

OPERATIONS UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

SOUTH ASIA: EARTHQUAKE

10 October 2005

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.

In Brief

Appeal No. 05EA022; Operations Update no. 1; Period covered: 9-10 October, 2005

[Click here to view the South Asia Earthquake feature on the Federation's website.](#)

Appeal history:

- Launched on 9 October, 2005 for CHF 10,793,000 (USD 8,438,294 or EUR 6,957,415) for four months to assist 30,000 families (some 120,000 beneficiaries).
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 200,000.

Outstanding needs: As of today, the Appeal 25% firmly covered, with a significant number of provisional pledges notified. Cash contributions are very urgently needed, in order to facilitate the start up of emergency operations.

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: Pakistan Annual Appeal 05AA049, Afghanistan Annual Appeal 05AA045, India Annual Appeal 05AA047, South Asia Regional Annual Appeal 05AA051

Operational Summary: The Pakistan Red Crescent assessment teams are due to file their findings within the next 24 hours. The Federation has deployed a Field Assessment Coordination Team (FACT) to Pakistan with some members arriving today. The FACT will play a vital role in coordination and liaison, and also in finalising a revised operational plan and appeal. Based on these combined findings and other information, this preliminary appeal is likely to be revised with the relief effort to be scaled up.

The Pakistan Red Crescent has relief distributions underway in affected areas in North West Frontier Province and is set to despatch significant relief items to affected areas in the Kashmir region. However road blockages pose significant logistical challenges to get relief through to affected people.

The Indian Red Cross has 400 volunteers in its branch in the stricken zone assisting affected people with relief distributions underway. The Indian Red Cross headquarters is sending more disaster relief stocks and organising further resources to pour into the relief effort.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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Background

An earthquake with magnitude of 7.6 on the Richter scale centred 95 kilometers north-east of the Pakistan capital Islamabad struck at 0350 GMT on 8 October 2005. The quake has severely affected northern areas of Pakistan and northern India.

The estimated death toll in Pakistan by Monday 10 October had climbed to over 20,000 people – though some reports are higher – while in India approximately 1000 bodies have now been recovered. There were three reported deaths in Afghanistan. The death toll is likely to climb as the more remote, inaccessible villages are reached in both Pakistan and India.

Pakistan officials say 40,000 people have been injured while Indian officials put the wounded total at approximately 2,300 people.

In Pakistan, the city of Muzaffarabad in the Kashmir region has been severely hit, with 50 percent of the buildings destroyed. Several villages have been completely flattened.

Twenty-six bodies have now been pulled from the two collapsed apartment buildings in Islamabad but dozens more people are still believed to be trapped under the rubble.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies has launched this Emergency Appeal (no. 05EA022) in response to a request from the Pakistan Red Crescent Society. CHF 200,000 has been allocated from the Federation's DREF Fund to mount the initial response. Given the size, scope, and geographic location of the disaster, and the difficulty in accessing the area to gather detailed damage information and humanitarian relief needs, this appeal is being launched on a preliminary basis with a focus on action in Pakistan.

Operational developments

A seven-strong Field Assessment Coordination Team (FACT), including delegates from the National Societies of Denmark, Norway, Finland, Turkey and UK has been dispatched to Islamabad. Some members were due to reach Pakistan today. The team consists of a team leader and expertise in disaster management, logistics, information / reporting, telecommunications, and Movement Coordination. A second phase five-strong team including delegates from the National Societies of Australia, Austria, Norway, Spain, Turkey and USA, is due to arrive shortly. It includes expertise in health, water and sanitation, logistics, finance and administration / reporting.

In addition to this appeal, the Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) is allotting 80 million Pakistan rupees (approximately CHF 1.7 million) to emergency relief efforts in affected areas. The National Society has launched a fundraising campaign throughout all its branches in coordination with the Pakistan Television Corporation and is receiving a good response. A similar campaign will be launched through the print media.

Relief efforts have continued in affected areas. The Pakistan Red Crescent North West Frontier Province branch has made distributions of food, blankets, medicines and tents in various affected areas. Distributions have not commenced in affected areas in the Kashmir region in Pakistan. Significant relief supplies are to be dispatched

from the PRCS national headquarters in Islamabad in the next couple of days. However the blocked road into the area capital Muzaffarabad will present logistical difficulties.

The Iranian Red Crescent is sending a 22-strong support team to Pakistan to accompany a shipment of relief supplies including 500 tents, and 19,000 kgs of foodstuffs including rice, pulses, sugar, tea, tinned fish and beans. The team includes 15 rescue and relief people, five doctors and two other support staff.

Seven members of Turkish Red Crescent team have arrived and will be carrying out detailed assessments in North West Frontier Province. A four member Japanese Red Cross medical team has also arrived today and has already gone to Manshera. Danish, German and Swiss Red Cross delegates are in Islamabad assisting with relief efforts. Malaysia Red Crescent and Singapore Red Cross are sending their own relief and medical teams to Pakistan.

