



PAKISTAN

2023 IFRC network country plan

Funding Requirement **CHF 37.2M**

Appeal number **MAAPK002**

In support of the Pakistan Red Crescent



60

National Society branches



664

National Society staff



2,921

National Society volunteers

People to be reached



2.2M

IFRC network multiyear focus

Emergency response

- Monsoon floods

Longer term needs

- Disaster risk reduction and resilience
 - Climate change adaptation
 - Health and well being
 - Migration and displacement

Capacity development

- Disaster preparedness
- Protection, gender and inclusion
- Community engagement and accountability
 - National Society development

Key country data

Population **225.2M**

INFORM Severity rating **high**

Long-term Climate Risk Index **100**

Human Development Index rank **154**

Population below poverty level **21.9%**

Hazards



Earthquakes



Drought



Floods



Epidemics



Violence



Population movement

Funding requirements

Total 37.2M CHF

Through the IFRC

33.1M CHF

Through Participating National Societies

4.2M CHF

IFRC Breakdown

25.4M CHF
Ongoing emergency operations

Longer term needs

1.7M CHF
Climate and environment

713,000 CHF
Disasters and crises

2.9M CHF
Health and wellbeing

825,000 CHF
Migration and displacement

466,000 CHF
Values, power and inclusion

1.1M CHF
Enabling local actors

Ongoing emergencies

MDRPK023

Pakistan Monsoon Floods
Floods

Participating National Societies

British Red Cross*

German Red Cross

Italian Red Cross*

Norwegian Red Cross

Red Cross Society of China*

Turkish Red Crescent Society

The Canadian Red Cross Society*



NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

Formed by an Act of Parliament in 1947, the **Pakistan Red Crescent** is the largest humanitarian organization in Pakistan, with a mandate to act as an auxiliary to the Government in the prevention and mitigation of human suffering, including during public health emergencies. It operates through seven provincial branches and has 60 district branches, more than 1.7 million registered volunteers, 2,921 active volunteers and 664 staff members deployed across the country.

The National Society is held in high regard by its stakeholders and the public. It is renowned for its efforts to save lives and strengthen the country's recovery from disasters, providing an immediate response to crises through its vast network of staff and volunteers. The National Society is also a key contributor to healthy living in Pakistan, and it promotes social cohesion in vulnerable communities.

The Pakistan Red Crescent coordinates emergency response with the National Disaster Management

Authority (NDMA), Provincial Disaster Management Authorities (PDMA) and with District Disaster Management Authorities (DDMAs). Thanks to its local community presence, the National Society enjoys a strong level of community acceptance and access across the country. This allows it to deploy its rapid response personnel at national, provincial and district level.

The National Society has expertise in health, disaster response, and water, sanitation, and hygiene programmes. These core areas of focus are supported by strong finance, logistics, procurement, IT and transport departments. It also has experience in cash and voucher assistance programming.

The provincial branches of the Pakistan Red Crescent run local projects on a variety of issues. These include first aid, health, disaster management, restoring family links, and youth and volunteers.

IFRC NETWORK ACTION IN 2023

Joint situational analysis

Pakistan is a large country with a current population of 225.2 million, according to UN estimates, making it the sixth most populous country in the world. It shares land borders with India, Afghanistan, Iran and China, and a maritime border with Oman. It also has a 1,046 km coastline along the Arabian Sea and the Gulf of Oman in the south. Pakistan is narrowly separated from Tajikistan by Afghanistan's Wakhan Corridor in the northwest.

Average annual population growth in the country is 2.4 per cent. Up to 64 per cent of Pakistanis live in rural areas and 36 per cent in urban areas. The average household size is 6.4 people, and the country's literacy rate stands at 58.9 per cent. The population is made up of several different ethnic groups.

Pakistan has substantial natural resources, with fertile land that boasts rich biodiversity and spans several different climatic zones. Its economy is semi-industrialized, with manufacturing and agriculture dominant. Agriculture contributes about 24 per cent of GDP and accounts for approximately half the labour force. It is

also the country's largest source of foreign exchange earnings. Major crops include wheat, rice, sugarcane, maize and cotton, and the country's major exports include textiles, leather goods, sporting goods, chemicals and carpets. According to the Economic Survey of Pakistan 2021–2022, Pakistan's GDP growth rate is 3.9 per cent.

Development in Pakistan has been uneven, with only short periods of growth. This in part reflects external economic shocks, the incomplete rollout of economic reforms, natural disasters, political uncertainty and challenges related to domestic security. Militant attacks that target both civilians and security forces also threaten the country's socio-economic stability and cause internal displacements. Active militant groups, including the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (Pakistan Taliban) and Islamic State-affiliated groups, contribute to high levels of insecurity in the country. Shelling along the Line of Control in Pakistan-administered Kashmir also poses a protection and displacement risk.

