



United Nations Resident Coordinator Office, Pakistan

SITREP # 2: Monsoon and Floods update, Pakistan

Report date: Monday, June 25, 2007 – 1900 Hrs

General Situation:

Following to first SITREP sent today, 25th June 2007 at 1300 Hrs. Pakistan Metrological Department has sent advisory for possible cyclone alert in Sindh and Balochistan areas of Pakistan.

The monsoon weather system (deep depression) over Indian Gujraat has entered North Arabian Sea and now lies at a distance of 150 KMs south of Karachi. It is likely to intensify in to a tropical cyclone during the next 6-12 hours. The system is likely to move into west / north-westerly direction.

Under its influence widespread rains / strong gusty winds with scattered heavy to very heavy rainfall is likely in Sindh especially southern Sindh and coastal belt including Karachi.

Sea conditions are likely to be very rough. Later the cyclone will move towards the Balochistan coast and widespread rains / strong gusty winds are expected in the coastal regions of Gawador, Jiwani, Pasni, Ormara and Lasbella. NDMA is predicting flash floods along the coast as a consequence of heavy rains. (*NDMA Advisory # 3 attached as "Annex A"*).

Media Reports:

According to media reports, Pakistan evacuated thousands of people from southern coastal areas on 25th June 2007, Monday ahead of a possible cyclone, two days after a storm killed at least 235 people in the port city of Karachi.

Fishermen were advised to stay ashore until Thursday in some areas because of the likelihood of "extremely" rough seas. At least 10 fishermen have been missing since the weekend according to media reports.

Officials in Baluchistan said around 2,000 people had been evacuated to higher ground from areas along the Arabian Sea coast that were already inundated by the rain.

Karachi is still reeling from a deadly thunderstorm on Saturday, with parts of the sprawling port city of 12 million people still without electricity or drinking water.

Workers were clearing fallen trees and the wreckage of nearly 50 huge iron-advertising billboards that collapsed during the thunderstorms, causing several of the casualties.

Advisor to the Chief Minister Sindh for Home Waseem Akhtar said Pakistan army has been ordered to be ready for emergency rescue and aid work in case a possible cyclone hits the coast areas. The police officials have been posted at beaches to stop picnickers from swimming in the sea for next three days. Quoting Met office warning, Waseem Akhtar said that sea tide will be high during these days at Clifton, Hawksbay, Sandspit, Henry and Gadani beaches. He said it will be very dangerous for picnickers to swim in sea and police should stop them from doing so.

National Response:

NDMA has informed UNRCO office that the situation is under control and current no external assistance is required from United Nations or international community.

Response by Sindh Government :

According to NDMA, Sindh government has ordered evacuation of vulnerable coastal villages in Thatta and Badin districts. Army, Navy and Karachi Port Trust have been placed at two hours alert for possible employment in the aid of the provincial government. Rangers are likely to be employed for relief operations in Karachi City.

Balochistan Government :

According to NDMA, Balochistan government has been advised to raise the alert level and take immediate measures to relocate vulnerable communities along the coastal regions.

International Response:

The UN RC Office is in constant touch with Federal Authorities (NDMA) and is ready to assist should it be needed. The United Nations System has provided Technical Assistance staff to the NDMA as part of the creation of NDMA, hence should an unexpected deterioration in the situation eventuate requiring international assistance, a rapid response can be expected.

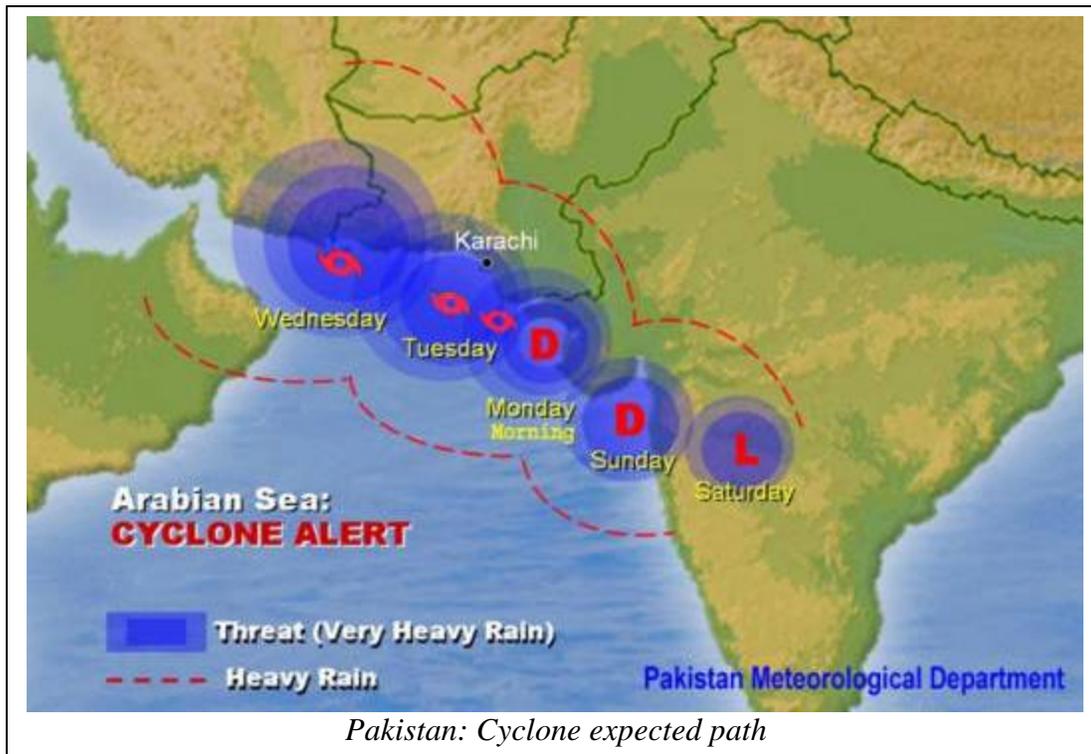
Cyclone Information:

