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## Operation Update Report Pakistan: Balochistan Earthquake

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

<b>DREF n°</b> MDRPK021	<b>GLIDE n°</b> <a href="#">EQ-2021-000156-PAK</a>
<b>Operation update n° 2; date of issue:</b> 29 March 2022	<b>Timeframe covered by this update:</b> 17 October 2021 to 25 March 2022
<b>Operation start date:</b> 17 October 2021	<b>Operation timeframe:</b> 6 months <b>End date:</b> 30 April 2022 (revised)
<b>Funding requirements (CHF):</b> CHF: 380,583	
<b>N° of people being assisted:</b> 4,550 (650HHs)	
<b>Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently actively involved in the operation:</b> The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Pakistan Country Delegation is actively involved in the coordination and is supporting Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) in this operation.	
<b>Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation:</b> Pakistan Army, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Provincial Disaster Management Authorities (PDMAs) and District Disaster Management Units (DDMUs), Muslim Aid and a few local organizations.	

### Summary of major revisions made to emergency plan of action:

This update is issued to inform of the no-cost extension of the operation timeframe for a further one-month. The operation was earlier granted an extension until 31 March 2022 due to delays in procuring relief items to replenish PRCS stocks. PRCS' diligent laboratory testing of the replenishment items to ensure the best price-quality bid will be chosen for contract award required more time than foreseen, leading to a further one month no-cost timeframe extension until 30 April 2022.

## A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

### Description of the disaster

An earthquake struck Pakistan's province of Balochistan near the city of Harnai on Thursday, 7 October 2021 with a magnitude of 5.9, striking early in the morning around 03:02 local time when people were asleep in their homes. According to the PDMA-Balochistan, severe damages were reported in the Harnai District and minor damages in the cities of Sibi and Quetta. Landslides had blocked roads leading to the affected region, disrupting rescue and recovery efforts. As most of the homes in the affected region are constructed by mud and stones, there was a sustained risk of complete demolition in case of further aftershocks. The consecutive aftershocks had sustained the traumatic situation in affected areas; the risks of damaged houses suddenly collapsing forced the population to opt to reside outside in the open air at night. According to the district authorities, most fatalities resulted from roof and wall collapsing. Additional secondary data reported human and livestock loss, injuries, houses severely damaged, and damage to communication channels, roads and bridges. Moreover, the earthquake killed at least 21 people and injured more than 300. Most of the damage appeared to have affected the Harnai district where around 500 mud houses collapsed, and a large number of buildings were damaged, leaving hundreds of people homeless.

Harnai is a remote district located some 168 km from Quetta, Balochistan's provincial capital. The earthquake badly affected the Union Councils (UCs) Saddar 1, Saddar 2 of District Harnai. Due to the remoteness of the area, authorities faced hurdles in the initial response as some roads were blocked due to the landslides.

## Summary of current response

### Overview of Host National Society

PRCS, with more than 150 staff at NHQ level, seven provincial/state branches, more than 70 district branches and rosters of active volunteers, has the capacity to deploy its rapid response personnel at national, provincial and district levels in the affected areas utilizing their expertise. PRCS has strong existing support departments including finance, logistics, procurement, IT and transport. It has wide recognition in the first aid sector, health, disaster response and WASH programme. PRCS has a full functional provincial branch with its office based in Quetta consisting of trained HR and volunteers. PRCS Balochistan branch also has its warehouse in Quetta with disaster preparedness stocked. PRCS provincial branch is running a number of regular programmes including First Aid, Health, Disaster Management, Restoring Family Links and Youth and Volunteers. Besides, the branch has experience in implementing a DREF operation. In 2020, monsoon floods affected the area and the branch responded with DREF support, gaining valuable lessons learnt. These included, for example, the enhancement of administrative and procurement processes during emergencies, but most importantly also the need to involve the affected community in the planning from the outset. There was also valuable feedback from the flood-affected communities that helped the PRCS team in this operation.



Distribution of Hygiene kits and on spot orientation. (Photo: PRCS)

As soon as the media reported on the earthquake in the early hours of 7 October 2021, PRCS started strategizing their response internally, mobilizing resources and coordinating with the PDMA and district authorities. Playing its auxiliary role to the government, PRCS initiated support from the available resources to the affected people through effective coordination with the Deputy Commissioner (DC) District Harnai who is also the PRCS Chairman at the district level. PRCS Provincial Chairman met with DC Harnai and discussed the situation and immediate needs of those affected. The district authorities along with the armed forces initiated the rescue efforts early on with PRCS requested to assist in the form of first aid to earthquake victims and relief items to populations out of reach by the district government due to the limited resources available.