Pakistan's Human Development Index value for 2019 was 0.56, which places the country in the medium category for human development and at 154 out of 189

countries and territories listed. Pakistan has a Gender Inequality Index value of 0.54, placing it at 135 out of 162 countries as of 2019. A fifth (20.1 per cent) of parliamentary seats are held by women, according to 2020 data from the World Bank. A quarter (24 per cent) of the population live below the poverty line, according to the Economic Survey of Pakistan 2021–2022, and the unemployment ratio was at 5.8 per cent at the time of the 2017–2018 Labour Force Survey. One consequence of Pakistan's low human capital is that its labour productivity lags significantly compared with its peers across South Asia.

Pakistan is one of the top 57 countries globally that is critically deficient in health resources. The Government spends only 0.4 per cent (the equivalent of PKR50 billion or CHF229 million) of GDP on health. As a result, nearly 78 per cent of Pakistanis must fund their own medical treatments. Access to health services also remains unequal, with significant differences in both infant mortality rates and immunization rates in children between rural and urban settings, and between different income levels.

Both geography and demographic composition vary across the country, creating a range of health challenges. Poor civic infrastructure deteriorates further during the monsoon season, in urban slums and rural areas for instance, resulting in the increased prevalence of vector-borne and water-borne diseases such as typhoid, hepatitis A and E, cholera and gastroenteritis in these areas.

The COVID-19 pandemic had an unprecedented adverse impact on Pakistan, both socially and economically. Even post-pandemic, various segments of society continue to be affected, especially women and children, home-based and daily workers and marginalized groups, including transgender people, people living with disabilities and internally displaced people. The pandemic also directly affected 42 million school-aged children spanning pre-primary, primary, secondary and college level. Low-cost private schools could not pay teachers' salaries and faced the risk of closure. This situation further exacerbated the risks and vulnerabilities of an already weak education system.

Pakistan does have several welfare programmes that provide a rudimentary social safety net to the country's citizens. Government schools and hospitals provide subsidized education and health care, and institutions

such as the Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal distribute charitable contributions. The Ehsaas Programme, known as the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), was launched in 2008. It is an unconditional cash transfer scheme designed to reduce poverty that focuses on women and has supported many during the pandemic. During this period, the Government also delivered PKR179 billion (CHF813 million) in the form of emergency cash assistance to more than 15 million families at risk of extreme poverty. Each family received PKR12,000 (CHF55) to address their immediate needs.

Pakistan is particularly vulnerable to severe weather and other climate change-related risks, such as salt-water intrusion, unusual rain patterns, glacial melting, rising temperatures and droughts. The country's main natural hazards include floods, droughts, cyclones, glacial lake outburst floods, earthquakes and infectious disease outbreaks. Over the last 10 years, about 2.8 million people have been affected annually.

The severe flooding caused by heavy monsoon rains that struck Pakistan in June 2022 was unprecedented, affecting one-third of the country with widespread flooding and damage to infrastructure and agricultural areas. This followed devastating floods in both 2010 and 2014.

Extreme weather events are likely to increase in frequency and severity, damaging agricultural productivity, water availability and the stability of infrastructure reliability in the country. Pakistan has estimated that its climate adaptation investment needs are between US\$7 and US\$14 billion per year. However, its ability to adapt and manage disaster and climate risks remains insufficient.

The number of undocumented migrants in Pakistan is increasing, driven in part by an increase in inbound migration from Afghanistan. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), more than 117,000 Afghans entered Pakistan between January 2021 and February 2022. The overall migrant situation has placed a heavy burden on Pakistan's infrastructure and public services. Access to protection, livelihood, documentation, legal assistance, education, health care and human rights is limited, especially for Afghan men, women and children living in Pakistan.

More than three million people are displaced in Pakistan and 6.4 million need humanitarian assistance.

Ongoing emergency response

For real-time information on emergencies, see IFRC [GO Pakistan](#)

- Appeal number: MDRPK023 Pakistan Monsoon Floods
- Appeal launch date: 23 July 2022
- End date: 31 December 2023
- 33 million people affected
- 1 million people to be assisted

In July 2022, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) launched an Emergency Appeal in support of the Pakistan Red Crescent's response to one of the worst flooding disasters to hit Pakistan in decades. During the 2022 monsoon season, the country's level of rainfall was nearly three times the national 30-year average, and the Government officially declared the floods a national emergency on 25 August.

The situation has evolved into a public health crisis, as millions now face acute food insecurity. The flooding has had an impact on one-third of the country, with 33 million people affected and 84 districts declared calamity zones. Between 26 September and 2 October, nearly 25 per cent of the country remained under water with 15 million still affected or living close to flooded areas. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, waters have receded, and people are slowly returning to their homes but remain in need of early recovery support. Water has also begun to recede in Sindh and Balochistan but, especially in parts of Sindh, the emergency continues, and flooding may still occur. According to local authorities, it may take three to six more months for water to fully recede.

