

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/SNOWFALL

1 March 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. 04/2005) 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

Since early February, Pakistan has been facing heavy rains, snowfall, avalanches and landslides. Relief efforts continue as the weather starts to clear, but some areas in the northern part of the country are still inaccessible due to heavy snowfall. Efforts are ongoing to clear the roads – estimated to take another one to two weeks – with the coastal highway between Karachi and Gwadar severely damaged at many places. The total number of deaths reported to date is 844, while 397 are reported as injured. These figures are expected to rise as weather improves and road links are restored.

In the south, Gwadar district has been severely affected by flooding due to the Shadi Kor dam collapsing. The electricity and water supply systems in Pasni have been completely turned down and water quality has been deemed unsatisfactory for drinking. Most of the housing units in the area are mud houses which have been eroded, damaged and collapsed due to the pressure of rain/flood water. So far, there has been no outbreak of disease, but there is a possibility of waterborne diseases in areas where the water quality is below standard. There is also a risk of acute respiratory infection (ARI).

Further north in North West Frontier Province (NWFP), the most affected districts of Abbottabad, Mansehra, Swat, Shangla, Kohistan and Battagram have been completely cut off, but the assessment/relief teams have managed to reach the most remote villages or communities. It is estimated that only one to two weeks of food stock is available, after which the death toll can increase drastically. Hospitals in the isolated areas are short of essential medicines and experts are expecting health problems like ARIs, frost bites, hypothermia and injuries to occur in the coming weeks.

Earlier, Murree hill station, just north-west of the capital city Islamabad, received a record snowfall of 4.9 metres. The President and Prime Minister have promised to give PKR 100,000 (CHF 1,950) as compensation to the affected families.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) was used to conduct assessments in the affected areas as well as transportation of relief items to the most vulnerable districts. The Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) continued to send relief goods to NWFP and AJK.



PRCS dispatched a consignment of relief goods to rain affected districts of Battagram and Shangla in NWFP; donated by UNDP.

So far, PRCS has dispatched 145 tonnes of relief consignments to the various affected parts. However, the needs of the most isolated areas are still not known. The estimated cost of these relief items is PKR 11,600,000 (CHF 228,700), which includes logistics expenses.

The national society is continuing to conduct relief operations in coordination with other agencies and the army. Helicopters have been used for distribution to the most inaccessible areas. PRCS is now making assessments for the rehabilitation phase.

Earlier, PRCS had been meeting with other non-government organisations (NGOs) and international non-government organisations (INGOs) to share information on action being taken and to make co-ordinated efforts where possible.

PRCS has received financial and in kind support from international donor/agencies. Details are given in the following table:

1	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)	CHF 50,000
2	Chinese Red Cross	US \$ 20,000 (CHF 23,300)
3	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	US \$ 30,000 (CHF 35,000)
4	Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)	Cdn \$ 50,000 (CHF 47,200)
5	Turkish Red Crescent Society	Assistance in kind (food & medicines)
6	UAE Red Crescent Society	Assistance in kind for 200 families

A summary of the relief items delivered during this operation is given below.

Destination	Weight age (tonnes)	Estimated cost in Rupees	Estimated cost in CHF
Balochistan	75	6,447,000	127,100
NWFP & FATA	50	2,553,000	50,300
AJK	20	1,096,000	21,600
Total	145	10,096,000	199,000

For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's *Annual Appeal*.

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