Pakistan Metrological Department:

According to advisory # 3, This morning strong Monsoon Weather System (Deep Depression) over North Arabian Sea has converted into a Tropical Cyclone. Now it lies about 150 km South of Karachi at Lat 23.0°N and Long 67.0°E. Maximum sustain winds 40 knots to 50 knots gusting to 60 – 70 knots. Associated storm surge along Sindh coast is expected to be 10 – 15 feet and along Balochistan coast is expected to be 20 – 25 feet.

The Tropical Cyclone is likely to move in a west-Northwesterly direction.

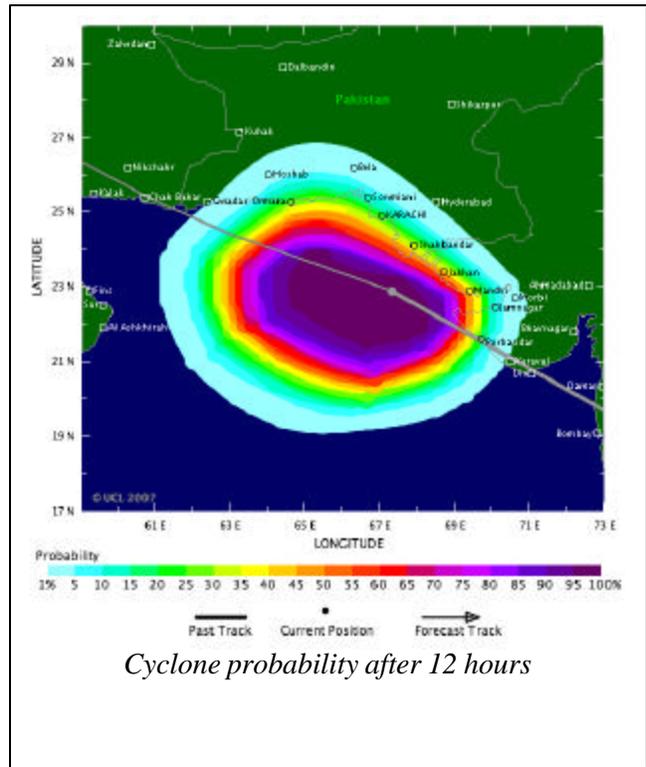
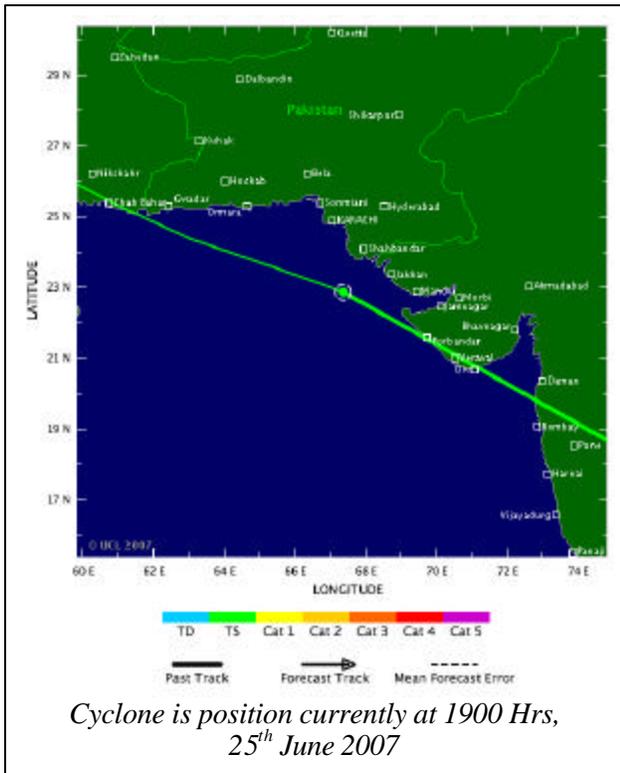
Expected Cyclone Track is as follows:



