

# 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

11 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. 2; Period covered: 9 - 11 October 2005**

#### Appeal history:

- Preliminary Appeal launched on 9 October 2005 for CHF 10,793,00 (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.
- Owing to the increasing scale of the disaster, the Preliminary Emergency Appeal budget is currently being revised significantly upwards to cover at least 150,000 families for over six months – more details will be provided in future Operations Updates.

**Outstanding needs:** The Appeal is already about 75% 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 and the large scale mobilisation of relief goods. The following human resource needs have also been identified and are urgently needed: for Pakistan a health coordinator, reporting and information delegates, and for the South Asia Regional Delegation in Delhi, a regional disaster response delegate, a reporting delegate and an information delegate.

**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 emergency phase of the Red Cross Red Crescent operation to assist many thousands of families affected by Saturday's devastating earthquake, which mainly affected Pakistan and India (according to current reports) is moving apace, with relief distributions to stricken areas well underway, in parallel with essential assessments - vital to ensure appropriate interventions through the coming months. The response from Red Cross Red Crescent societies around the world has been rapid and generous with cash, goods and personnel already committed. The Federation's preliminary appeal target of CHF 10.8 million is close to coverage and will be increased significantly before the end of this week. Amidst a host of competing priorities, winterised shelter remains the most pressing, with harsh weather already upon the stricken areas. The International Federation as a collective is extending maximum effort to mobilise tents, blankets, tarpaulins and associated items before the full onset of the winter months.*

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

## Background

An earthquake with magnitude of 7.6 on the Richter scale centred 95 kilometres 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 Tuesday 11 October had climbed to over 30,000 people – though some reports are much higher. The death toll is likely to climb as the more remote, inaccessible villages are reached in Pakistan. Pakistan officials say that 4 million people have been affected with at least 40% of them being homeless. According to reports coming in, around 50,000 people have been injured.

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.

In Islamabad twenty-six bodies have now been pulled from the two collapsed apartment buildings but dozens more people are still believed to be trapped under the rubble. Last night 2 people were rescued alive.

Extreme bad weather, heavy rain and hailstorms are lashing the affected areas in northern Pakistan, hampering relief efforts with flights being grounded and travel by road difficult.

The official death toll in India stands at 1,200. The Indian army and air force are still scouring remote villages in Jammu and Kashmir for survivors. Authorities are clearing debris from landslides and the road between Srinagar and Uri has been opened, allowing vital supplies to get through by land. This has assisted authorities in establishing relief camps and getting water supplies through.

The Indian Prime Minister has announced a relief package of USD 23.25 million (CHF 30 million, EUR 19 million) for immediate relief work as well as compensation of USD 2,325 (CHF 3000, ERU 1900) for next-of-kin of the deceased. The Government of India has yet to request international assistance.



The town of Balakot in Pakistan has been devastated

## Operational developments

A Field Assessment Coordination Team (FACT) has been deployed to Pakistan, comprising a team leader, disaster management, logistics, reporting / information, telecommunications, health, water and sanitation, Emergency Response Unit (ERU) coordination, finance, administration and Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) coordination. A primary role for the FACT deployment is coordination and liaison, and supplementing the Federation's Pakistan country delegation, which prior to the disaster comprised a head of delegation and five national staff. Three FACT team members have already arrived in Islamabad, and the remainder will all arrive very shortly.

The Emergency Response Units (ERUs) deployed so far are:

On behalf of the ICRC:

- field hospital (Norwegian/Finnish Red Cross) – being shipped partly today (Tuesday) and partly Thursday
- logistics (British Red Cross) - has already arrived in Islamabad
- two basic health care (German/Spanish Red Cross and Japanese Red Cross) – arrival time to be confirmed

For the Federation:

- logistics (Danish/Spanish Red Cross) – departing for Islamabad today (Tuesday)
- IT/Telecommunications (Danish RC) – departing for Islamabad today (Tuesday).
- It is expected that there will be more ERU requests, including basic health care and water-sanitation. It is important to mention here that all teams arriving in Pakistan have to be self supplied / sufficient.

