

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

SOUTH ASIA: EARTHQUAKE 8 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

This Bulletin (no. 01/2005) is being issued for information only, and reflects the status of the situation and information available at this time. CHF 30,000 has been released from the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support assessment in Pakistan.

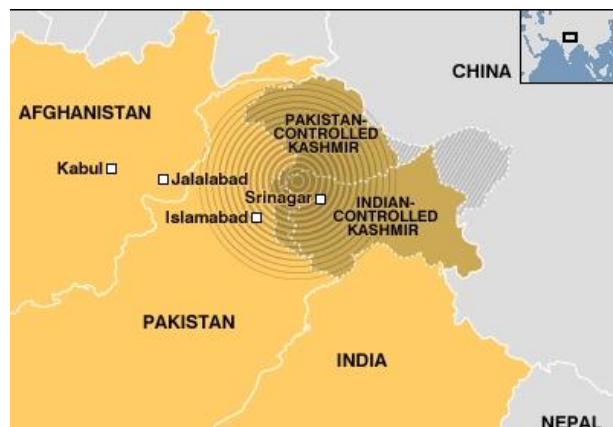
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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

The Situation



Centred in Kashmir, the earthquake was felt across three countries.

Map Source: BBC

Hundreds of people are believed to have died as the result of an earthquake with a magnitude of 7.6 on the Richter scale, which struck at 0350 GMT on 8 October 2005. A spokesman for the Pakistan president fears the death toll could run into the thousands. The quake was centred in Pakistan-administered Kashmir, approximately 95 km northeast of the capital, Islamabad, shaking cities and villages across Afghanistan, Pakistan and India. A series of aftershocks have continued throughout the day, the latest occurring at 10:46 GMT, registering 6.3 on the Richter scale.

In Pakistan, there are initial reports of deaths and damage in Pakistan-administered Kashmir, the capital Islamabad, and North West Frontier Province. In

Islamabad, two blocks of apartment buildings collapsed and rescue teams are trying to get to an estimated 200 to 300 people buried under the rubble. Officials say that up to hundreds of people have been taken to various hospitals. Reports of widespread damage, deaths and injuries in Kashmir are coming in but there are no confirmed figures yet. In North West Frontier Province, the Hazara division has been reported to be particularly hard hit.

In India, it has been confirmed by the Jammu and Kashmir Chief Secretary that 157 people have been killed in the Uri sector in Indian-administered Kashmir. Officials report that 80 per cent of the houses in Uri have been destroyed while the public hospital has been razed to the ground. The Jammu-Srinagar highway has been closed by landslides caused by the quake. The Indian government disaster control room is monitoring the situation and the military and key ministries are on alert.

There are two confirmed deaths in Afghanistan at this stage, while detailed reports of damage have yet to be received.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Pakistan

In Islamabad, 10 Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) ambulances were deployed to the collapsed apartment blocks. Volunteers have been mobilized to assist with rescue and relief work while a dozen PRCS paramedic staff members are providing medical assistance at the disaster site. The ambulances are being used to transport the injured to various hospitals. The blood bank at the national headquarters is supplying blood to the hospitals.

Due to communications difficulties with jammed or non-operational telephone links, the situation at the collapsed apartments regarding fatalities and numbers injured cannot be confirmed at this point.

The PRCS North West Frontier Province branch has dispatched two assessment teams which will cover various areas including Manshera, Swat and Batgram. The PRCS Punjab and Sindh branches have made available resources for relief assistance in the North West Frontier Province, the Northern Areas and Islamabad.

A further assessment team is being deployed from the national headquarters to go to Pakistan-administered Kashmir. The Federation Secretariat is releasing CHF 30,000 from the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the assessment. This figure is expected to increase significantly in the coming hours.

A visiting Danish Red Cross delegate and resident German Red Cross delegate are in Islamabad, providing support to the PRCS and Federation delegation in assessing the situation and response.

The PRCS and the Federation delegation are in close liaison with the authorities and providing full support where available.

India

The Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) is gathering information on the situation. The national headquarters in Delhi is in contact with branches in the northeastern and northwestern areas.

The Jammu and Kashmir branch secretary is currently attending a state ministerial meeting. Decisions on the IRCS response will be made following the meeting.

The head of the Federation delegation in India is liaising with the ICRC head of regional delegation, exploring the possibility of releasing some limited available disaster stocks in Jammu and Kashmir.

Afghanistan

The head of the Federation delegation in Afghanistan is travelling to Badakhshan province (bordering northwest Pakistan) to conduct an assessment for potential support. The Afghanistan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) and the Afghanistan Federation delegation are monitoring the situation and have deployed assessment teams to affected areas.

Regionally

The Federation South Asia regional delegation is liaising with all country delegations and national societies in affected countries. The regional delegation is also coordinating with the Geneva Secretariat to formulate the ongoing Red Cross and Red Crescent response to the disaster.

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