In response, PRCS immediately deployed a team of doctors, paramedics, volunteers and three ambulances equipped with medicines, to provide immediate assistance in the affected areas. In addition, the team was also accompanied by the PRCS Provincial Chairman of Balochistan and Provincial Disaster Management Manager to lead the response. Building on the continued coordination and the compounded needs identified in the initial assessment, PRCS established a temporary field office in the area to maximize its outreach to the people affected by the disaster in the most time-efficient manner. The initial response covered the following key achievements:

- First aid assistance was provided to 105 injured individuals. The majority of the injuries attended to were related to the backbone, shoulder, arm, foot, ankle, and head.
- Psychological first aid was provided to 24 families.
- Relief goods consisting of tents, tarpaulin sheets, blankets, hygiene kits and sleeping bags were distributed to 150 families.
- Coordination meetings were conducted with DC Harnai and other stakeholders.
- Real-time emergency needs assessment including situation analysis was ongoing jointly by the PRCS field team and National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) deployed to the affected area.
- Emergency Operation Centre activated at NHQ and PHQ levels.

PRCS support was requested based on a geographical allocation of the most affected UCs in the district, Saddar 1, Saddar 2.

### **Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country**

IFRC Country Delegation (CD) and the IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office (APRO) are providing technical support to PRCS. PRCS continues to coordinate with in-country Partner National Societies (PNS) on the current response to the earthquake with all partners regularly updated through situation reports and other existing mechanisms. A detailed operations briefing was conducted with IFRC, ICRC and in-country PNSs to further discuss the calamity and PRCS proposed response. PRCS did not need to seek bilateral support from the partners for this operation.

IFRC CD monitored the situation in close contact with its counterparts in the PRCS NHQ, stakeholders and in-country PNSs for coordinated planning and response with the launch of the DREF. In addition, IFRC CD and PRCS liaised with in-country partners and kept them updated.

### **Overview of non-RCRC actors in country**

The operation was led and coordinated by the District Administration, while Pakistan Army, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), and PDMA Balochistan supported as per need and mandates. Muslim Aid and some national non-governmental organizations (NGOs) under the umbrella of PDMA-Balochistan also assisted the earthquake-affected families and survivors as per their respective mandates and capacity. PRCS contributions were coordinated with the others through close coordination with the District Administration.

Overcoming the challenges, the initial government assistance provided include:

- Distribution of non-food items, including 200 tents, 2,500 blankets, 100 sleeping bags, 155 quilts and 3,000 hygiene kits; and 100 schools designated as shelters for those with fully damaged houses.
- The federal government under the Ehsaas Programme announced a provision of PKR 12,000 for each family in the affected Union Councils of District Harnai. This support is ongoing under Ehsaas Programme.
- The PDMA has also distributed some relief goods, tents, blankets, and food items to the affected people.
- A medical emergency was declared at the Civil Hospital Quetta.
- The PDMA sent heavy machinery and rescue teams to the affected areas from Quetta to pick up the debris and clear the area.
- Several critically injured people were air-evacuated via helicopters to Quetta by the Pakistan army.
- Military doctors and paramedics treated the injured in earthquake-affected areas.
- On 15 October 2021, the PDMA declared an emergency in the Harnai district.

## **Needs analysis and scenario planning**

### **Needs analysis**

District Harnai is a remote and hilly area where winters are very harsh. PRCS initial response was focused on addressing the immediate needs identified on the ground consisting of first aid, psychosocial support and shelter. During the initial response, some areas in proximity were inaccessible due to damages from the landslides. The local administration successfully cleared the way by 10 October, allowing access to all.

PRCS deployed its NDRT to carry out Emergency Need Assessment (ENA) to identify the affected population's needs to be addressed through planned response. The team concluded its assessment and conducted meetings with local authorities, stakeholders and community elders, visiting the affected areas and conducting focus group discussions (FGDs) with the affected communities.

The ENA highlighted access to shelter and household items (HHI) as the most pressing needs of the affected population. The HHI identified as a priority by the community were blankets, kitchen sets and hygiene kits, while for shelter, immediate need for tents and tarpaulins were vocalized. With the severe winter season approaching, families were also concerned as to how they will be able to cope with the cold in the absence of their homes and the means to keep

themselves warm and protected. Corroborating the concerns shared, the assessment team also observed that the locals had already started constructing their impromptu shelter using insubstantial wood material locally available to protect their families. The Interviews with the DC, community elders and other organizations also supported the findings, further highlighting the dire need for accessibility to HHI for the affected population to remain functional while coping in the aftermath of the disaster.

