The Global Climate Risk Index 2018 ranked Pakistan 7th on the list of 10 countries globally most affected by natural disasters from 1996 to 2015. According to data compiled in 2016 by Verisk Maplecroft, a UK-based risk management company, around 136 million Pakistanis – 70 per cent of its population – are acutely exposed to earthquakes, tsunamis, floods and droughts. In 2017, the UN’s Office of Coordination for Humanitarian Affairs assessed 2.3 million people in need of humanitarian assistance.

Pakistan is ranked 150th out of 189 countries on the Human Development Index, and 133rd on the Gender Inequality Index, where the highest ranking countries are in lower numbers. It is wrought with internal socio-economic and environmental challenges that could affect the country’s pursuit of achieving UN’s Sustainable Development Goals. Development progress are further hampered by accelerating impacts of climate change and rising pressure on terrestrial and marine resources, rapid population growth and urbanization and significant internal migration, especially towards urban centres which lack the infrastructure to cope with this influx of new residents. The country also faces a burgeoning population of youths without adequate education or employment opportunities and variations in the pace and quality of economic growth. FATA — Federally Administered Tribal Areas — is widely considered one of the most volatile regions in the world and one of the most-underdeveloped regions of Pakistan. Its population has been affected by a protracted crisis since 2008, that has seen millions of individuals temporarily displaced. In 2015, security was stable enough to start large-scale return. Although the government initially planned for all people to return by the end of 2016, with the security conditions within FATA, including the difficulties of returns during winter, meant that 30,000 families remain displaced and are yet to return.

Pakistan Red Crescent (PRCS) is the country’s leading humanitarian organization, founded in 1947 with its mission “to alleviate the suffering of the most vulnerable population by mobilizing the power of humanity.” PRCS is an auxiliary to the government and its core areas of working are in disaster management, healthy and safe living, youth and volunteering and organizational development. PRCS have access to Pakistan’s hardest to reach areas and working to deliver services to the most marginalized communities.

IFRC has been supporting PRCS since 1993 and similar efforts will be made in the 2019 with particular focus on health, resource mobilization, systems strengthening, digitalization of PRCS and strengthening its strategical directions to enable PRCS to reach vulnerable communities more effectively. A close coordination mechanism and cohesive working environment will be promoted to closely working with Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners namely German Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross, Danish Red Cross and the International Committee of Red Cross. A coordinated approach will encourage cohesiveness and bring synergy and complementarity of efforts to benefit the people of Pakistan in the short and long term.
Spotlight on health profile

Significant improvements were noted in Pakistan’s health-systems performance for the past 65 years but key health indicators lag behind those in peer countries. 78 per cent of the population pay out of pocket at the point of health care.

An estimated 400,000 infants and 16,500 maternal deaths occur annually in Pakistan. These translate into an infant mortality rate and maternal mortality ratio that should be unacceptable to any state. Common diseases in the states include communicable diseases and reproductive health problems, which are largely preventable, account for over 50 per cent of the disease burden.

The ability to ensure delivery of quality health services remains the biggest challenge in the Pakistan health sector.

AREA OF FOCUS

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

The focus will be on capacity building and engagement with community leaders. Efforts are required to contribute in making Pakistan a disaster resilient country. One Billion Coalition for Resilience agenda and initiative will be taken forward.

- 8,665 people to be trained on disaster risk reduction and management.
- 5,330 community leaders to be engaged in order to comply with their communities’ needs.

LIVELIHOODS AND BASIC NEEDS*

Realizing the needs of income generation, households to be provided with multi-purpose cash-based interventions.

- 10,500 people to be reached with cash-based interventions (CBI).

HEALTH

Health coverage will be increased to address the growing demand of the ever-increasing population in the country. There is need to reduce the widespread prevalence of communicable diseases. Endeavours will be made to provide primary health care services to identify and reduce health risks.

- 250,000 people to be reached through primary health care programmes.
- 50,000 children to be reached for routine immunization.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

There is an increasing role of provincial governments to improve health facilities, clean drinking water, improve access to sanitation and sustainable agriculture. The National Society will be supported to work with local authorities to establish safe water services that meet agreed standards according to specific operational programmatic context.

- 141,750 people have improved access to safe water.

PROTECTION, GENDER AND INCLUSION (PGI)

Dedicated efforts are needed to increase accountability towards gender equality commitments and inclusive social, economic, cultural and political rights policies. PGI framework, tools and strategic direction are to be advocated in its application across all programming and awareness raising.

- 100,000 people to be reached on PGI.

MIGRATION

Pakistan is facing significant internal migration, especially towards urban centres which lack the infrastructure to cope with the influx of new residents. Assistance and protection services are to be provided to migrants and promoted through engagement with authorities and as well as in partnership with other humanitarian actors.

- 100,000 migrants/returnees to be engaged in migration.

STATISTICS

24% of the country’s population live below the poverty line.

44% adolescent birth rate (aged 10-14 years; aged 15-19 years) per 1,000 women in that age group.

32% of married women experience physical violence.

10.6% youth unemployment rate.

STRATEGY FOR IMPLEMENTATION

STRENGTHEN NATIONAL SOCIETY CAPACITIES

National Society capacity building and organizational developmental objectives are facilitated to ensure that the National Society has the necessary legal, ethical and financial foundations, systems and structures, competencies and capacities to plan/perform.

- 2,254 volunteers and staff to be reached/trained.

ENSURE EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT

IFRC country office will support National Society to ensure effectiveness and coordinated international disaster response.

- 10,500 people to be reached on humanitarian assistance.

INFLUENCE OTHERS AS LEADING STRATEGIC PARTNERS

The IFRC together with National Society will use their position to influence decision at local, national and international levels that affect the most vulnerable.

- Improving planning and reporting to ensure effective accountability internally and externally.
- Attracting multiple year funding and thematic funding to development of programmes and emergency operations.
- NS HQ and its branches will be accompanied for in-depth planning process and co-facilitate the launch of a partnership meeting mid-2019.

ENSURE A STRONG IFRC

IFRC reinforces its commitment to comply with the highest accountability standards, amenability to key management performance indicators, full adherence to IFRC’s Fraud and Corruption Prevention and Control policy, strict concession to IFRC’s Prevention and Response of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse policy, and the highest commitment to ensuring a safe and inclusive working environment towards greater diversity and gender equality.

*Figure of 50,000 CHF budgeted under livelihoods is not included in the Pakistan Country Office’s overall 2019 funding requirement due to the amount being managed at regional level, made available to the country level activities.

CONTACTS

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