

Operations update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Pakistan: Humanitarian assistance for internally displaced people

Emergency appeal n° MDRPK003
Operations update n° 2
11 June 2009

Period covered by this Operations Update: 9 to 11 June 2009;

Appeal target (current): CHF 23,926,179 (USD 22.44 million or EUR 15.76 million);

Appeal coverage: 0%. Whilst there are some pledges of funding in the pipeline, there are still no confirmed pledges received. Funds are very urgently needed to enable PRCS to scale up its response to the humanitarian crisis.

[<here to link to contact details >](#)

Appeal history:

- This Emergency Appeal was launched on 4 June 2009 for CHF 23.9 million for seven months to assist 140,000 people (20,000 families).



Children play with water to get temporary relief from the hot weather in Hattar village of Haripur (Photo: Mubashir Fida / International Federation)

Summary: The humanitarian crisis in Pakistan persists, with between 2.5 million and 3.5 million displaced people. The general funding response to the humanitarian efforts has remained very slow, and this short-fall will seriously hamper the humanitarian response.

Joint PRCS/International Federation rapid assessments have been completed in four districts of Mansehra, Haripur, Swabi and Abbottabad. Based on the results, an operational plan is being developed with PRCS and partner national societies. Immediate needs are for distributions of non-food items, increased hygiene activities, safe water treatment and storage, improved access to sanitation facilities and the provision of community based health and first aid and psychosocial support. Lack of finances and household income is a major issue for all internally displaced people (IDP) interviewed. In addition, families are also looking to re-establish themselves when they return home. And without what might be what they consider to be necessary requirements, the lack of money is adding to their psychosocial stress. To address this, it is recommended that an autumn return package livelihoods assessment is carried out. The fast approaching monsoon season is also a big concern for the organizations providing camp management.

This report gives the key findings of the assessment and outline of the proposed operation. More than 36,000 displaced people are being accommodated in the PRCS/International Federation IDP camps.

The situation

Pakistan military action against the militants in the North-West Frontier Province (NWFP) and Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) has displaced between 2.5 million (source: UN-OCHA) and 3.5 million people, (source: NWFP government's emergency response unit); and this situation is a growing humanitarian concern. Figures for IDPs are likely to fluctuate (on the lower side) after the national database registration authority (NADRA) finishes its verification process. IDPs are also moving from registered locations to other places. According to the NWFP government's emergency response unit website, a total of 3,444,147 people are living outside the camps with host families, while 235,247 are residing in camps in different districts of NWFP in the Swabi, Mardan, Nowshera and Hazara districts.

The uncertainty of the situation remains, as the military operation will soon be extending into South Waziristan as well. The upcoming monsoon season is a threat as most of the camps (especially in Swabi) are not prepared for the rainy season.

Various local and international humanitarian actors are streamlining their efforts to provide substantial relief to the displaced families. These include United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Food Programme (WFP), UN Habitat, International Medical Corps (IMC), Youth Welfare Society, Sungi Development Foundation, and the Sahara Development Foundation.

The Government of Pakistan will soon begin giving each registered IDP family Rs. 25,000 (\$312), an amount that could buy a family enough food for three months.

According to the Humanitarian Information Unit, IDPs have been displaced at a critical time in the agricultural calendar, and would normally be harvesting wheat and sowing maize and rice if access to their fields were not blocked by the continued lack of safety and security. The food security situation is likely to continue.

Latest reports show that displaced women and young girls are facing increasing hardships in the Mardan and Swabi areas. Women are having difficulty accessing assistance in male-dominated locations inside and outside the camps. Also, findings indicate that IDPs do not register when they should in host communities. When IDPs are not registered it is difficult to deliver appropriate assistance. The survey indicates the provision of quality food and non-food items; access to well maintained water and sanitation facilities; hygiene promotion; psychosocial support, and health facilities as the most needed for displaced people within and outside the camps.