British Red Cross is sending a logistics team to Pakistan to operate jointly with ICRC. Many other National Societies are also on stand-by to provide RDRT members and Emergency Response Unit (ERU) teams.

The Head of the Federation's South Asia Regional Delegation arrived in Islamabad today to assist with coordination. The regional delegation is currently providing disaster management, health, information, reporting and administrative support and will deploy some staff short term to Pakistan in the near future.

In India, relief distributions are underway in the disaster affected areas and this relief effort will be significantly scaled up in the next few days.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action - objectives, progress, impact

Emergency relief (food and basic non-food items)

Objective: To meet the immediate shelter and supplementary food needs of 30,000 vulnerable families (some 120,000 beneficiaries) in the disaster affected areas in Pakistan

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

The Pakistan Red Crescent is completing needs assessments in Manshera, Balakot and Batagram in North West Frontier Province and Rawalakot and Bagh in the Kashmir area. It is expected details will be available in the next 24 hours.

Three truckloads of relief items consisting of tents, blankets, food and medicines has been distributed from North West Frontier branch stocks to affected people in Manshera and Balakot. The branch has not supplied a detailed breakdown of items or number of assisted people.

The national headquarters is continuing the procurement process and expects to despatch 11 truckloads of relief materials to affected areas in the Kashmir region by Wednesday.

PRCS has launched a fund raising campaign in all its branches with the coordination of Pakistan Television Corporation (PTV) and is receiving good response from the public. A similar campaign will soon be launched through print media.

India

In addition to the above objective, the following progress has been made in emergency relief efforts in India.

The Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) branch in the affected area has distributed 1000 blankets and 500 kitchen sets to affected people from ICRC stocks. The branch has 400 volunteers, all trained in first aid, assisting with the distribution, search and rescue operations and provision of basic medical assistance. The branch is working in the affected areas of Poonch, Rajouri, Baramulla and Uri.

The branch has made the following requests for disaster relief stocks to IRCS headquarters to meet immediate identified needs:

- 15,000 tents
- 40,000 wool blankets
- 5,000 metres of cloth for clothing
- 5,000 kitchen sets
- Cash assistance of approximately CHF 70,000

Further to this, the IRCS headquarters is awaiting detailed feedback from assessment teams in affected areas and will scale up its response as the needs are identified. On Sunday 9 October the IRCS headquarters despatched 10,000 blankets from its Delhi warehouse while another 10,000 are being readied for dispatch from the Gujarat warehouse. It has also sent 1400 tents from disaster preparedness stocks. This will have exhausted existing Indian Red Cross headquarters supplies of tents.

State branches have pledged support to the relief operation. The branch in the affected area will receive 1000 family packs from the Bihar state branch; 100 tents and 1000 blankets from the Maharashtra state branch while the Gujarat state branch is offering state disaster response team members.

Constraints:

The road to Muzaffarabad is badly damaged due to landslides and will pose logistical difficulties to get relief materials into the area. The remoteness of many affected areas and the rugged, mountainous terrain are also hampering relief efforts.

Health

Objective: To meet the basic health care and first aid and emergency transport needs of 30,000 vulnerable families in the disaster affected area in Pakistan.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

The procurement process for medicines etc for establishing medical camps in affected areas will commence immediately once detailed assessments have been received. These are expected in the next 24 hours.

Items will include water purification stocks, supplies for first aid and medicines for treatment of common ailments related to post-disaster situations such as respiratory diseases and water-borne related illnesses.

The PRCS headquarters has set up a blood camp and has to date collected 250 units in Islamabad. The Pakistan Red Crescent Punjab branch has sent three medical teams to the Kashmir region. The logistics base will be set up in Abbottabad in neighboring North West Frontier Province.

Federation Coordination

The Pakistan Delegation is attending coordination meetings with UN and other agencies. The in-country Movement partners – the Pakistan Red Crescent, the Federation country delegation and the ICRC – are working in close cooperation. The South Asia Regional Delegation is providing reporting, information, disaster management, health and administrative support.

India

The Federation India delegation has held a coordination meeting with the in-country partner national societies – the American Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross and Spanish Red Cross. Agencies including USAID and ECHO have liaised with the Federation on the relief activities.

Sphere India agencies, including the Federation held an information exchange meeting in Delhi today.

National Society Capacity Building

The Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) has limited capacity in the affected areas in the Kashmir region. National and regional support is being mobilized to assist in these areas. This includes regional disaster response team (RDRT) trained members available in the country and the region. The National Society has good capacity in the North West Frontier province with a strong provincial branch, while the national headquarters will support the Islamabad operation.

In the revised appeal, National Society capacity building measures in all areas including disaster management, health, reporting and information will be incorporated.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

Keeping close contact and coordination with ICRC both in the field and Geneva, the Federation's Pakistan delegation, the South Asia Regional delegation (Delhi) and the Geneva Secretariat are profiling the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement disaster response. All parties are fielding and dealing with numerous national and international media queries. Two information bulletins have been issued while two media releases have been issued by the Geneva Secretariat.

Regular operations updates on this operation will be issued and posted on the Federation website.

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