

# INFORMATION BULLETIN



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

## PAKISTAN: FLOODS

14 February 2005

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

### In Brief

This Information Bulletin (no. 01/2005) is being issued for information only. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

- Based on the needs described below reflecting the information available at this time, CHF 50,000 has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF). Based on further updates and details from assessment reports, or should the situation deteriorate, the Federation may/will (choose one) consider international support through an Emergency Appeal.

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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>

### The Situation



*Pasni district is one of the worst affected areas (Map courtesy BBC)*

Areas of south western Pakistan have been struck by heavy flooding as the result of torrential rain over the past week with officials saying over 200 people have died in the affected areas. Parts of Northern Areas and North West Frontier Province (NWFP) have experienced heavy snowfalls, avalanches and flooding. The death toll from all affected areas in Pakistan is approximately 350, while 25,000 to 30,000 people have been affected.

The hardest hit flooded areas are in the south west of Balochistan, with the situation exacerbated by a dam bursting on 9 February near the town of Pasni.

The Shaadi Kor dam collapse caused severe flooding and sweeping away five villages. The government crisis control and management cell in the provincial capital Quetta says 135 bodies have been recovered so far from the districts of

Pasni, Turbat and Awaran, while a further 500 people were missing.

Government officials say 7,000 people in south western Balochistan have been displaced while 4,000 are in urgent need of shelter.

Akra Kaur, a major drinking water reservoir in Gwadar has been threatening to overflow and people in the area have been moved to safer ground.

Some bridges have been washed away and approximately 120 kilometres of the coastal highway has been extensively damaged. Most major rivers are in high flood.

The government has deployed 3000 personnel from the army, navy and coast guard and they are involved in rescue and relief operations. Armed forces and provincial government medical teams have been dispatched to affected areas.

Aircraft with relief goods, tents, blankets, clothes and food are scheduled to leave Islamabad today while seven helicopters are involved in the rescue operation.

The government so far has allotted 2.5 million Pakistan rupees (CHF 50,600) to the Balochistan provincial government.

There has been heavy snowfall and generally atrocious weather in Northern Areas and NWFP, with 120 deaths reported in Azad, Jammu and Kashmir. There are 54 confirmed deaths as a result of avalanches and flooding.

The Pakistan Meteorological Department has reported that the northern mountain range has received a record snowfall of up to 16 feet – the highest in 16 years. The Murree resort some 55 km northeast of Islamabad has received a total of 14 feet, the highest in 26 years. The current bad weather is forecast to abate over the next couple of days.

## **Red Cross and Red Crescent action**

The Balochistan Provincial Branch in Quetta sent an assessment team and a first relief consignment from its warehouse in Quetta to the affected areas in the south west on 12 February.

The initial relief consignment contained 300 tents, 200 blankets, 1,000 tarpaulins, kitchen utensils and clothing.

The Pakistan Red Crescent has been given space on government aircraft for travelling to the affected areas to transport relief supplies from the national society warehouse in Islamabad. A consignment from the national headquarters (NHQ) warehouse in Islamabad is being transported by road. It consists of 500 tents, 700 blankets, 1,000 tarpaulins, clothing and 40 tonnes of foodstuffs (flour, dhal, milk powder, salt biscuits).

Disaster Relief Emergency Funds of CHF 50,000 were released on 12 February to assist with the operation. The Pakistan Red Crescent NHQ has set aside 5 million Pakistan rupees (approx CHF 101,100) for the operation.

The NWFP provincial branch has sent relief supplies to the Mansera branch to be distributed by local Red Crescent volunteers. An assessment is being conducted to identify needs. The Pakistan Red Crescent secretary general travelled to NWFP today to participate in the assessment.

### Coordination

An international non-government organisation (INGO) coordination meeting has been held to share information on action being taken by various (I)NGOs and to select representatives for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) coordination meetings.

The first UNDP-chaired meeting has been held with the Federation and the Pakistan Red Crescent attending along with representatives from UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, FAO, ECHO, Oxfam, Islamic Relief, and CWS. Issues arising at the meeting were:

- Results of ongoing assessments will be shared and when possible co-ordinated.
- Local NGOs are distributing relief items from their local stocks.
- Gwadar town (south Balochistan) was suggested as focal point for teams to gather and share results with the provincial government.

- Water and sanitation and health related issues will be the next challenge to address and a joint assessment was suggested to prepare for this.
- As a result of flooding the incidents of snakebites are likely to increase and there is an urgent need for anti-venom. Domestic supplies are low and external suppliers need to be identified.

The next coordination meeting will be held Monday 14 February.

*For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's [Annual Appeal](#).*

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