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Emergency Plan of Action Operation Update

Pakistan: Drought

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF n°MDRPK015	GLIDE n°DR-2018-000428-PAK
Operations update n° 1 ; 20 May 2019	Timeframe covered by this update: 21 February – 13 May 2019
Operation start date: 21 February 2019	Operation timeframe: 4 months Operation end date: 21 June 2019
DREF budget allocated: CHF 315,347	N° of people being assisted: 15,000
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently actively involved in the operation: Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) is working with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Partner National Societies (PNS) with presence in Pakistan (Canadian Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, German Red Cross and Turkish Red Crescent Society). PRCS will be collaborating with in country movement partners to respond to the drought affected population in Sindh and Baluchistan provinces.	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: (i) Government authorities/agencies; National/Provincial/District Disaster Management Authorities, Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), Government of Sindh and Baluchistan/and provincial departments. (ii) UN agencies; OCHA, UNDP, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organisation (WHO), UNICEF, UN Children's Fund, UNFPA and IOM etc. (iii) International/NGOs; ACTED International, Islamic Relief, Muslim Aid and HANDS.	

Summary of major revisions:

This operations update informs the timeframe extension for one month until 21 June 2019, due to delay in conducting the after action review and lesson learnt workshop.

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the disaster

Lower than average rainfall was reported for Pakistan in 2018. Overall, the country received 24.4 per cent less rainfall during the monsoon season. In the worst affected regions of Sindh, the rainfall was 69.5 per cent below average, and in Baluchistan, it was 45 per cent below average. In January 2019, Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) declared moderate to severe drought conditions in 8 districts¹ in Sindh while Balochistan faced the same in 18 districts² with a total of over 5 million people affected. Despite intense government relief operations, a significant number of drought-affected communities remained unattended and are resorting to coping approaches that have severely compromised the wellbeing of children and women³.

Contrary to the drought situation, in February 2019 Balochistan experienced heavy rains resulting in severe flash floods which affected over 425,000 people and displaced over 9,000 people in the districts of Lasbella, Killa Abdullah, Turbat, Pishin and Khusdar. On 2 March 2019, the health department of the Government of Balochistan declared "Health

¹ In Sindh province: Tharparkar, Sanghar, Umerkot, Thatta, Dadu, Kambar, Jamshoro and Badin districts.

² In Balochistan province: Awaran, Barkhan, Chaghi, Kachhi, Kech, Kharan, Kohlu, Jaffarabad, Jhal Magsi, Killa Abdullah, Killa Saifullah, Naseerabad, Noshki, Panjgur, Pishin, Quetta, Washuk and Zhob districts.

³ UNOCHA Pakistan Drought Fact Sheet 13 March 2019

Emergency” across the province, instructing all hospitals to be on high alert ensuring 24/7 medical relief services.⁴ Additional heavy rains have been reported in April resulting in further floods in Balochistan but Noskhi district which has been targeted in Balochistan through this DREF operations and Tharparkar in Sindh districts have not been affected by the floods.

Summary of current response

Overview of Host National Society

PRCS continues to monitor the overall situation through coordination with its provincial branches and relevant government agencies (NDMA and PMD). In addition to this, with the technical support of national headquarters, both provincial branches of Sindh and Baluchistan deployed trained staff and volunteers to the most affected districts (as per list provided by NDMA & PDMA) to conduct a rapid assessment.

As of 21 April 2019 PRCS, has disbursed unconditional cash grants of PKR 18,400 (approximately CHF 133) per household to 1,218 drought affected households, to support purchase of essential items such as food and fodder for livestock. A total of 1,400 households have received water filters along with training on efficient and sustainable usage, and how to maintain sanitary hygiene have also been conducted. The installation of four solar water pumps are ongoing, maintenance and effective utilization training will be ensured after the installations are completed. The Red Rose platform⁵ has been utilized for access and distribution of cash and water filters to beneficiaries in both districts.

In April 2019 PRCS conducted a detailed need assessment in Sindh and Balochistan to identify the severity of the vulnerable areas and priority needs in the affected communities. Initial findings of the assessment conclude that current resources are insufficient to counter the implications in the fields of health and nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene, and livelihoods. The findings of the detailed needs assessment are currently in the process of finalization.

