



Heat waves in Karachi

Sit-Rep 1

Brief Description of the Situation

The extreme weather like heat waves had started before more than couple of years in the province especially provincial capital city of Karachi situated at coast of Arabian sea. Lack of awareness amongst the masses and first worst heat wave causes more than a thousand deaths. Since then the efforts by government and non-governmental organizations have raised awareness and taking necessary actions every year.

The ongoing heat wave in Karachi has started since last part of April, 2018 which had not been that severe and lasted not more than couple of days. Recently a renowned public welfare organization claimed that at least 64 people in the past three days as the temperature hit 44 degrees Celsius during two consecutive days. The Sindh government however opposed the assertion and had announced that no case of heatstroke death had been reported at the city hospitals.

The city saw the mercury climb to 43°C on Tuesday, as sea breeze remained halted exacerbating the heat wave. The hottest weather was recorded in Chhor where the temperature went up to 47°C. Some major big cities of Sindh province in specific Sukkur, Jacobabad, Karachi, and Badin found broke their own records of 18 years of the high temperature as mercury at some points touched 50 degree Celsius. The mega port city is already plagued by frequent and unannounced power cuts and lack of green spaces which makes the heat harder to bear. People living on Karachi's crowded streets have little access to shelter or safe drinking water, making them acutely at risk in blistering temperatures.

Government of Sindh along with Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) had issued alerts well in time since the start of the heat waves. All concerned government and humanitarian agencies were advised to prepare for the calamity.

Weather Forecast

It warned the sweltering heat would continue throughout the week, forecasting daytime temperatures of between 40-43 degrees.

PRCS Response

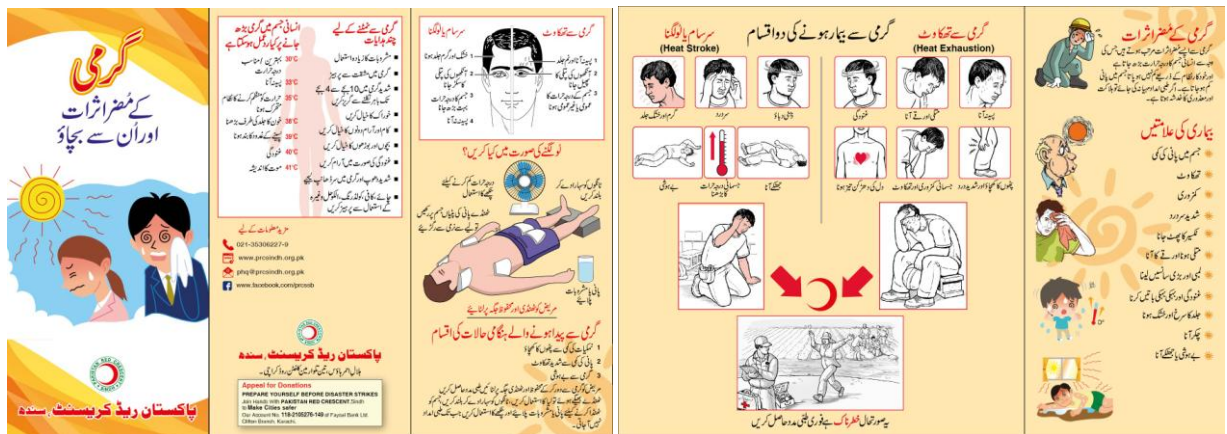
Pakistan Red Crescent, Sindh Provincial Branch had taken following actions in line with the PDMA's directives:

- a. A campaign was launched throughout the province through our district branches especially engaging District First Aid Trainers (DFATs) including Karachi with distribution of IEC materials which includes brochures and banners on prevention of heatstroke and awareness sessions in schools, colleges and other events to create awareness regarding

Heat emergencies prevention among communities through the First Aid Program already existing in 11 districts of Sindh. Each District First Aid Trainer is conducting five training session every month in various educational institutes and community centers with a minimum of 25 participants in every session. 251 sessions have been conducted from January to May 2018 benefiting 6288 people (3464 male and 2524 female beneficiaries)



- b. PRC Sindh Training Institute is conducting complementary awareness sessions at its PHQ for general Public from different sects of life.
- c. All the health centers, dispensaries and hospitals in Karachi and interior Sindh were provided with necessary items for heatstroke cases. Banners and posters are pasted on the gates of all such facilities to provide support to heatstroke patients.



- d. RFL Officers deputed in major hospitals in Karachi have installed banners for public awareness on the main entrances and public places.



- e. More than 3000 sms's were sent to general public and volunteers through PRC Sindh's Branded SMS service for bulk messages.
- f. PHQ had established camps at the entrance of its main building with trained first aiders to provide chilled water to trespassers during the last three spells of extreme heat in Karachi.



PRC Sindh is strictly monitoring the situation and keeping a close coordination with PDMA and government authorities to respond any situation.

Prepared by
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