Short description of the emergency operational strategy

The original operational strategy to address Pakistan's floods was revised three and half months after response operations by the National Society began. In this period, a multi-sectoral rapid needs assessment was carried out, led by the National and Provincial Disaster Management Authorities (NDMAs and PDMAs) and the Humanitarian Country Team, to identify the key humanitarian impacts of the floods and highest priority needs. The IFRC network has worked with the Pakistan Red Crescent to coordinate inputs and support for this assessment, with insights feeding into a revised operational strategy that scales up activities across all sectors and aims to reach more people. It includes a special focus on preventative

public health interventions, including improved access to sanitation and hygiene awareness, while further strengthening protection and inclusion. The response also maintains a strong focus on relief, early recovery and delivering support to affected communities, tailored to the phase of the emergency.

Areas of emergency response by sector

Integrated assistance (shelter, livelihoods and multi-purpose cash)

Target: 140,000 people

The Pakistan Red Crescent is responding to the immediate needs of those affected by the floods. This includes:

- Providing emergency shelter provisions, such as winter kits and sustainable shelter assistance, to affected families
- Supplying hot meals and the resources needed to both protect and start rebuilding homes
- Addressing immediate basic needs
- Restoring the purchasing power of affected households through the provision of multi-purpose cash grants

Health and care (including water, sanitation and hygiene)

Target: 701,000 people

The Pakistan Red Crescent provides primary health care, including maternal and child health services, through mobile and static health units across target districts. It also delivers first aid services to the injured.

In addition, the National Society supports public health through the provision of both preventive and promotive care, combined with training for its staff and volunteers on psychological first aid, epidemic control and public health in emergencies. Basic first aid training is also provided and made available to community members.

Furthermore, the National Society aims to reduce the risk of water-borne and water-related diseases in targeted communities by providing increased access to affordable, appropriate, accessible, safe and environmentally sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene services.

Protection and prevention (including protection, gender and inclusion, and disaster risk reduction)

Target: 220,000 people

The Pakistan Red Crescent works to ensure that dignity, access, participation and safety are considered in all its operations, in particular by strengthening its focus on protection, gender and inclusion. The National Society also aims to build up resilience in targeted communities through delivery of an integrated programme of enhanced climate-smart risk reduction initiatives

Community engagement and accountability

The Pakistan Red Crescent ensures that meaningful community participation is a core part of its operations in the country by prioritizing timely, open and honest communication and creating mechanisms to listen, respond and act on this feedback. This enables it to collaboratively understand and address community needs and priorities, as well as the wider context.

Strategic priorities

Climate and environment

According to a 2021 report issued by the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, Pakistan faces rates of warming considerably above the global average, with a potential rise of 1.3°C to 4.9°C by the 2090s from a 1986–2005 baseline. This wide range highlights the significant variations in proposed ways to reduce emissions. However, despite this range, the forecast annual maximum and minimum temperature rises in Pakistan remain above the global average, creating pressure on public health, livelihoods and ecosystems.

The threat of climate change is compounded by the way in which it intersects with and amplifies many other challenges. Several recent studies have found that Pakistan's climate has become increasingly unpredictable, with frequent and often disastrous flooding, droughts, glacier melts and – most critically – temperature increases that exceed the world average. Already regions within the country have been exposed to increasingly harsh weather, which is expected to continue in the future. These extreme climate events are becoming both more intense and more common, with a greater risk of disasters that disproportionately affect poor and minority populations. That said, a lack of advanced planning is also to blame for the severity of the impact of current floods in the South Asian country with inadequate preparations and infrastructure.

Floods have long affected Pakistan. But in the past, these were caused by overflowing rivers and mostly affected areas around the Indus River. They were also far more predictable. Now, the country faces a combination of urban floods, flash flooding and floods caused by glacier bursts, with the frequency and severity of these weather events on the rise.

Flood-related initiatives that require immediate attention include reforestation, afforestation on mountain slopes, construction of dams, waste management, vehicle pollution, soil erosion, water acidification due to

industrial activity, impact on crop yields, hydrological planning and the development of eco-tourism initiatives.

The impact of climate change is most keenly felt in the erosion of the country's agricultural sector, a critical industry in the Pakistan economy. The consequence of this is greater movement towards cities in search of work. However, with limited employment in these areas, the result is a higher proportion of Pakistanis living in poverty. It also places greater pressure on the infrastructure in urban areas.

Already many living in the country lack access to clean water or proper nutrition. Although Pakistan is rich in natural resources, these are being depleted by climate change. A lack of cleanliness and hygiene, with open sewers, factories dumping toxic waste and discharging toxic chemicals into the atmosphere, is fuelling contamination. Levels of air and water pollution are making it hard for animals to survive.

The Government has a climate change policy, most recently updated in March 2022, which explores different measures to tackle the impact of climate change. They include early warning and information distribution systems to enhance disaster preparedness and improving forest management and biodiversity conservation to enhance climate change resilience. For example, the Government has launched the Ten Billion Tree Tsunami Programme (TBTP) to revive Pakistan's forest and wildlife resources. Through this programme, the Government aims to improve conservation of protected areas, encourage eco-tourism, and community engagement, and create jobs within conservation. The Government also coordinates with international environmental agencies on climate-related initiatives.