Staff at PRCS headquarters, provincial headquarters in Sindh and Balochistan, National Disaster Response Teams, Branch Disaster Response Teams and District Disaster Response Teams and active volunteers are actively involved in this operation.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

Alongside the IFRC, other Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners in country including ICRC, Canadian Red Cross Society, Danish Red Cross, German Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, and Turkish Red Crescent Society, are well connected and coordination and cooperation is ensured through frequent communication and information sharing. Movement partners are fully informed about PRCS plans and needs. A coordination meeting with partners regarding the drought situation and the immediate plan of PRCS including activation of the DREF was conducted. Movement partners remain cooperative and willing to support PRCS response in case needed as in the past. PRCS is also well connected in regional partner calls/meeting coordinated by APRO for Afghanistan and Pakistan collectively.

The IFRC has a Country Office in Pakistan and has also been closely monitoring the situation and providing technical support to the PRCS.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

In pursuance of the mandate, the first ever National Disaster Response Plan (NDRP) in the Country was developed in 2010 and named as NDRP-2010. NDRP is amongst the key document to outline the guidelines for responding to disasters in Pakistan. NDMA with technical assistance of Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) and National Humanitarian Network (NHN) revised the NDRP (renamed as NDRP-2019), which was launched on 29 March 2019.

The purpose of NDRP 2019 includes;

1. Outline the processes and mechanisms to facilitate a coordinated Disaster Response by the National and /or Provincial departments;
2. Incorporate Disaster Management Activities for Preparedness & Response;
3. Increase clarity and enhance efficiency of all Stakeholders in Disaster Response.

A Response Drought Plan has been submitted to the Prime Minister for approval. It has been presented to a Committee headed by the Finance Minister and approved. The plan was also further submitted to the Federal Cabinet for final approval.

⁴https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/who_situation_report_flood_balochistan_pakistan_mar_2019.pdf

⁵ Red Rose platform - used as a data management tool.

As per reporting period, over 300,000 people have been reached with food and non-food items in Balochistan and Sindh through the intervention of Pakistan Government, PDMA, World Food Program and Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP).

UN agencies and other humanitarian organizations present in the country are in continuous contact with the government and other stakeholders. In terms of funds mobilization:

- UNOCHA has mobilized USD 10 million and launched its internal funding tool i.e. CERF.
- USD 5.24 million has also been secured under Pakistan Humanitarian Pool Fund (PHPF) - a 'pool fund'.
- Pakistan Government has mobilized USD 10 million.
- DFID has mobilized USD 8.4 million.
- USAID has mobilized USD 5.6million.

Overall, USD 96.3 million is required to meet the drought response needs. However, as of reporting date only USD 39.3 million (41 per cent) has been secured while leaving a gap equal to USD 57 million (59 per cent).

Needs analysis and scenario planning

Needs analysis

As per plan, PRCS technical team of experts conducted a detailed needs assessment from 1-13 April 2019 to identify high risk and priority areas in Sindh and Balochistan. Owing to low precipitation, water table is going down and resulting in drying up of water sources and make it hard for community to get water for humans and animals. It also affects the sanitation and hygiene in the communities due to lack of water. Use of brackish (salty) water in arid zones is an underlying cause of poor health. The method of water transportation and storage (ponds, tanks and plastic containers) exposes it to various form of contamination. One of the most common health complaints is related to diarrhoea, vomiting and fever among children. This, together with a poor diet, has caused the widespread malnutrition reported among women and children by FAO/WFP. The most vulnerable groups are women and children. Men have the option to go to work in towns where they have a wider choice of food and access to clean drinking water, which is reflected in their better state of health.

The assessment result from PRCS aligns with the assessment conducted by NDMA and UN agencies. PRCS is exploring medium to longer term interventions to address the major needs identified through the detailed needs assessment. The following are the initial findings:

Health

Malnutrition is high in the targeted areas; child mortality and postnatal issues are alarming situation. According to respondents, 51 per cent of the communities have access to District Headquarters Hospital (DHQ) for health care at an average distance of 65km from the villages and 48 per cent have access to a medical dispensary where no diagnostics or free medication facility is available. Approximately 82 per cent of the pregnant women are assisted by trained birth attendants (TBA) during delivery.

