

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/LANDSLIDES

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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 185 countries.

In Brief

This Bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the situation and the information available at this time. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

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The Situation

Monsoon rains continued to create havoc around the country as the North West Frontier Province (NWFP) turned out to be the worst hit by landslides and flash floods. The death toll from torrential rains has gone up to 150 in the past two days. Mardan city (east of Peshawar) in NWFP has been the most badly affected area. Floods have damaged numerous houses, and a number of roads have been blocked because of landslides in areas affected also by last year's earthquake, making the local communities who live here particularly vulnerable. However, southern parts of the country are on high alert for the coming week. Heavy rains are forecasted for the week ahead.

It is feared that Swat and Indus rivers will experience high flooding and flood control cells have been established by the local governments in Swabi district in NWFP. Water levels at Nullah Leh stream in Rawalpindi have gone down. Authorities have developed relief centres in the city to provide basic amenities to flood affected people.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has moved 6,000 people to camps. UNHCR, with the authorities in Pakistan-administered Kashmir and NWFP, is working on a contingency plan for an approximate 20,000 people. The focus will be on those who will be affected by the torrential rains to shift them into camps for the coming winters.

Army rescue and relief teams have been mobilized in various locations throughout the country.

In recent developments:

- At least 70 people are feared to have drowned when gushing water in Nullah Kulpani stream swept away the main city bridge on Saturday in the city of Mardan, east of Peshawar. The administration declared an emergency across the district following the incident. Flood water swamped almost half of Mardan city, destroying most of the communication systems and suspending the electricity supply to most parts of the district. Authorities have recovered 40 dead bodies so far.
- Owing to the floods and landslides, an outbreak of virulent diarrhea has been reported in the Battagram area.
- In other districts of NWFP and also in Punjab and Balochistan, approximately 25 people have died in various flood related incidents.
- Approximately 14 people were killed and seven were missing on Friday as flash floods swept a minibus into a canal near the town of Chakari (close to Islamabad/Rawalpindi).
- In Nowshera district in NWFP, approximately 60 houses have been destroyed. No loss of life has been reported.
- In Sindh, south of Pakistan, districts Badin and Kaddan in coastal areas have been badly affected by floods.

Coordination

The Pakistan Red Crescent/Federation delegation is working in close coordination with the district coordination officer Mansehra. It is categorized as one of the primary organizations assisting the government in responding to the recent floods situation. PRCS/Federation delegation is also playing an active role in helping UNHCR to setup the Jaba relief camp for flood-affected people (the PRCS/Federation delegation has committed a total of 400 tents for camp, out of which 150 tents have already been provided). Other provincial and district branches of PRCS are also in close coordination with the local authorities as part of the response team.

National headquarters of Pakistan Red Crescent receives daily situation reports from all the provincial branches.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

On the request of the district coordinator officer, the Pakistan Red Crescent, Federation delegation and French Red Cross mobilized 5,000 kg of medical equipment in the area of Battagram through their combined efforts. The equipment includes antibiotics, viral rehydration solution, IV drip, soap, disinfectant and chloride tablets. The Movement also provided two tents for the 35-bed District hospital, which was overwhelmed with flood-affected patients. PRCS, the Federation delegation along with French Red Cross mobilized a total of 18 medical staff, which included eight doctors, five nurses, three dispensers and two community health staff.

A Pakistan Red Crescent and Federation delegation team, also consisting of seven volunteers, was actively involved in the assessment and mobilization of communities in Balakot district on Sunday. Volunteers distributed water purification tablets to 450 people and also educated them on ways to use these tablets.

The district government of Balakot is providing transport to people to take them to Jaba relief camp. Pakistan Red Crescent has also established three registration points in three union councils that were most affected by floods in Mansehra district. The purpose of these registration points is to monitor the movement of the population, which will help in the distribution of relief goods. The PRCS and Federation delegation has stored 150 tents and the same number of hygiene parcels in one of the private schools near the Balakot town. Distribution of the stored tents and hygiene kits has now started. The target population for this distribution is those who are not leaving their houses to move to relief camps. For the families shifting to Jaba camp, 150 tents have already been provided to the camp by the PRCS and Federation delegation.

Following the incident in Mardan city, PRCS NWFP provincial branch sent out an assessment team to the district on Sunday. Based on the assessments from the team, the branch dispatched the following relief items to Mardan; 200 tents, 200 food packages, 200 kitchen sets, 100 plastic sheets and 10,000 water purification tablets. The provincial branch also sent out relief items to Swat district, which included 60 tents, 30 plastic sheets, 50 food parcels and 4000 water purification tablets.

Following the incident at Chakari (near Islamabad/Rawalpindi), PRCS national headquarters sent out six ambulances that were on high alert to the accident site, in close coordination with the PRCS Rawalpindi district branch. As PRCS was the first organization to reach the scene, authorities asked them to transfer the dead. The ambulances transported 11 bodies home to their native villages.

PRCS district branches in Badin and Kaddan districts in Sindh established four relief camps (two each in Badin and Kaddan). Relief camps distributed various relief items to the flood affected people. Two mobile health teams have provided medical assistance to approximately 100 people.

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The International Federation undertakes activities that are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to achieve 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.*

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>