Main actions and areas of support

The Pakistan Red Crescent is part of the IFRC [Global Climate Resilience Programme](#), which aims to foster an unprecedented scale-up in locally led climate-smart disaster risk reduction and adaptation efforts to prevent

and reduce climate-related disaster impacts, and build community-level climate resilience. The programme aims to support 500 million people in 100 of the most climate-vulnerable countries, focusing on the least supported and marginalized communities. This holistic, multi-year programmatic approach consists of four operational pillars: (1) scaling up climate-smart disaster risk reduction, anticipatory action and preparedness; (2) reducing the public health impacts of climate change; (3) addressing climate displacement; and (4) enabling climate-resilient livelihoods and ecosystem services.

To tackle the impact of climate change, the Pakistan Red Crescent will establish and train climate champions at college and school youth clubs, as well as training its staff and volunteers on climate change and environmental issues. The National Society will address climate risks by installing solar water pumps and solid waste segregation bins, running cleanliness campaigns and micro-mitigation projects. It will also organize planting campaigns in urban and rural settings in partnership with stakeholders.

By collaborating with government agencies, universities and research institutions, the National Society will work to promote nature-based solutions to increase soil and water fertility for improved crop yields.

In addition, to enhance its knowledge of the impact of climate change on food security and livelihoods in different agro-climatic zones, the Pakistan Red Crescent will work with and distribute relevant data with communities on weather forecasts, climate projections, and community-based data on local areas of vulnerability plus existing capacities, such as resilient farm-based practices.

Finally, the National Society will develop both an environmental policy and communication materials and guidance on climate change. A tailored environmental management plan will be established for each type of emergency operation, including waste management, renewable energy, supply chain management to minimize carbon emissions, analysis of household energy needs, protection of natural resources and the integration of nature-based solutions.

Disasters and crises

Pakistan is among the most disaster-prone countries in South Asia, owing to a combination of seasonal floods, droughts, avalanches and earthquakes. Inadequate infrastructure, ineffective warning systems and remote terrains aggravate the damage caused by these disasters and limit the reach of humanitarian response. From

1999 to 2018, more than 84,000 Pakistanis lost their lives to disasters caused by natural hazards, and the total reported damage exceeded USD 26 billion.

Floods are a major cause of natural disasters in the region. The heavy monsoon rains that started in June 2022 caused massive flooding in the provinces of Balochistan, Punjab and Sindh. Up to 1,739 people were killed as a result, including 647 children. In Sindh alone, as of 18 November 2022, floods had killed 799 people, followed by 336 in Balochistan, 309 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and 223 in Punjab, according to the NDMA. Balochistan has also recorded rainfall that was 600 per cent higher than average during the monsoon season from mid-June 2022.

Earthquakes caused by significant seismic instabilities in the region, and regular floods occur at the Indus River basin during monsoon season, owing to the seasonal low depressions developing over the Arabian Sea or the Bay of Bengal. Heatwaves in the early summer can also cause floods as they melt high levels of snow packed into rivers.

Humanitarian crises and disasters are predicted to become more common and more complex in the coming years, and for Pakistan, this will be costly.

Main actions and areas of support

The Pakistan Red Crescent is committed to strengthening Pakistan's resilience to cope with and reduce evolving crises and disasters, as well as recover faster from both primary and secondary impacts.

The experience of the National Society over several years has highlighted the need for a comprehensive and integrated risk reduction approach to deal with the significant risks faced by Pakistan. To start with, it will focus on reducing its carbon footprint and promoting environmentally sustainable practices in all its offices in the coming years.

It will also select at-risk communities for programmes designed to enhance resilience by mapping out their specific vulnerabilities, building up understanding of existing activities and resources, and using this insight to develop integrated community risk reduction plans. The National Society will also provide basic first aid training in two provinces and mobilize 1,000 female community members to strengthen their livelihoods.

The Pakistan Red Crescent will establish a cash-readiness baseline in 10 vulnerable districts and revise its cash standard operating procedures in response. In addition, at both provincial and district level, it will launch a

programme on community resilience strengthening. In urban areas, emergency response teams will be reactivated, trained and equipped.

Finally, training in emergency needs assessment will be organized at national level in combination with disaster response training at national, provincial and district level.

Health and wellbeing

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), Pakistan is currently ranked 122 out of 190 countries in terms of its provision of health care. Indeed, despite significant improvements over recent decades, the country has the third-highest infant mortality rate in the world. Studies show that women of reproductive age are largely poorly educated, under-nourished and anaemic. There is a high proportion of babies born prematurely or at low birth weights, often in inadequate health care facilities.

Public health services in Pakistan, which has the sixth-largest population in the world, are grossly insufficient. Indeed, the country has been identified as one of 57 countries worldwide with critically insufficient resources for human health. The Government spends only 0.4 per cent (equivalent to PKR 50 billion) of its GDP on health-related expenses, while about 78 per cent of people must pay for their own medical expenses.

The COVID-19 pandemic damaged Pakistan's already fragile health system, with a significant impact on the provision of health care for non-COVID-19 related illnesses, such as primary health care services, routine immunization, and maternal and child services. As of 26 September 2022, Pakistan had recorded nearly 1.6 million confirmed COVID-19 cases and more than 30,000 deaths. The total number of vaccination doses administered was 296 million.