Coordination and partnerships

There is continuous coordination between all components of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement – the PRCS, the International Federation and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

During the process of the joint rapid assessment, all the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners present in the country have frequently coordinated to share information. There have been daily Movement coordination meetings. Two partner national society representatives (Canadian Red Cross and British Red Cross) were part of the PRCS/International Federation assessment team. The report of this rapid assessment has been shared with all Movement partners, (in a meeting organized by International Federation on 10 June 2009). During the meetings, German Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross and Danish Red Cross assessment findings were also shared.

The PRCS and International Federation attend Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Cluster coordination meetings.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Overview

There are more than 36,500 IDPs living in the seven camps supported by PRCS/ICRC. Health and care has been provided to more than 67,455 patients (since August 2008) in these camps. PRCS has mobilized 320 volunteers for its relief activities. Food and non-food items are being distributed and health services and water and sanitation facilities are being made available. Camps are also making special provisions for psychosocial support, providing this service to 3,266 people. A total of 785 pit latrines and 289 showers have been constructed to date for sanitation and hygiene needs.

The details of the seven PRCS/ICRC camps up to 10 June is as follows:

Camp location	Families	Individuals
Rang Mala, Malakand	1,080	6,765
Pallai Adda, Malakand	210	1,653
Shah Mansoor Township, Swabi	1,998	12,754
Shah Mansoor Township 2, Swabi	1,138	7,300
Government college, Timargarah	375	2,708
Commerce college, Timargarah	414	2,803
Benazir Camp	400	2,545
TOTAL	5,615	36,528

The details of the bilateral contributions made to PRCS to assist IDPs are as follows:

Partner national society/ organization	Contribution
American Red Cross	2,000 water coolers; 3,150 mattresses (value CHF 86,638)
Canadian Red Cross	850 pedestal fans; 1,000 hygiene kits; 250 canopies; 1,000 waste bins (value CHF 70,773)
Danish Red Cross	1,000 pedestal fans (value CHF 33,415)
United Arab Emirates Red Crescent	Non-food items and food items, 800 in quantity for each item (value CHF 110,557)
Turkish Red Crescent	599 food parcels, 200 biscuits, 431 kitchen sets, 200 hygiene kits, 200 blankets (value CHF 47,038)
Telenor Pakistan (Pvt) Ltd	Cheque: PKR 16,685,900 (CHF 221,992)
Pakistan Army	8,000 pedestal fans (value CHF 26,735)

PRCS/International Federation assessment:

PRCS/International Federation rapid assessment team (that was deployed on 6 June) has completed assessments in the Haripur, Abbottabad, Manshera and Swabi districts. More assessments have been planned for Attock and Islamabad. The rapid assessment team included PRCS, Canadian Red Cross, British Red Cross; and International Federation country office representatives. Two delegates from the Federation's disaster management unit and one delegate from the regional logistics unit in Kuala Lumpur were also part of the team. The multi-sectoral team has expertise across all key technical areas to be addressed within the appeal. Methodology for the assessment involved field assessment (these included: direct observations, semi structured interviews and group interviews of men and women separately), coordination with other Red Cross Red Crescent partners, coordination with UN agencies and government, and the review of secondary data.

The PRCS/International Federation assessed needs for food, shelter and non food items, health and care, water and sanitation and livelihoods. Additional needs identified also covered education. The team visited government schools, host families and sporadic establishments.

Some of the key issues that came up in all the four areas:

There is evidence of food and certain cooking utensils among the people living with host families. However, food can be identified as an immediate need for the IDPs living with host families even if they do have a certain amount of food available. A majority of people in hosted families and schools were in accommodations that provided reasonable shelter from the hot weather. Accommodation also provided families with electricity that allowed them to cool themselves with electric fans. Rent prices have risen in most of these areas, making the situation more difficult for the IDPs who generally share one room with seven to eight family members. Living conditions are hard and IDPs keep moving to seek better forms of shelter.