Today the Head of Federation's South Asia Regional Delegation, Head of Delegation Pakistan, FACT team leader and ICRC had a planning meeting with Pakistan Red Crescent (PRCS) Chairman, Secretary General and Director Operations. The PRCS are setting up a disaster response committee, a media and finance committee and a blood sub-committee. The Chairman will set up a monitoring and policy committee and all the committees will be regularly monitored by the PRCS governance. The Federation has set up an office in the Margalla Hotel and is in the process of setting up a joint logistics with the ICRC. The Federation will be clearing all goods in Islamabad whereas ICRC logistics will be based in Peshawar and will send a logistics team to Abbottabad. The Federation will construct rubble halls for warehousing of relief items.

Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) members are also being mobilised to support the Pakistan relief effort. The South Asia Regional Delegation is organizing an RDRT team comprising of 6 to 7 people to support PRCS. To date, national societies/country delegations from Afghanistan (two people), Bangladesh (two people), and Nepal (six people) have indicated human resource support. Four RDRT-trained Pakistan Red Crescent staff within the country are already on site or heading to affected areas. The Maldives delegation logistics delegate (from the Pakistan Red Crescent Society) will arrive in Islamabad tomorrow.

The South East Asia Delegation is offering to provide RDRT members to take part in the operation in Pakistan. Details of deployment will be in future operations updates.

The Indian Red Cross Society will hold a meeting with the Federation country delegation and ICRC on Thursday 13 October where it will outline its needs. The result of this meeting will be outlined in the Operations Update on 14 October.

As detailed below, significant quantities of much needed goods have been mobilized, including Federation stocks held in Indonesia and Sri Lanka.

## **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 Society (PRCS) is dispatching tomorrow, Wednesday, 23 trucks to Pakistan-administered Kashmir and the North West Frontier Province. The relief items consist of food parcels, tents, blankets and clothing. Earlier the PRCS Chairman had an aerial view of Manshera, Balakot, Kaghan Valley, Bagh and Balakot and participated in relief distributions in Manshera. The relief included 150 tents, 700 blankets, 12 cartons of medicines and 400 food packs. They also distributed 38 pints of blood in Muzaffarabad, with an additional 200 units ready to be dispatched. The Chairman also said that the Society will try to mobilize most of their volunteers in the field. The PRCS medical team has evacuated 25 people from Balakot. Presently, 100 volunteers are being mobilized for distribution of 1,500 anti tetanus vaccines in Manshera.

According to information coming in, the following items are in the pipeline and are expected to arrive shortly:

- 20,000 tents
- 100,000 blankets
- food
- Helicopter (ICRC support)
- Trucks

To meet the immediate needs for the relief operation, the following have been identified:

- At least 5 rubble halls
- 20,000 jerry cans
- Blankets and tents
- Generators of all sizes
- Electric cables
- Lighting equipment
- 1 blood bank specialist to support PRCS blood bank
- 10 ambulances for the operation

Tomorrow (Wednesday) four assessment teams are being deployed to North West Frontier Province. The teams will each include one doctor and one general relief person. They will assess the needs for relief, health and shelter, and distribute goods.

The Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) Jammu and Kashmir branch has continued its distributions to affected people. Today (Tuesday) it distributed two truckloads (approximately 5 tonnes) of dried food rations.

The Jammu and Kashmir branch of IRCS is utilising 400 volunteers who had, as outlined yesterday, distributed 1000 blankets and 500 kitchen sets from ICRC stocks. All volunteers are trained in first aid and have been rendering assistance to the wounded as required. The branch is working in the affected areas of Poonch, Rajouri, Baramulla and Uri.