According to a National Nutrition Survey by the Ministry of National Health in Pakistan and UNICEF, the prevalence of malnutrition in children under the age of five is 40.2 per cent in Pakistan. Four out of 10 children under the age of five are stunted and 17.7 per cent suffer from wasting conditions. In total, there are nearly 2.9 million people in need of nutrition-related assistance.

In addition, water- and sanitation-related diseases are among the leading causes of mortality. Pakistan is one of the lowest ranking nations in maintaining water quality standards. Most of the population is exposed to the hazards of drinking unsafe and polluted water from both surface and groundwater sources. As a result, 40 per cent of deaths in the country are related

to gastrointestinal tract diseases, and 50 per cent to other unsafe water-related diseases.

One in five children under the age of five suffers from water-borne diarrhoeal diseases in Pakistan. Climate change-induced flooding and drought are considered two key reasons for deterioration in water and sanitation infrastructure across Pakistan. Floods during the monsoon season can disperse faecal contaminants into the water supply and cause an increased risk of outbreaks of water-borne diseases, especially cholera, in both rural and urban areas. Water left to stagnate as a result of improper sanitation facilities also causes dengue outbreaks nearly every year. Pakistan has a high ratio of dengue cases. Each year, up to 400 million people are infected, with many cases reported from densely populated urban areas, especially during monsoon season.

Pakistan is also among only a few countries infected with the wild polio virus, and there is a potential risk of international spread. Yet immunization coverage, in particular the Expanded Programme on Immunization, has remained stagnant, with limited access to immunization services, poor programme management and community responses the key reasons for this stagnation. Families and communities have little faith in the Government's immunization services nor its efforts to eradicate polio. Viral spread is further exacerbated by extensive population movements both within the country and across the border with Afghanistan. This mix of socio-cultural, psychological and financial barriers to immunization have fuelled the frequency of epidemics within the country. Indeed, there is a global consensus that polio cannot be completely eradicated from Pakistan without improving the routine immunization coverage to levels above 80 per cent.

Another significant source of illness and death in Pakistan is road traffic accidents. WHO estimates that they cause more than 30,000 fatalities in the country each year, while a lack of first aid services delivered on the scene has left many people living with disabilities.

However, blood transfusion services are an integral part of the health care system and save millions of lives.

Main actions and areas of support

The Pakistan Red Crescent will develop a national health care and water, health and sanitation policy. To respond to public health emergencies, it will also train its staff and volunteers, and coordinate its efforts with the public health preparedness and response coordination platform.

Antenatal and postnatal consultations will be provided by specialized female health visitors in 10 basic health units. Targeted communities will receive informative and promotional messages on topics including routine immunization, vaccine-preventable diseases, and maternal and newborn child health. Mobile health units will also be established and deployed at the Pakistan-Afghan border.

Social mobilization activities will be conducted to increase demand for vaccines in 28 targeted communities. Village health committees will also be established to increase awareness of vaccine-preventable diseases and enhance demand for vaccines.

At the headquarters level, a facility for commercial first aid training will be rolled out, while training in psychological first aid will be provided to staff, volunteers and community members.

Delivery of the routine immunization programme in three super high-risk districts will be supported by the National Society.

The Pakistan Red cross will also continue its efforts to maintain and possibly increase voluntary blood donation in Pakistan.

In terms of water, sanitation and hygiene, the National Society will conduct 30 refresher trainings on water treatment, storage and solid waste management. Up to 100 community latrines and 50 water supply schemes will be repaired in collaboration with local authorities, and campaigns centered around hygiene promotion and cleanliness will be organized.

Migration and displacement¹

The multi-faceted impact of climate change, disasters and crises in Pakistan lead to mass movement both within the country and across its borders. Indeed, the region has experienced some of the most historically significant migrations and periods of displacement. As a result, Pakistan has been categorized as a key origin, transit area and destination for international migrant flows, with large-scale movements. Longstanding issues, such as a multi-generational refugee population, co-exist with more recent challenges such as climate displacement, forced migration, human trafficking and smuggling, and labour and student migration. There is therefore a need to facilitate safe, orderly and responsible mechanisms through which to manage these

different strains of migration, including the implementation of migration policies.

For 40 years, Pakistan has played host to millions of Afghan refugees. It continues to generously host all categories of Afghans, while also dealing with asylum seekers from other countries like Myanmar, Yemen, Somalia and Syria. Approximately three million Afghans currently live in Pakistan. About 1.4 million of them are Proof of Registration (PoR) cardholders, approximately 840,000 hold an Afghan Citizen Card (ACC) and an estimated 775,000 are undocumented. While PoR and ACC cardholders are offered limited protection, including protection from being returned to countries in which they would be in danger of prosecution, undocumented Afghans are exposed to arrest, detention and deportation.

With a recent increase in population movement into Pakistan from Afghanistan, the number of undocumented migrants has been increasing daily. The top concerns reported by these new arrivals include access to shelter, income, food, medical assistance and documentation. Of the 1.4 million registered Afghan refugees in Pakistan, more than 420,000 live in the districts most affected by recent floods. There is currently both local and global support for rebuilding livelihoods and infrastructure damaged by these floods.

