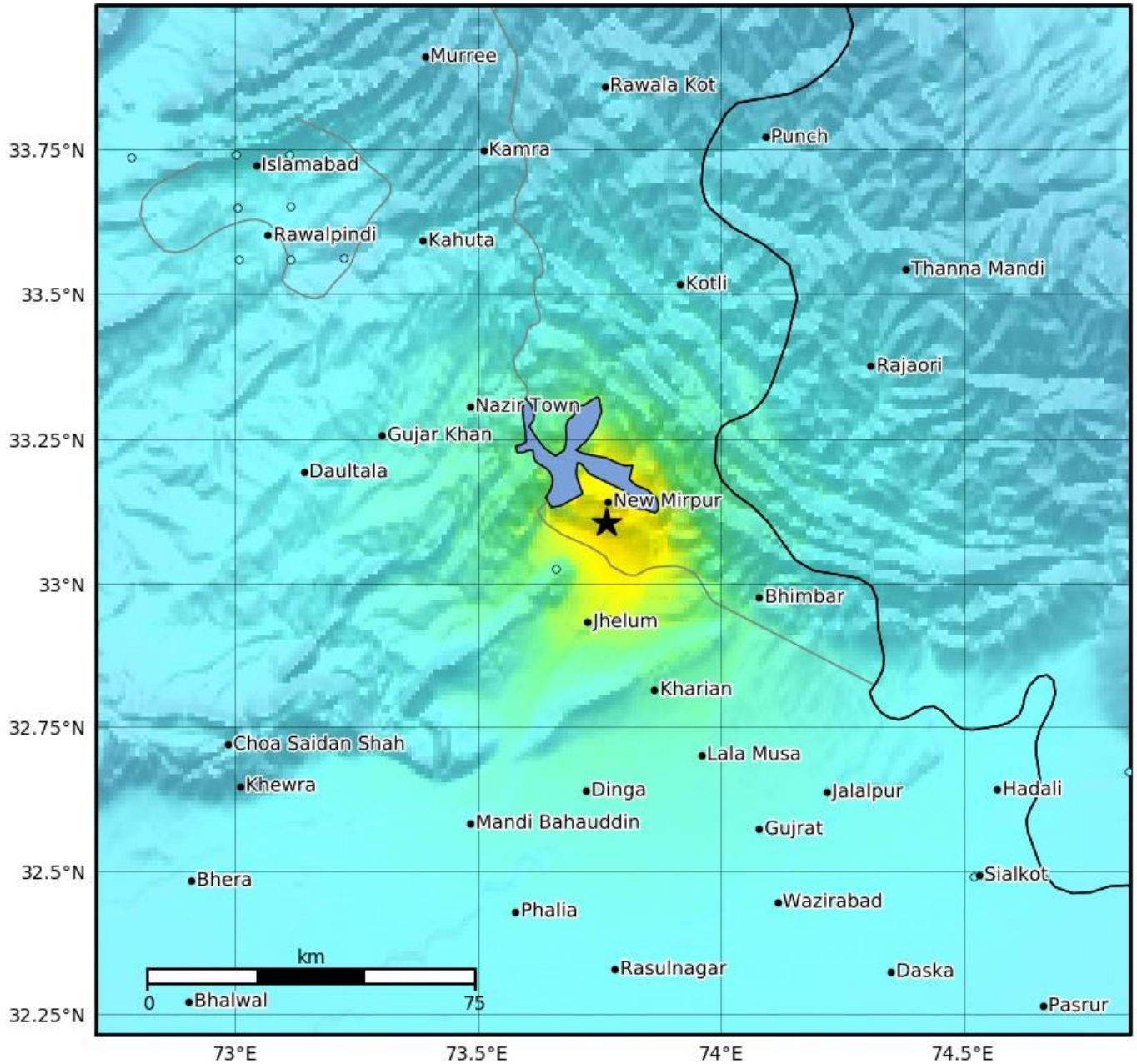


Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



Promote **social inclusion**
and a culture of
non-violence and **peace**.

Macroseismic Intensity Map
 USGS ShakeMap: 19 km N of Jhelum, Punjab, PK
 Sep 24, 2019 11:01:55 UTC M5.6 N33.11 E73.77 Depth: 10.0km ID:us60005mqp



SHAKING	Not felt	Weak	Light	Moderate	Strong	Very strong	Severe	Violent	Extreme
DAMAGE	None	None	None	Very light	Light	Moderate	Moderate/heavy	Heavy	Very heavy
PGA(%g)	<0.05	0.3	2.76	6.2	11.5	21.5	40.1	74.7	>139
PGV(cm/s)	<0.02	0.13	1.41	4.65	9.64	20	41.4	85.8	>178
INTENSITY	I	II-III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X+

Scale based on Worden et al. (2012)

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△ Seismic Instrument ○ Reported Intensity

★ Epicenter