A significant number of displaced people suffer from diarrhoea, coughs, fevers and skin diseases (including scabies). Hygiene facilities are limited and negligible. Also, mosquito nets are not being distributed among the vulnerable IDP families. Additionally, many people (especially women), showed signs of emotional distress and psychological trauma. More people are expected to arrive to Abbottabad and Manshera due to the weather conditions and a lack of privacy, as the camps in Swabi are not designed for the conservative cultural context. Again, the lack of money is the biggest issue that has been identified by the IDP families.

Though the World Food Programme (WFP) is mostly responsible for supplementary food distribution, they have not had good signage on the food parcels as most of the assessed families failed to identify the organization that distributed food to them. Food distributions are not planned for more than two months.

Hygiene promotion among IDPs in the four districts is needed. The distribution of water purification tablets, hygiene kits, buckets and jerry cans are needed outside the camps and in official schools to ensure safe drinking water. Psychosocial support is needed in the four districts.

The following matrix clearly highlights the priority needs of each community assessed (this table does not necessarily mean that all the needs will be catered to by PRCS/International Federation).



An assessment team member interviews a child from Buner who has come here with his mother and sisters and now lives with his uncles in a mud cave in Hattar area of Haripur. Photo: Mubashir Fida/International

	Haripur	Abbottabad	Mansehra	Swabi (in camps)	Swabi out of camps)
Non food items	✓	X	✓	X	✓
Food	✓	✓	✓	X	X
Health	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Community based health first aid and psp	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Water	✓	X	✓	X	✓
Sanitation	✓	X	✓	X	✓
Hygiene Promotion	✓	X	✓	X	✓
Restoring Family Links	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Shelter	X	X	✓	X	X
Livelihoods	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Proposed response:

In Haripur: Distributions of non-food items are proposed. Increased hygiene promotion activities, safe water treatment and storage, improved access to sanitation facilities and the provision of community based health and first aid; and psychosocial support to be made available.

In Mansehra: Distributions of non-food items are proposed. Increased hygiene activities, safe water treatment and storage, improved access to sanitation facilities and the provision of community based health and first aid and psychosocial support to be made available. A contingency shelter project is also to be carried out in Mansehra.

In Swabi: Establishment of a basic health unit is proposed, which will also cover community based health and first aid, and psychosocial support. In addition, distributions of non-food items are proposed. Increased hygiene promotion activities, safe water treatment and storage and improved access to sanitation facilities to be made available.

The proposed operation will primarily focus on the following groups:

- Women
- Children
- Socially isolated (minority groups)
- Groups isolated from services
- Those in locations with lack of transport options
- Ill, fragile, aged or people with disabilities
- Those with no financial reserves and income sources

Logistics

The mobilization table is regularly updated and is available on the International Federation's Disaster Management Information System ([DMIS](#)).

The International Federation's regional logistics delegate (from Kuala Lumpur regional logistics unit) was deployed in Pakistan to support operations in the initial stages and to participate in the rapid assessment. It has been confirmed that the International Federation/PRCS logistics capacity and the Mansehra logistics hub (under the earthquake operation) is ready to respond to the operation. In the near future, the new PRCS logistics hub located in Nowshera will be operational with the support of the International Federation. A new logistics delegate has arrived in the country to reinforce the logistics team in the Pakistan country office.

Four vehicles from the International Federation country office can be immediately reallocated for this operation and in the next weeks, it is expected that five more vehicles will be available.

The regional logistics unit in Kuala Lumpur is providing technical support and advice, working with partner national societies regarding their possible contributions/in kind donations.

PRCS' disaster preparedness stocks are available in the Mansehra hub for immediate distributions under a replenishment status.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

The International Federation communications team is closely coordinating globally and in Pakistan, including with the International Committee of the Red Cross. A news release was distributed globally and generated some media interest. A communications tool kit was distributed to national societies that included photos and profiles of target beneficiaries. A recent story on the IDPs has been posted on the International Federation's website. Weekly PRCS/International Federation/ICRC meetings for communications will be held. Two operation updates (including this one) has been posted so far. The International Federation press release on the launch of the appeal was shared with the other humanitarian actors present in the country.

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 (NGOs) 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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