According to an overview of the Afghan refugee population by UNHCR Pakistan, at the end of March 2022, 52 per cent of refugees were living in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 24.5 per cent in Balochistan, 14 per cent in Punjab, 5.6 per cent in Sindh, and three per cent in the Federal Capital Territory. One per cent are classed as living in "other locations."

The Pakistan Government has provided bilateral humanitarian assistance, including food and household items, to the Government of Afghanistan to support those families affected by the country's socio-political conditions.

The needs of displaced people, for protection, relief and recovery assistance, evolve over time, with many unable to return to their former homes or settle in new ones. Human trafficking and smuggling are another serious issue related to migration. Those migrants with limited mobility or other disabilities, those caring for dependants, those without access to medical care, and pregnant or single women travelling with young children, have specific needs that require targeted attention.

¹ The analysis for this section has been supported by the Red Cross Red Crescent Global Migration Lab: <https://www.redcross.org.au/globalmigrationlab/>

Main actions and areas of support

The means for safe and dignified migration for all must be ensured at all levels. In Karachi alone, there are an estimated two million stateless Bengalis and Burmese people, and more than one million undocumented Afghan refugees and migrants, living ad hoc in informal and temporary settlements. They lack basic amenities such as water, sanitation, sewage, electricity, solid waste management and access to health care and education. Those services that do exist are vulnerable to floods, earthquakes and environmental degradation. The Pakistan Red Crescent, working with the IFRC, therefore endeavour to integrate all Pakistani refugees into organized programmes related to education, health, jobs, energy and water. These link to existing aims set out in the Solution Strategy for Afghan Refugees. Close coordination with both the Afghan Red Crescent and the Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran will be an integral part of delivering this work in sync as well as helping to improve regional dialogue.

Considering this wider context, the National Society will establish humanitarian service points at key migratory locations, such as border regions with Afghanistan, Iran and India, and areas in and around Karachi.

With support by the British Red Cross, the Pakistan Red Crescent has already distributed cash to 1,300 Afghan refugees living in Pakistan in possession of PoR cards. Efforts will be made to liaise with partners to expand this Cash for Migration Programme to benefit ACC holders too. This is in conjunction with ongoing work alongside the UNHCR, the Commissionerate for Afghan Refugees and other relevant government departments to advocate for and support both ACC holders and undocumented refugees, migrants and stateless people.

Relationships with relevant stakeholders will be strengthened to ensure coordination across migration operations. This includes the UNHCR, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Commissionerate for Afghan Refugees. Internally, the National Society will also enhance its own skills on migration and displacement with further training for leaders, staff and volunteers. These training sessions will be organized alongside the IFRC's regional technical leads on the topic. In addition, the Pakistan Red Crescent's Joint Migration Task Force was established in 2020. It advises on programme direction and steps required to integrate migration and displacement programming into other activities by the National Society. Finally, the National Society completed a national assessment on Migration

and Displacement in 2021. The facts and finding of the report are available on request.

According to the Pakistan Red Crescent Strategic Framework 2021–25, migration has been identified as a new area of focus, to align with the global challenges identified in the IFRC Strategy 2030 and the Agenda for Renewal. As a new initiative, its execution will entail extensive National Society development to position the Pakistan Red Crescent as auxiliary to the Government for assistance to under-documented populations and stateless people.

Values, power and inclusion

Both recurring disasters and the current spread of vulnerabilities have exposed significant disparities within Pakistan. In particular, the COVID-19 pandemic disproportionately affected marginalized groups within society. An imbalance in power structures maintains these inequalities, fuelling a sense of exclusion and violence in both urban and rural areas, inside and outside the home.

Pakistan ranks as the second-lowest country in the world for gender equality, according to the Global Gender Gap Index. As the sixth most populated country in the world, and with a high fertility rate of 3.8 children per woman, gaps in women's reproductive rights and the widespread prevalence of gender-based violence are at the forefront of this issue. Although efforts to promote gender equality are evident, including as part of the Government's Vision 2025, there is still much more to be done to improve the lives of both women and girls and ensure protection and inclusion for all. Mainstreaming gender in the implementation of programmes, including migrant women, children, transgender people and people living with mental disabilities, is critical.

About 63 per cent of Pakistan's population is aged between 15 and 33.

Main actions and areas of support

All Pakistan Red Crescent initiatives promote dignity, access and participation. However, the promotion of respect for human dignity needs further work to fully reflect humanitarian fundamental principles and values.

Education is a vital tool in promoting values that create equal, safe and inclusive societies. The National Society will therefore expand upon its educative programmes for young people, inspiring them to push for positive change on key national and regional challenges and make practical contributions to their communities. The thematic priorities in this area continue to be:

- Sexual and gender-based violence which affects many Pakistani women
- Human trafficking, now the fastest-growing criminal activity in Pakistan
- An increase in those living with a disability
- COVID-19, which has intensified existing inequalities

In 2023, the Pakistan Red Crescent will continue to scale up its services and expertise to address these issues. It also aims to support education and related humanitarian needs in emergencies, promote humanitarian values and mobilize Pakistan's youth. It focuses on integrating protection, gender and inclusion in programmes, scaling up specialized operations and strengthening organizational systems.