Humanitarian Early Warning System (HEWS):

Website: <http://www.hewsweb.org/Storms/default.asp>

According to HEWS following maps are available with detailed illustrations of the cyclone:



Contact Details:

Kamran Shariff

National Disaster Management Advisor,
NDMA/OCHA
CPRU Office, House no. 124, Street 11, E-7, Islamabad, Pakistan
Mobile: +92-300-9540465
Office: +92-51-2654182
Email: kamran.shariff@un.org.pk

Fawad Hussain

National Humanitarian Affairs Officer (Nat'HAO)
United Nations Office of the Resident Coordinator (UNORC)
UN House No. 12, Street 17, F-7/2, Islamabad, Pakistan
Tel: 051-8255713
Cell: +92-301-8542495
Fax: +92-51-2655014 (Attention: Fawad Hussain)
Email: fawad.hussain@un.org.pk

Andrew MacLeod

Senior Advisor on Relief to Recovery
UNRCO & ERRA
United Nations Office of the Resident Coordinator (UNORC)
UN House No. 12, Street 17, F-7/2, Islamabad, Pakistan
Cell: +92 300 855 0453
Message: +61 3 9018 5029
Email Professional: andrew@erra.gov.pk or andrew.macleod@undp.org
Email Private: andrew@macleod.com
Skype ID: macleod_andrew



NDMA Advisory # 3 – 25th June 2007

NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
PRIME MINISTER'S SECRETARIAT
ISLAMABAD

F-5(8)/2007-NDMA

June 25, 2007

To: Provincial Disaster Management Authority Sindh
Karachi

Provincial Disaster Management Authority Balochistan
Quetta

DG Emergency Relief Cell

Information: Governor Sindh
Governor Balochistan
Chief Minister Sindh
Chief Minister Balochistan
MS to President
MS to Prime Minister
Secretary Cabinet Division, Government of Pakistan

NDMA SITUATION REPORT # 2– 1700 Hours

Excerpts from latest Pakistan Metrological Department latest weather advisory on Sindh and Balochistan situation are reproduced:-

The monsoon weather system (deep depression) over Indian Gujraat has entered North Arabian Sea and now lies at a distance of 150 KMs south of Karachi. It is likely to intensify in to a tropical cyclone during the next 612 hours. The system is likely to move into west / north-westerly direction.

Under its influence widespread rains / strong gusty winds with scattered heavy to very heavy rainfall is likely in Sindh especially southern Sindh and coastal belt including Karachi.

Sea condiotns are likely to be very rough.

Later the cyclone will move towards the Balochistan coast and widespread rains / strong gusty winds are expected in the coastal regions of Gawador, Jiwani, Pasni, Ormara and Lasbella

It is our interpretation that flash floods can occur along the coast as a consequence of heavy rains.

Response by Sindh Government

Sindh government has ordered evacuation of vulnerable coastal villages in Thatta and Badin districts. Army, Navy and Karachi Port Trust have been placed at two hours alert for possible employment in the aid of the provincial government. Rangers are likely to be employed for relief operations in Karachi City.

Balochistan Government

Balochistan government has been advised to raise the alert level and take immediate measures to relocate vulnerable communities along the coastal regions.

Recommendations

PDMA Sindh and Balochistan are again advised to plan their response on worst case basis which includes relocation of vulnerable communities residing in low lying areas to safer locations.

Similarly PDMA Baluchistan is advised to take requisite preventive measures in coastal regions prone to flash flooding.

Pakistan Metrological Department may consider advising its regional offices to give maximum cyclone coverage over radio and television in the regional languages. Assistance of PDMAs may be sought.

DG Emergency Relief Cell has yet to confirm availability of 2000 tents and 20,000 blankets as part of emergency response in the emerging situation in Sindh. These stores may be delivered, when required, from warehouses located in Karachi.

Districts Likely to be Affected

Sindh.

Karachi, Thatta, Badin, Tharparkar, Umer Kot, Mirpur Khas, Sanghar, Tando Allah Yar, Matiari, Tando Muhammad Khan and Hyderabad.

Baluchistan

Gwador, Jiwani, Pasni, Ormara, Lasbella. Hilly areas adjoining the coastal regions may experience flash floods

The situation is being monitored and further update will be issued.

Brig (Retd) Kamran Shariff
National Disaster Response Advisor, NDMA