To date, national headquarters and various state branches have sent 21,000 blankets, 1,500 tents and 1,000 family packs to the Jammu and Kashmir branch. The Indian Red Cross will announce a detailed plan of action later this week.

### **Constraints:**

With the upcoming winter season the situation is expected to worsen, and heavy rains are already hampering the relief efforts. The needs will immediately rise for warm clothing, heaters, stoves etc. with the changing weather.

### **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 will commence immediately once detailed assessments have been received, due very shortly. 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.

In the meantime, medical assistance is being provided to affected people. The PRCS has now deployed a dozen medical teams in areas directly affected by the quake. These teams, staffed by doctors and volunteer paramedics, are providing first aid, curative and referral services, and are assisting with rescue efforts.

Details of deployment to date are:

- Islamabad: One medical camp staffed by three doctors and six paramedics.
- North West Frontier Province: two medical camps staffed by two PRCS doctors, three volunteer doctors and one paramedic.
- Mansehra district: One medical camp.
- Punjab province; Eight medical camps staffed on a rotating basis by four doctors and six paramedics.



**The Pakistan Red Crescent Chairman (centre), Jahan Dad Khan, talks to parents of injured children being treated at a PRCS medical camp in Abbotabad (NWFP)**

Some of the teams are also mobilizing resources for the purchase of additional medicines and other medical supplies.

The National Society headquarters has also provided one million Pakistan rupees (approximately CHF 21,500) financial support for the Ayoub Medical College in Islamabad.

The PRCS headquarters blood bank had, as of Tuesday 11 October, collected 380 units of blood which it was supplying to local hospitals.

The Japanese Red Cross medical team (4 persons) has been joined by a Danish Red Cross delegate and was traveling to Mansehra to assess needs and provide health assistance.

### **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.

In 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. Yesterday a meeting of Sphere India agencies, including the Federation, was held in Delhi.

The Federation and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) have been working in close collaboration from the start, with the respective officials in contact early Saturday morning, followed by attendance at each institution's planning meetings from Day One of the disaster. Work on a document delineating the modalities of the cooperation is nearing completion. Discussions centre on geography and sectoral responsibilities. Good progress is being achieved on the further implementation of a logistics agreement between the Federation and ICRC. In the field, there is regular contact and cooperation between the ICRC and Federation offices in Islamabad and Delhi.

The Geneva Secretariat attended the inaugural Inter-Agency Standing Committee on the South Asia earthquake on 10 October. The participants were WFP, UNV, UNITAR, UNHCR, WHO, UNICEF, UNDP, FAO, WFP, UNFPA, HABITAT, ILO, IOM, ICVA and the ICRC. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 12 October. It was stressed at the meeting that all agencies share information both in the field and at respective national headquarters.

### **National Society Capacity**

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, human resources, reporting and information will be incorporated. The training of PRCS staff in disaster preparedness and disaster management will be given priority.

### **Communications – Advocacy and Public Information**

The Pakistan Federation 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, two Operations Updates, while two media releases have been issued by the Geneva Secretariat.

With delegates from more than 10 nationalities regular media interviews are being conducted with CNN, BBC, Dutch, English, Japanese, Norwegian, Swedish, Swiss, French, Scottish, Irish and Danish press.

Regular operations updates on this operation will be issued and posted on the Federation website. Click here to view the South Asia Earthquake feature on the Federation's website: <http://www.ifrc.org/news/southasia/index1.asp>

**Outstanding needs**

Human resources: The following delegates are very urgently required:

- For Pakistan: a health coordinator, and reporting and information delegates.
- For the South Asia Regional Delegation in Delhi: a regional disaster response delegate, a reporting and an information delegate.
- For Geneva Secretariat: one desk officer and one assistant, and one press officer (3 months).

It is expected that there will be a list of further delegate needs posted tomorrow.

Relief goods: A mobilization table for relief items – tents, blankets, kitchen sets, plastic sheeting, medicines and body bags – has been posted on DMIS and will be updated on a regular basis.