The National Society promotes a culture of non-violence by safeguarding participatory, safe and inclusive humanitarian action. It will pursue equality of power, opportunities and access to resources and services for women, men, boys, girls and people with any sexual

orientation or gender identity, and the inclusion of all age groups, abilities and backgrounds.

The Pakistan Red Crescent is planning to scale up its interventions for disaster risk reduction through a school safety programme and the promotion of youth-led actions. Children are one of the most vulnerable segments of society, especially when a disaster strikes. The National Society is planning to run the school safety programme across the country. It has successfully run similar interventions in the past with the technical and financial support of the IFRC and participating National Societies, such as the Italian Red Cross and Norwegian Red Cross. The Pakistan Red Crescent is also piloting road safety initiatives in 2022 in 15 schools, and these activities will continue until June 2023, with the learnings fed into a rollout into several provinces later in the year. The National Society has already submitted a proposal to the International Road Federation for its planned expansion of the initiative to 10,000 school children.

Enabling local actors

The Pakistan Red Crescent is committed to strengthening its institution and has been doing so through the IFRC Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) process once in 2015, with a commitment to carry out the exercise for a second time in 2023. The OCAC process is intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of the National Society as a whole, in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities.

Furthermore, the Pakistan Red Crescent will conduct the Branch Organizational Capacity Assessment (BOCA) in at least five provincial branches to better understand their local priorities and develop a plan of action for implementation based on the BOCA findings.

The National Society is also committed to the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) process and is currently at the action and accountability phase. The PER approach is a continuous and flexible process that enables National Societies to assess, measure and analyze the strengths and gaps of their preparedness and response mechanisms, and ultimately take necessary actions to improve them.

The support from the IFRC and partners will enable the Pakistan Red Crescent to remain an organization that can deliver relevant, good-quality and sustainable services that fully align with the Fundamental Principles.

Engaged

The IFRC will assist the National Society in widening its involvement in civil society and forging other coalitions, including engagement with corporate organizations at the national and local level. To enhance the impact of and public trust and understanding in its role and activities, the Pakistan Red Crescent will formally roll out a media and communication strategy which will set out a plan to engage with these corporate companies. In addition, networking events have been planned to strengthen and grow the National Society's regional and global networks.

In September 2020, the Ministry of Economic Affairs in Pakistan issued an official letter clarifying that the Pakistan Red Crescent is not an NGO and therefore would be allowed to seek and use funds for poverty alleviation in the country. Efforts will be made in 2023 to disseminate this information to key representatives of humanitarian and development agencies and relevant ministries. This status recognition will feed through into a broader transformation in the National Society's work and enhance its presence in Pakistan with increased access to vulnerable people. The National Society will also continue to work towards influencing skills, data literacy and strategy development.

To further improve its strategies regarding accountability and transparency, the Pakistan Red Crescent leadership is committed to improving digitalization in 2023 and piloting different initiatives to strengthen digital systems. It aims to develop an electronic documents management system alongside piloting a volunteer management system supported by Molnix that will be integrated with existing systems.

Accountable

Priority actions for the Pakistan Red Crescent in 2023 include financial development, logistics upgrades, human resources development and seeking opportunities, nationally and internationally, for the capacity building of staff and volunteers.

Trusted

The IFRC considers the development of the Pakistan National Society one of its key mandates. Its support in 2023 will therefore include revisions to the National Society's legal foundations, developing a Pakistan Red Crescent Strategic Plan 2021–2020 and a National Society Development Framework. It will also support the National Society in leadership development, including government and management, as well as providing

technical support to coordinate the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners' support for National Society development.

Contributions to the financial sustainability of the National Society will be coordinated to engage a wide number of partners and broaden support for the Pakistan Red Crescent. A core cost analysis will act as a starting point, followed by a systemic review of how resources are deployed, including online donations.

To reflect the organizational ethos of "better together", the IFRC and Pakistan Red Crescent will conduct joint planning sessions involving all Movement partners and local branches in order to find collective ways to work better within and outside the network. This joint planning approach will also maximize collective impact, increasing efficiencies and scaling up the quality and reach of the National Society's work.

The Pakistan Red Crescent is committed to assessing its development needs on an ongoing basis, with plans to revise its existing constitution following National Society guidelines. To do so, it will conduct provincial consultations to gather a diverse range of inputs and ensure unity.

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC established its presence in Pakistan in 1978 and provides support to the National Society in delivering services, advocating on behalf of vulnerable people and strengthening its capacity. The IFRC also facilitates international support for the Pakistan Red Crescent's emergency response activities, coordinates its membership and supports the network's global and regional initiatives. In addition, it takes on a representation role on behalf of the Pakistan Red Crescent at an international level, providing humanitarian analysis on the situation in Pakistan and the actions of the National Society.

