

Statement on the floods in Pakistan

The torrential monsoon rains that started in June 2022 triggered the most severe flooding in Pakistan's recent history, affecting more than 33 million people across all six provinces. Of the 33 million people affected, **20 million people need humanitarian assistance**. As floodwaters recede, the sheer scale of the damage is revealed. Public health facilities, water systems and hundreds of thousands of homes have been damaged or destroyed. The result is that affected people are lacking access to necessities such as food, safe water and basic health facilities. Damage to roads and other infrastructure impede people's ability to flee to safer areas or travel to markets, hospitals or access other vital services, and limits aid delivery to those in need. Livelihood structures have been destroyed, farmland washed away and about 1 million livestock have been killed, significantly affecting peoples' means of subsistence.

All this is taking place in a context where the country's fragile public healthcare system and struggling economy, had not yet recovered from the drastic impacts of COVID-19, and where there are intense global humanitarian needs and competing demands. The current crisis is distinct in its magnitude. It requires an exceptional mobilization and demands massive efforts by all concerned institutions to address the immediate, recovery and long-term needs of affected people.

We, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, are extremely concerned by the devastating impact of this crisis. Since the onset of the crisis, the Movement has reached more than 500,000 people through life-saving interventions such as emergency health, safe water and distribution of cooked food, food rations and nonfood items. Still, food insecurity continues to deteriorate indicating that even more people will be at risk during the upcoming months. Lack of safe water and sanitation facilities may also lead to an increase in water- and vector-borne diseases. With expected temperatures below zero degrees in some of the affected areas during winter, cold weather will add to the challenges already faced.

Committed to Scaling-up and Working Together

In the face of this crisis, a massive, coordinated scale-up of our action is urgent and critical. The IFRC with its membership calls for 55 million CHF to support **2 million flood-affected people** in five provinces of Pakistan, prioritizing the most affected provinces – Sindh, Baluchistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The nation-wide presence of the PRCS volunteers, will enable the movement to reach vulnerable people not accessible by other actors, making this a truly localized response. The ICRC is committed to mobilize all the possible in-country resources; technical, logistics, and financial support in favour of the Movement response.

The operation targets the most vulnerable people who have not received support. Priority will be given to women, children, the elderly, persons with disabilities, transgenders, displaced individuals, migrants and other marginalized groups. The operation will address their relief needs through shelter, health, WASH, and cash and voucher assistance (CVA) support, and the long-term recovery needs related to livelihoods and disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation over a period of 16 months.

The proposed interventions will complement the governments and other actors' **relief and early-recovery** efforts through multipurpose cash grants, tents, tarpaulins, shelter tool kits, blankets, water treatment plants, emergency latrines, hygiene kits and hygiene promotion, and health services as well

as preventative public health interventions including mosquito nets. The operation will address **long-term recovery** needs and increase the adaptive capacity and **resilience** of vulnerable households by restocking livestock, providing business grants to restore small-scale community enterprises, inputs, and training for climate-smart agriculture, and for kitchen gardening for women, implementing nature-based solutions and scaling up climate-smart DRR early warning systems and climate change adaptation activities.

Responding to this crisis, both international components of the Movement – ICRC and IFRC – are present in Pakistan. As per the Seville Agreement 2.0, Pakistan Red Crescent Society is the Convener of the Movements' response, with IFRC taking the Co-Convening role, and all Movement partners being committed to complement each other's activities.

The movements interventions are principled and coordinated with those of local authorities when possible.

Our commitments

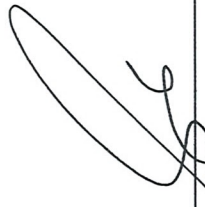
We will make all efforts to significantly scale up the humanitarian impact reached through and with Pakistan Red Crescent Society to continue saving lives, improving the living conditions of affected people in harder to reach communities and dignifying their lives in all circumstances.

Representing the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, we take this opportunity to express our concern and solidarity with the affected population.

We thank all partners for their support.


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