

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: STORM/CYCLONE YEMYIN

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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 (no. 04/2007) is being issued for information only, and reflects the status of the situation and information available at this time. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

Summary: The number of people affected by cyclone Yemyin and subsequent flooding in Baluchistan province, in southern Pakistan, has rapidly increased to 800,000 across seven districts, with an unconfirmed death toll of 24. Many towns and villages have been inundated with flood waters, while houses have been washed away. There is extensive damage to roads and bridges.

The weather has eased in the neighbouring province of Sindh, but there is heavy flooding in 16 villages in Juhi union council in Dadu district to the north of Karachi city. Karachi, where over 200 people reported died as a result of the severe storm on 23 June 2007, is in clean up mode. However, there are ongoing health concerns due to the lack of clean water.

The Pakistan Red Crescent Society is providing emergency relief food and non-food items and emergency health care. The PRCS is being supported by the Federation and the International Committee of the Red Cross in its response.

For further information specifically related to this operation please see [contact details](#) on the last page.

The Situation

The flooding and damage caused by cyclone Yemyin in the southern Pakistan province of Baluchistan has now affected 800,000 people and claimed about 24 lives¹. According to the Baluchistan Provincial Relief Commissioner, seven districts have been affected by flooding – the coastal districts of Kech and Gwadar, and the north-eastern districts of Jalmugsi, Bolan, Lasbela, Nasirabad and Jaffarabad.

The cyclone struck the Baluchistan coast on Tuesday, 26th June, and while it has dissipated, it resulted in torrential rain in many areas. A severe storm on 23rd June caused over 200 deaths in Karachi city, in the adjoining Sindh province, and also affected the districts of Thatta and Dadu in Sindh.

The Baluchistan Provincial Relief Commissioner says there are no official estimates of the number of people rendered homeless, but he confirms 50,000 people have been evacuated from villages in the Kech valley to Turbat

¹ This is an unofficial figure based on media reports. The Baluchistan Provincial Relief Commissioner's office did not have an official figure at the time of reporting.

town and 25,000 from Suntar to Gwadar city. Many villages have been marooned by water or cut off due to damaged roads/bridges. The 87-metre high Mirani dam, 50 kilometres from Turbat, is near capacity and spillways have been opened.

According to a Federation assessment team, which reached Turbat on the day of reporting, though water levels have subsided, there is widespread devastation of houses which have been completely swept away. Many people were observed living out in the open.

Large portions of the Baluchistan coastal highway have been torn away and several bridges washed out. Inland, roads and bridges have been made inaccessible by flood waters. Hundreds of vehicles have been left stranded, hampering the delivery of relief supplies. Officials hope the coastal highway can be restored by 29th June.



Cyclone Yemyin destroyed bridges and removed large chunks of road on the Baluchistan coastal highway (Photo: International Federation)

Meanwhile in the neighbouring Sindh province, the clean-up operation continues in Karachi city. The Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) reports that 16 villages in Juhi union council, in Dadu district to the north of Karachi, have been flooded with 1,500 families affected. Flood water was six feet deep in places and some villages were marooned. Coastal villages in Thatta district were badly affected and are in need of relief.

Government action: The army, navy and airforce are being used for relief and rescue work. The army has been providing trucks and personnel for evacuations, while the airforce is assisting with transportation of relief materials. The navy has been involved in a series of rescue missions of fishing boats and various other commercial vessels.

On 27th June, the Pakistan Prime Minister announced a relief package of Pakistan rupees 200 million (USD 3.3 million/Euro 2.5 million) for affected people in Baluchistan province. A C-130 Hercules aircraft has also been made available and was flying relief materials out of the provincial capital Quetta.

The government had announced, on 26th June, a relief package of Pakistan rupees 200 million (USD 3.3 million/Euro 2.5 million) for affected people in Sindh province.



The Nawaz family in Karachi is among the thousands left homeless as the result of the severe weather to hit Sindh and Baluchistan (Photo: International Federation)

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Baluchistan

Four hundred family packs, from the PRCS's Baluchistan provincial headquarters in Quetta, were flown by a military C-130 Hercules aircraft to Turbat, on the day of reporting. Each pack contains a tent, two tarpaulins, 2-3 jerry cans and a hurricane lamp. With no PRCS branch presence in Turbat, the packs will be distributed by the military and local government. The relief is in response to a direct request from the assessment conducted by the local government's district coordination officer. Due to the road conditions, the earlier planned transportation of the items by truck, by the PRCS, had to be abandoned.