### Shelter

During the ENA, it was highlighted that houses were badly damaged by the earthquake. The damage and needs assessment conducted by PDMA and district administration identified approximately 800 to 1,000 fully/partially damaged houses. As the majority of the houses in the area were made of mud and stones, the structural vulnerability caused significant damage. The government and other local organizations had provided some relief goods to the affected population; however, the needs surpassed the assistance provided. It was observed during the assessment that the affected population was already trying to utilize their own locally available resources to construct makeshift shelters to protect themselves and their families from the forthcoming winter wave. The government authorities requested PRCS to provide all-weather tents instead of shelter tools, to ensure proper protection from the weather. House walls and boundary walls were also damaged, requiring additional immediate support with tarpaulin sheets to protect the house structure from the weather conditions and to ensure privacy. The need for additional items such as blankets was also highlighted for the affected families to protect themselves from the upcoming winter season. To fulfil the immediate needs of the affected families, PRCS utilized the existing stock of items available in warehouses, which enabled PRCS to quickly dispatch the required items with the stock to be replenished locally.

### Health

According to a medical superintendent of the District Headquarters (DHQ) Hospital, most of the population affected by the earthquake suffered from post-traumatic disorder. Despite initial psychosocial support provided through psychological first aid, stress disorder was needed to be addressed in the long run. In order to address these needs, local authorities coordinated with other actors. The harsh winter season and existing casualties were expected to create acute respiratory problems among the affected population. The affected population was provided healthcare assistance by static and mobile health units. Pakistan army and Al-Khidmat foundation arranged additional mobile health units to ensure overall health coverage.

### WASH

Boreholes and wells were the primary sources of clean drinking water and domestic use. The earthquake jolts affected the taste and colour of the water. This issue was resolved naturally on its own, and the water sources are now relatively clean. Nevertheless, many families were unable to maintain their hygiene practices due to damaged houses and lost belongings. As a result of poor hygiene and sanitation practices, the affected population was exposed to health risks.

### **Operation Risk Assessment**

Considering past COVID-19 trends, the likelihood of cases increasing during the winters was high with possible restrictions in movement. The DREF implementation would have been affected by high positivity rates in the ongoing fifth wave, however precautionary measures taken by the government to mitigate the spread of the virus resulted in no disturbance.

The current complex situation in Afghanistan was another risk factor that could have possibly affected the implementation of this operation. Although Harnai district is not a bordering district, the repercussions of the unstable security situation affected the movement in the whole province and country. The situation remained calm, and the operation was implemented successfully. In addition, extreme cold weather from November 2021 to January 2022 in the targeted district posed a challenge, requiring all activities to be implemented within the set timeline.

## **B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY**

### **Proposed strategy**

PRCS provided assistance through its initial immediate response focusing primarily on first aid, PFA and distribution of some HHI among the affected families. Building on the needs identified through the ENA, a plan of action was developed in close coordination with the district authorities and relevant stakeholders and is being implemented for an extended duration of six months. PRCS ensured assistance to the affected population through the provision of in-kind support to meet the immediate needs of the earthquake-affected families.

PRCS targeted HH whose houses were fully or severely damaged following the overall selection criteria. PRCS

coordinated closely with district authorities, community elders were involved since the beginning and all in processes including the targeting of beneficiaries. PRCS continued monitoring the situation with real-time analysis and conducted all registrations by using digital tools (ODK).


### Shelter/HHI

PRCS provided emergency shelter (tents), blankets, kitchen set and tarpaulin sheets to the most affected based on the selection criteria. Beneficiaries were registered using ODK in consultation with all relevant stakeholders to avoid duplication. Other organizations, such as PDMS, Pakistan Army, Islamic Relief and Balochistan Rural Support Program, addressed the basic sanitation/latrine needs.

### WASH

In addition to shelter and HHIs, the same HH were equipped with hygiene kits including dignity kit items and were invited to attend hygiene awareness sessions. Hygiene awareness/orientation sessions were held during the distribution to further promote good hygiene practices in the already fragile living and health conditions.

