

UPDATE ON CHITRAL

Weather System

On the 2nd of February 2017 Pakistan Met Department communicated prevalence of an active weather system during 3rd- 5th of February which could result in heavy rains and snowfall of variable intensity triggering Glacial Lake Outburst Flood / Flash Flood and avalanches/landslides.

Early Warning to Vulnerable Districts

Accordingly local community, living in Hazara and Malakand divisions, including Chitral were alerted and were advised to adopt precautionary measures including shifting from vulnerable sites. Heeding to the alert, local administration of District Chitral took cognizance of the alert and via mosque loud speakers and FM Radio stations forewarned local communities living in vulnerable areas to move to safer places.

Avalanche in Chital

In spite of all precautionary measures, however, the unfortunate incident of an avalanche hitting village Shershal of UC Karimabad, Tehsil Garam Chashma of District Chitral took place in the wee hours of Sunday, 5th of February 2017, resulting in the deaths of 9 while injuring another 3 out of which 01 is critical. In addition 19 No of houses are reported as fully damaged. The extent of loss to lives & properties could have been far greater had 17 of the families residing in the area not moved to safer places following PDMA's alert. Elsewhere in the province other minor incidents have also been reported including 02 deaths and 02 injured in DI Khan, 01 death along with 02 fully damaged houses in Dir Upper while another 01 death in Damail area of Chitral where another avalanche related incident took place

PDMA's Coordination with District Authorities

As the news of the incident was reported, PDMA KP got in touch with District administration Chitral and started coordinating rescue and relief efforts in collaboration with NDMA, Pak Army and Chitral District Administration. PDMA KP arranged a Helicopter through NDMA and coordinated all the relief/rescue operations. The heli took off at 300 hours on 5th of Feb from Peshawar Airport and transported 100 blankets, 50 quilts, 40 winter shawls, 30 packets of flour and 50 gas stoves. In addition 4 stretchers and emergency medicine were also dispatched. Initially the heli landed at Khwazakhela and would further fly to Chitral today on 6th of Feb, weather permitting. PDMA-KP is in close contact with DC Chitral and all other DCs so as to closely monitor the situation. PDMA control room is operational 24/7 and is in contact with all districts. People from each affected district can contact PDMA control room on 1700 or 0919223662 for any guidance.