The Federation Pakistan delegation's disaster management manager and information officer arrived in Turbat on the day of reporting and are conducting assessments. The assessment team from the Baluchistan provincial headquarters, which was attempting to get to Turbat, was forced back due to bad roads. The branch plans to despatch a team, consisting of the branch secretary, programme officer, disaster management manager and warehouse manager, by air on 29th June.

Sindh

The PRCS's Sindh provincial branch is focusing its efforts on Karachi, the coastal village of Ketu Bandar in Thatta district and Juhi in Dadu district.

In Karachi, the branch is running a medical camp in the slum area of Gadaab, staffed by ten doctors and ten paramedics. Two ambulances are also operating as mobile teams in the vicinity. During the first two days of operation, the teams treated 750 patients, mostly children. The most common complaints are diarrhoea, viral infections and respiratory tract infections. The lack of clean water in the poor areas of Karachi continues to pose a significant health risk and the Federation is seeking to source 100,000 water purification tablets from the World Health Organisation. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is funding four four-day medical camps in Karachi and Thatta.



Pakistan Red Crescent Society medical teams in Karachi have treated 750 people in two days (Photo: International Federation)

It is planned to distribute 500 family packs (consisting of a ten kilogram bag of rice, two one kilogram bags of lentils, a one kilogram bag of sugar, matches and candles) to families in Gadaab, in the coming days, as soon as procurement is completed.

A medical team of three doctors and four paramedics from Karachi is supporting the branch basic health unit in the coastal village of Ketu Bandar in Thatta district, which was badly affected. The numbers of patients were not yet available.

Based on assessment findings in Ketu Bandar, provincial headquarters on the day of reporting was despatching 200 bags of rice (five kilograms each), 150 jerry cans, 100 utensil sets, and 50 stoves. This is in addition to the 200 family packs (each consisting of a tent, 5-6 blankets, utensil set, jerry can, two plastic sheets and rice packs), which were delivered earlier in the week. Distribution of these packs commenced on the day of reporting. A relief team of three staff and six volunteers is coming from Karachi to provide support.

Meanwhile, in the Dadu district to the north of Karachi, an emergency relief team from Karachi had arrived and began distributing items to marooned villages in the Juhi union council. The teams, utilising three hired rowboats, visited six villages and distributed the following items, assisting approximately 200 families – 100 five kilogram bags of rice, 61 plastic tarpaulin sheets, 79 utensil sets, 91 blankets and 11 stoves. A second relief team departed from Karachi on the day of reporting with more relief items. The stock of items on hand in Juhi, as of the day of reporting, included 60 tents and 100 five kilogram bags of rice.

Disaster stocks for 200 families, which were pre-positioned in Badin district earlier in the week, are still in place. A relief team is continuing assessments and may do a distribution depending on its findings.

Coordination

The PRCS's Baluchistan and Sindh provincial branches are liaising with their respective local government authorities. The Sindh and Baluchistan provincial government have both established disaster coordination offices and are collating data and information. The Baluchistan provincial branch in Quetta is liaising with the army, which is providing logistical support with a C-130 Hercules aircraft.

The Federation Pakistan delegation's disaster management manager and information officer are in Turbat and are coordinating with local authorities, sharing assessments and other information.

All information from the field is being shared with the PRCS national headquarters and Federation Pakistan delegation in Islamabad. The ICRC is also being kept informed of developments.

Following a briefing on the Red Cross Red Crescent response, given by the Federation deputy head of delegation at the United Nations (UN) general coordination meeting in Islamabad on 26th June, an update is to be given at the UN disaster management team meeting on 29th June.

How we work

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.