## C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

 <b>Shelter</b> <b>People reached: 4,550 (650 HH)</b> Male: 2,330 Female: 2,220		
<b>Outcome 1:</b> Communities in disaster and crisis affected areas restore and strengthen their safety, well-being and longer-term recovery through shelter and settlement solutions		
<b>Indicators:</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Actual</b>
<i># of people provided with emergency shelter and settlement assistance</i>	4,550	4,550
<b>Output 1.1:</b> Shelter and settlements and basic household items assistance is provided to the affected families		
<b>Indicators:</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Actual</b>
<i># of households provided with emergency shelter assistance (kitchen sets, all weather tents, blankets and tarpaulins)</i>	650	650
<b>Output 1.2:</b> Technical support, guidance and awareness raising in safe shelter design and settlement planning and improved building techniques are provided to affected households		
<b>Indicators:</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Actual</b>
<i># of households trained/oriented on pitching tents and implementing risk mitigation measures at the site</i>	500	500
<b>Progress towards outcomes</b>		
<p>Through PRCS response, a collective set of one tent, two tarpaulin sheets, five blankets and one kitchen set were distributed and reaching the set target of 650 HHs. All planned response activities in field have been completed. Only the procurement to replenish the PRCS stock is pending. At the time of reporting, the laboratory tests process for the replenishment items is still ongoing. After private laboratory testing was completed, to cross check the laboratory result, it was decided that tests in a government laboratory before contract award are also required. This testing will take another week after which only the procurement process can be completed.</p> <p><b>Activities already carried out:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>650 HHs were provided emergency shelter and household items covering basic needs of the affected people.</li> <li>500 HH were oriented/trained on pitching tents on spot during the distribution of emergency shelter kits. The indicators related to this activity have been revised accordingly.</li> <li>Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) conducted, and the report compilation and data analysis is in process.</li> </ul> <p><b>Challenges:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tents, tarpaulins, and blankets were sent for laboratory testing which prolonged the replenishment</li> </ul>		

procurement process to ensure quality delivery and transparency. However, lengthy procurement processes are the major challenge faced during the intervention

- Harnai District is a remote area that makes it difficult to travel frequently. For this reason, a team of local volunteers and branch staff were trained and were deployed in the field to conduct various activities such as the registration of beneficiaries, household surveys, distribution of various items, etc.



## Water, sanitation and hygiene

People reached: 4,550 (650 HHs)

Male: 2,320

Female: 2,230

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

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households reached with key messages to promote personal and community hygiene	650	650

**Output 1.4:** 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 with hygiene promotion activities	4,550	4,550
# of volunteers involved in hygiene promotion activities	30	30

**Output 1.5:** Hygiene-related goods (NFIs) which meet Sphere standards and training on how to use those goods is provided to the target population

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached with hygiene promotion activities	4,550	4,550
# of households reached with key messages to promote personal and community hygiene	650	650
# of monitoring visits to assess the utilization of the hygiene kits	48	10

### Progress towards outcomes

A detailed assessment was conducted and several cases of fully and partially damaged houses were reported. Many people became homeless and lacked access to direct necessities. To ensure the practice of good hygiene, 650 HH hygiene kits consisting of six towels, three plastic combs, 12 body soaps, eight laundry soaps, two toothpastes, six toothbrushes, scissors, two nail clippers, six panties (under wears), three menstruation hygiene pads-packets (disposable) and six hygiene razors (disposable) were provided to families who were eligible and were selected for emergency shelter and other non-food items assistance under the response. PRCS already provided hygiene kits to 150 families during the initial response, with the remaining target achieved under DREF using ODK tool for registration of the affected families/individuals. In addition to equipping the beneficiaries with the means to practice good hygiene, awareness sessions were provided orienting each household on what good practices of sanitation and hygiene are and its significance to one's wellbeing.

All planned response activities in field have been completed with the procurement to replenish the PRCS stock pending.

#### Activities already carried out:

- 650 HHs were reached through mobilized volunteers promoting key messages on personal and community hygiene.
- 4,550 individuals were reached through hygiene orientation and awareness sessions.
- 30 volunteers were involved in carrying out awareness raising activities for hygiene promotion.

#### Challenges:

- Due to harsh weather conditions, it became difficult to conduct frequent sessions for hygiene promotion.