Water

Water scarcity is high in the targeted ten villages. Respondents have reported that people have access to unsafe drinking water. Risk of water borne diseases is high in the targeted ten villages, and 58 per cent of the respondents have reported that round trip for collection of water is normally taking several hours. But the water is not safe for drinking. Women and children have to spend a lot of time and efforts to fetch water which had added further sufferings for them.

Hence the other immediate needs (apart from Safe Drinking Water) include sanitation facilities, livestock protection, agriculture management and water conservation.

The unavailability of clean water has caused some associated issues. For instance, referring to DNA findings, 54 per cent surveyed households in Naushki and 78 per cent in Tharparkar, they do not have any toilet facility at their houses. Overwhelming number of surveyed households found indulged in open defecation in these areas.

Agriculture

Agriculture is one of the main sources of livelihood of the communities living in the targeted villages, 58 per cent of the respondents reported that due to water scarcity they are not growing any crops in their cultivable land.

Livestock

Approximately 84 per cent of the respondents have reported that they are still keeping livestock for livelihood sustenance. Targeted communities have reported that 62 per cent of the household are facing problems of fodder and 48 per cent of the households are facing livestock diseases effecting the health and productivity of the livestock.

Operation Risk Assessment

The rapid need assessment result indicates that the drought situation is *going from moderate to severe* and may result in migration. The sources of livelihoods are badly affected as a result of no fodder for livestock or vegetables for human consumption. Since other sources of income have dried up, members of the affected families were forced to supplement family income through occasional work. Women who traditionally sew and embroider clothes for family use are now trying to do so for commercial purposes. Since most of the family income is spent on the purchases of food and fodder, there is usually no cash surplus for buying other essentials.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

 <p>Livelihoods and basic needs People reached: 8,526 (1,218 households) Male: TBD Female: TBD</p>		
Outcome 1: Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of drought affected people reached with livelihood and basic needs assistance	9,800	8,526
Output 1.1: Basic needs assistance for livelihoods security including food is provided to the most affected communities		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of household reached with cash for basic needs (Target: 1,400 HH) in Sindh and Baluchistan assisted with cash provision @ PKR 18,400 per family)	1,400	1,218
Progress towards outcomes		
<p>During the report period 1,400 targeted households have been registered and Telenor identified as the Financial Service provider (FSP). The cash based intervention (CBI) funds have been transferred to the FSP for further disbursement to the targeted and selected beneficiaries. As per reporting period, cash distribution has been completed in one of the project districts: Tharparkar in Sindh province. However, distribution is still ongoing in Noshki district, Balochistan. Nevertheless, the project teams along with cash disbursement partner are working hard to reach the targeted beneficiaries. For the sake of real time data collection, Red Rose Platform is being used for ongoing data management and also to record beneficiaries' information and details.</p> <p>A Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) had been conducted for the CBI under the DREF operation in both districts. A statistically acceptable sample size was drawn and PRCS volunteers conducted the PDM exercise during the month of April by using the Red Rose and ODK. The data has been analyzed and the findings of PDM is being incorporated in the PDM report. Further details on the PDM will be shared in the final report.</p>		
		
Ongoing Distribution of cash in Nushki, Baluchistan. (Photo: PRCS)		



Water, sanitation and hygiene

People reached: 9,800 (1,400 households)

Male: 4,000

Female: 4,800

Outcome 1: Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people directly provided with safe water services that meet agreed standards according to specific operational and programmatic context.	15,000	9,800

Output 1.1: Daily access to safe water which meets Sphere and WHO standards in terms of quantity and quality is provided to target population

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached through provision of clean drinking water	15,000	9,800

Output 1.2: Hygiene promotion activities which meet Sphere standards in terms of the identification and use of hygiene items provided to target population

Indicators	Target	Actual
# of people reached through hygiene promotion activities	15,000	9,800

Progress towards outcomes

An online data base management platform (Red Rose) is being used to register the beneficiaries and monitor the distribution of water filters.