The Federation's Global Agenda

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

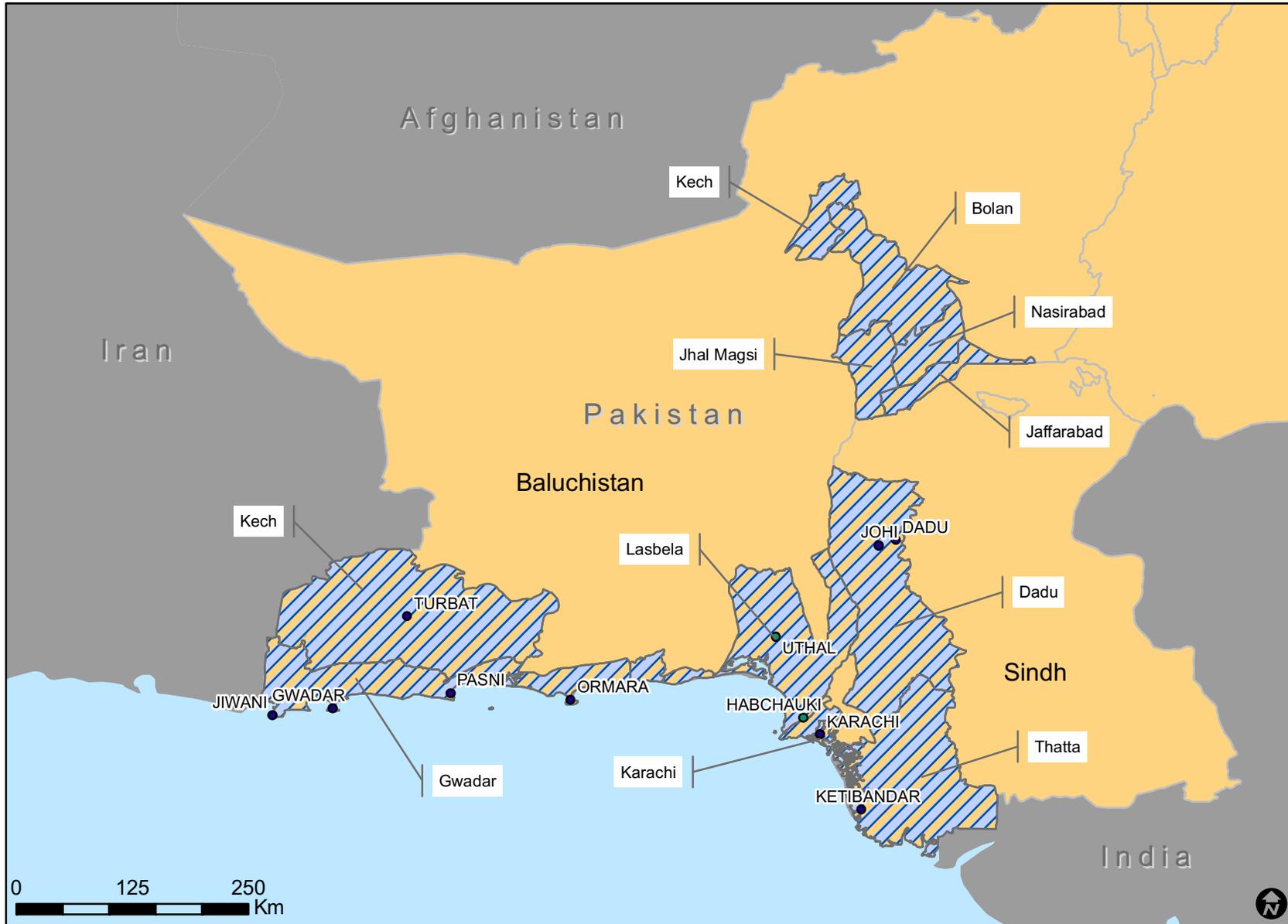
Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- *Pakistan Red Crescent Society: Khalid Kibriya (Secretary General); email: khalid_kibriya@yahoo.com; phone: +92 51 925 0407; fax +92 51 925 0408.*
- *Federation country delegation in Pakistan: Asar ul Haq (disaster management programme manager); email asar.muhammad@ifrc.org ; phone +92 300 856 8136. Udaya Regmi (acting head of delegation); email: udaya.regmi@ifrc.org ; phone: +92 51 925 0416; mobile: +92 300 555 4502.*
- *Federation South Asia regional delegation in India: Nina Nobel (acting head of regional delegation); email: nina.nobel@ifrc.org; phone: +91.11. 2411.1125; fax: +91.11. 2411.1128*
- *Federation Secretariat in Geneva (Asia Pacific department): Christine South, (regional officer South Asia); email christine.south@ifrc.org; phone +41 22 730 4529; fax +4122 733 0395*



Pakistan: Cyclone Yenyim



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