

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

9 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. 02/2005) is being issued for information only, and reflects the status of the situation and information available at this time. CHF 200,000 has been released from the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund to support the initial phase of the emergency response.

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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

The death toll from the earthquake centred in Pakistan-administered Kashmir is now approaching 19,000. The quake, with a magnitude of 7.6 on the Richter scale, struck at 0350 GMT on Saturday, 8 October 2005. Pakistan government officials say the death toll in Pakistan is approximately 18,000, with 17,000 of the fatalities in Pakistan-administered Kashmir. A further 40,000 are reported to be injured.

The death toll in India as of mid-Sunday was approximately 350. The bulk of those killed were in the Uri sector of Baramulla in Indian-administered Kashmir.

There have been three deaths in Afghanistan in Nangarhar province – one in Jalalabad and two in villages. There are reports of some injuries and structural damage, mainly in the provinces nearest to Pakistan.

The quake was centred 95 km northeast of the Pakistan capital Islamabad and was felt across Afghanistan, Pakistan and India. The worse affected areas are in Pakistan-administered Kashmir. The Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) operations manager has reported from the area capital, Muzaffarabad, that 50 per cent of the buildings have been destroyed and logistics is being hampered by the main road being cut off by landslides.

In Pakistan's North West Frontier Province, there are reports of over 1,000 deaths. Hundreds of school students were killed as schools were flattened by the quake.

In Islamabad, 23 bodies were pulled from the ruins of two collapsed apartment blocks. To date, 90 survivors have been found. The tower blocks were the only buildings to be destroyed in Islamabad. Earlier fears of hundreds being trapped were allayed as it transpired that most of the residents were outside when the quake struck.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies has released an initial amount of CHF 200,000 from the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support those affected by the earthquake. A preliminary emergency appeal will be launched later today.

Pakistan

The PRCS, together with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, is about to launch a relief operation targeting 30,000 affected families. They will be provided with shelter kits, each consisting of a tent, four blankets, four mattresses and a kitchen set. The targeted families will also be supplied with dried rations and medicines.

The PRCS has three assessment teams active on the ground in affected areas; where they are also carrying out relief operations. The PRCS national headquarters has released relief goods from disaster preparedness stocks including tents, blankets, and foodstuffs, and these will be transported to affected areas as quickly as possible. The national society operations manager has arrived at the capital of Pakistan-administered Kashmir, Muzaffarabad, and is currently liaising with the neighbouring Abbottabad branch to organize assistance.

In Islamabad, the national society's ambulance fleet of ten vehicles and teams of medical staff responded to the apartment building collapse while the PRCS blood bank supplied blood to local hospitals. It also established a medical camp at the site of the building collapse to treat the wounded at the scene.

An ambulance with an accompanying medical team and a truckload of relief supplies have been despatched to Manshera. In addition, 30 tents and surgical items have been sent to the Ayub Medical College by the PRCS North West Frontier Province branch.

India

The Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) Jammu and Kashmir branch has 400 volunteers carrying out rescue and relief work in the two worst affected areas – Baramulla and Uri. The branch is conducting an assessment and is likely to request support from the IRCS national headquarters for relief items such as tents, blankets, food and medicines.

The IRCS Secretary-General is waiting on the results of the assessment and subsequent request. The national society, the Federation India delegation and the ICRC are ready to coordinate their response to any request.

The IRCS national disaster response teams are on standby and they have stocks of approximately 12,000 family packs available. Also ready to be deployed are Rubb Halls (temporary warehouses), mobile disaster units, and water and sanitation units.

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