- The affected area was distant and remote due to which the teams were not able to travel regularly to conduct various activities



## Protection, Gender and Inclusion

People reached: 4,550

Male: 2,320

Female: 2,230

### Outcome 1: Communities become more peaceful, safe and inclusive through meeting the needs and rights of the most vulnerable

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>The operation demonstrates evidence of addressing the specific needs to ensure equitable access to disaster response services</i>	Yes	Yes
<b>Output 1.1:</b> Programmes and operations ensure safe and equitable provision of basic services, considering different needs based on gender and other diversity factors.		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>The operation ensures improved equitable access to basic services, considering different needs based on gender and other diversity factors</i>	Yes	Yes

### Progress towards outcomes

PRCS ensured that the activities were aligned with IFRC's Minimum Standards for PGI during Emergencies. The beneficiary selection integrated prioritizing marginalized population groups such as targeting women headed HHs, pregnant or lactating women, widows, migrants, and persons with disabilities, based on consultations with the local authorities and communities. Assistance was provided to the beneficiaries in accordance with the level of impact the disaster had on them. Priority was given to households who had lost their houses during the disaster and/or were homeless prior to the disaster. In the absence of one's own house, people continue to be exposed to more protection related risks. A PGI lens was applied during all stages of project cycle to ensure all risks are being factored in to minimizing scope during and post interventions.

#### Activities already carried out:

- While conducting various activities, the team ensured a gender-inclusive approach to reach out to the most vulnerable beneficiaries, offering them improved equitable services.
- Sectoral teams included measures addressing vulnerabilities specific to PGI, including people with disabilities, during the planning and implementation of the activities.
- Sectoral teams collected and analysed gender, age, and disability-disaggregated data

#### Challenges:

- Due to cultural constraints, women were reluctant to participate in the sessions specifically and other relief operations. To ensure their participation female staff and volunteers were engaged throughout the operations.
- During the time of registrations, few of the community people were trying to influence the registration process by providing misleading information. Local community activists and representatives from the district administration have been involved to guide the registration teams with respect to authentic information and to avoid duplication as well as misleading information.

## Strategies for Implementation

**Outcome S1.1: National Society capacity building and organizational development objectives are facilitated to ensure that National Societies have the necessary legal, ethical and financial foundations, systems and structures, competences and capacities to plan and perform.**

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i># of NS branches that are well functioning in the operation</i>	1	1

**Output S1.1.4: National Societies have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected**

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of volunteers involved in the operation provided with briefing/orientation	75	75
<b>Outcome S2.1: Effective and coordinated international disaster response is ensured</b>		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
Operation demonstrates evidence of effective and coordinated international disaster response.	Yes	Yes
<b>Output S2.1.1: Effective response preparedness and NS surge capacity mechanism is maintained</b>		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
RDRT deployed /Local Surge PMER Officer	Yes	Yes
<b>Output S2.1.4: Supply chain and fleet services meet recognized quality and accountability standards</b>		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
Procurement is carried as per Sphere and IFRC standards and items replenished in PRCS warehouses within the operation timeline.	100%	ongoing
<b>Output S2.1.6: Coordinating role of the IFRC within the international humanitarian system is enhanced</b>		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
PRCS engage with other humanitarian actors for coordinated humanitarian intervention	Yes	Yes
<b>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.</b>		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
IFRC and NS are visible, trusted and effective advocates on humanitarian issues.	Yes	Yes
<b>Output S3.1.2: IFRC produces high-quality research and evaluation that informs advocacy, resource mobilization and programming.</b>		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of assessment done for needs, capacities and gaps	1	1
# of lessons learnt workshop conducted	1	-
<b>Progress towards outcomes</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All staff and volunteers were oriented on the DREF objectives and goals and the overall response operation, in detail.</li> <li>PRCS and IFRC have jointly completed/ongoing all the procurement of tents, blankets, kitchen sets, hygiene kits and tarpaulin sheets as per IFRC Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) as per Sphere standards for replenishment in PRCS warehouses.</li> <li>There is a strong community feedback mechanism in place to ensure a fair and accountable response towards the earthquake response. All staff and volunteers involved in the operation were oriented on the community feedback approach and key interventions. A session on CEA was included in the orientation sessions. The orientation on CEA for staff and volunteers provided a basic understanding of the feedback and accountable mechanism (including toll-free hotline number 1030) as well as the importance of inclusion of all members of the society.</li> <li>A detailed need Assessment was conducted to identify needs, capacities and gaps as part of a multi-sectoral assessment</li> <li>A lesson learnt workshop will be conducted at the end of operation.</li> </ul>		

## D. Financial Report

The operating budget, published at the start of the DREF operation remains unchanged, and a final financial report will be issued together with the DREF final report within three months after the operation ends.

## Reference documents



Click here for:

- [Previous update](#)
- [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 Organizations (NGO's) 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.