In recent years, the IFRC has supported the Pakistan Red Crescent through Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) and Emergency Appeal operations in relation to floods, droughts, severe winter, population movement, earthquakes and dengue outbreaks. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, it has also supported the National Society with its COVID-19 response.

To respond to the impact of flooding in the country, the IFRC Pakistan Country Delegation and the IFRC Asia-Pacific Regional Delegation provides technical

support to the National Society, scaling up its capacity with more than 50 technical and coordination profiles through the IFRC rapid response system, locally and globally. It has also deployed several emergency response units to ensure the provision of high-quality humanitarian programmes, at scale.

IFRC membership coordination

To support the Pakistan Red Crescent, the IFRC works closely with it and member National Societies to assess the wider humanitarian context, and the National Society's particular needs and priorities, and develop strategies to address these. These include obtaining greater humanitarian access, improving acceptance in Pakistan, mobilizing funding and other resources, crafting consistent public messaging and monitoring the progress of various initiatives. It also ensures that all strategies and programmes adopted by the National Society have clarity on their humanitarian aims and work to boost the auxiliary role of the Pakistan Red Crescent in the country.

Participating National Society Support - Bilateral

| Name of Partner NS | Funding Requirements | Engaged |
|---------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| German Red Cross | CHF 1.50M | |
| Italian Red Cross | CHF 0.10M | |
| Norwegian Red Cross | CHF 2.56M | |
| | | Total |
| | | 4.16M |

Three participating National Societies are present in Pakistan and provide long-term support to the Pakistan Red Crescent, as well as assist in times of emergencies:

The **German Red Cross** supports the National Society on climate change, disaster risk reduction – including in urban settings, and anticipatory action. It also supports the Pakistan Red Crescent with disaster preparedness and response capacity. The German Red Cross supported the floods response with the provision of food, kitchen sets and hygiene kits, as well as hygiene promotion.

The **Norwegian Red Cross** works with the Pakistan Red Crescent in the areas of primary health care and WASH. For the flood response, it has provided hygiene kits, jerry cans and buckets, as well as support with delivery of hygiene promotion sessions and primary health care services through deployed mobile health

units in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh provinces. It has also assisted with the transportation of cooked foods to flood-affected areas.

The **Turkish Red Crescent Society** works with the Pakistan Red Crescent in the areas of migration and displacement, and support to vulnerable groups. For the floods response it has also helped with supplies of food, essential household items such as hygiene kits, tents, blankets, mattresses and mosquito nets, and road cleaning supplies. It will also provide cash and health care assistance through unconditional cash grants and has deployed mobile health units in Balochistan and Sindh provinces.

The **British Red Cross, The Canadian Red Cross Society, Red Cross Society of China** and the **Italian Red Cross** also provide long-term support to the Pakistan Red Crescent, through the IFRC.

Movement coordination

The coordination and cooperation of the Movement in Pakistan is governed by a Movement Cooperation Agreement, with a central role played by the Pakistan Red Crescent, and active participation of representatives from the IFRC network and the ICRC. The Movement Cooperation Agreement outlines functional coordination mechanisms at strategic, operational and technical level. Regular strategic and operational meetings take place to plan and coordinate Movement support to the National Society's emergency response operations and long-term programmes.

In addition, to devise a collective response to floods in Pakistan, additional systems have been set up to address the coordination from the onset of the crisis. There is now a Movement coordination meeting three times a

week, with the IFRC, all participating National Societies present in the country and the ICRC. In this context, the Pakistan Red Crescent is the convenor of the humanitarian response, and the IFRC the co-convenor. This is in line with the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation (SMCC) principles, and the newly adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#).

In Pakistan, the ICRC supports the public, the authorities and the Pakistan Red Crescent in the event of armed violence or disaster. It also provides structural and programme support to 11 district branches of the Pakistan Red Crescent as part of its ongoing programmes in conflict-affected areas.

Coordination with other actors

As part of its auxiliary role, the Pakistan Red Crescent works closely with public authorities in times of emergency. For the floods response, the Pakistan Government leads the national disaster management operation coordinated by the NDMA, PDMA and DDMA. The National Society is embedded within the National Disaster Management Plan alongside other first responders, and its response is developed in collaboration with the Government in order to complement and contribute to the authority's own response plan. Similar levels of coordination are conducted by the provincial branches of the National Society as regards Provincial Disaster Management Plans.

The Pakistan Red Crescent will continue to strengthen its coordination and collaboration for emergency response and longer-term programmes with relevant authorities and other stakeholders, including UN agencies, international and national NGOs, and the corporate sector. Collaboration with UN agencies includes WHO, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), UNHCR, UNDP and any other agency relevant to Pakistan Red Crescent work.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [IFRC Global Plan and Country Plans](#)
- [Subscribe for updates](#)
- [Donor response](#) on IFRC website
- [Live Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(DREF\)](#) data
- Operational information: [IFRC GO platform](#)
- National Society data: [IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)



The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world's largest humanitarian network, with **192 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies** and around **14 million volunteers**. Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard to reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.

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