PRCS had pre-positioned water filters in its warehouse and they were distributed for this operation. Hence the replenishment of the distributed items will be done later following procurement procedures. As per reporting period, the distribution of 1,400 water filters in Tharparkar, Sindh (700) and Noskhi, Balochistan (700) has been completed. Additionally, orientation and hygiene trainings have been conducted in both districts.

Summary of key achievement so far:

- Basic orientation and hygiene trainings have been conducted in both project districts, where volunteers were trained and later mobilized. An estimated 9,800 people were reached through health and hygiene promotion activities and clean up campaigns conducted in the drought affected areas.
- The contents of the promotion session include: Safe living behavior, hands wash, personal hygiene, environmental hygiene, sanitation, use of washroom and message to avoid open defecation.
- As PRCS has ongoing projects pertaining to climate change and has existing IEC material pertaining to health & hygiene, the same material was also used for this drought operation.
- Installation of four solar power pumps is in process, two in each district. Orientation and training on how to use the solar water pumps will be conducted after installation completes.
- The project team and volunteers have also been put to good use to run a pilot clean up campaign in some of the project area. The messages delivered through the campaign were mostly pertaining to avoid littering and proper solid waste management.



Distribution of water filters, Tharparkar, Sindh. (Photo: PRCS)

International Disaster Response

Outcome S2.1: Effective and coordinated international disaster response is ensured

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>Effective and coordinated international disaster response ensured.</i>	Yes	Yes

Output S2.1.1: Effective response preparedness and NS surge capacity mechanism maintained

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i># of RDRT deployed to support operation</i>	1	1

Output S2.1.6: Coordinating role of the IFRC within the international humanitarian system is enhanced

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i># of cluster coordination meetings PRCS and IFRC participated</i>	-	ongoing

Progress towards outcomes

As per plan, one Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) member was deployed on 10 April 2019 for operational support for a period of 1 month. The RDRT member conducted field visits as necessary to support the DREF operation.

Proper coordination and cooperation is ensured through frequent communication and information sharing between Movement partners and also non-RCRC actors in country. A Strategic Coordination Forum (SCF) - Steering Committee Meeting was held on 11 April 2019. In this meeting, the Chairman of NDMA and representatives/head of UN OCHA, UN/INGOs participated. The meeting highlighted about the 'Drought Response Overview by OCHA', 'Seasonal outlook summer 2019 –by PMD' and 'Monsoon preparedness' etc. IFRC also participated in the event.

Influence others as leading strategic partner

Outcome S3.1: The IFRC secretariat, together with National Societies, uses their unique position to influence decisions at local, national and international levels that affect the most vulnerable.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>The IFRC secretariat, together with National Societies, uses their unique position to influence decisions at local, national and international levels that affect the most vulnerable</i>	Yes	Yes

Output S3.1.2: IFRC produces high-quality research and evaluation that informs advocacy, resource mobilization and programming.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i># lessons learnt workshop conducted</i>	1	1

Progress towards outcomes

PRCS conducted a detailed needs assessment in April 2019, and the findings helped to identify the severity of the vulnerable areas and priority needs in the affected communities.

Regular monitoring of operation is being made by IFRC and PRCS to ensure the operation objectives are met accordingly by end of operation. Emphasis is made on encouraging continuous assessment of the situation, monitoring of the services being provided as well as looking at monitoring of the feedback from beneficiaries. Continuous communication is also made with the field teams.

An after action review and lessons learnt workshop will be conducted by end of the extended operation time, which is by end-June 2019.

D. BUDGET

A total of CHF 315,347 has been allocated for PRCS to cater the emergency needs of 15,000 people (at least 2,100 affected households) in two districts, namely Tharparkar in Sindh province and Noshki in Balochistan, through provision of unconditional cash grants for essential items like food and fodder for livestock, and also provision of WASH assistance for short term basis. A detailed financial report on the expenditures will be shared in the final report, due in September 2019.

Reference documents



Click here for:

- Previous Appeals and updates
- [Emergency Plan of Action \(EPoA\)](#)

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How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, **encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities** by National Societies, with a view to **preventing and alleviating human suffering**, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



Save lives
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



Promote **social inclusion**
and a culture of
non-violence and **peace**.