



Health Cluster Bulletin



H ighlights

As many NGOs and country medical teams are planning to leave Pakistan by April, the health cluster has started planning to ensure the continuation of good health coverage for the earthquake affected population.

Several NGOs such the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) are planning to maintain their temporary health facilities until the local health authorities restore their capacity to provide health care for the population and the worst of the winter period is over.

Accessibility due to landslides and heavy snowfall remains an issue in high areas. The transportation of medical teams and medical supplies to remote areas greatly depends on UN helicopters, as well as the distribution of food and non food items such as blankets, plastic and iron sheets, winterized kits for children, etcetera.

The shortage of female doctors and lady health workers seriously hampers the access from females to health care due to cultural reasons. In certain areas it is most serious in the more deprived areas such as Allai Valley in Battagram.

Issue # 8, 27 January 2006



UN earthquake response in transition from relief to recovery and reconstruction

The United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator for Pakistan in a press release voices the need for urgent planning for the return home of all persons now staying in camps and other temporary settlements.

The planning process is initiated with optimism among the earthquake survivors, the Pakistani authorities and the humanitarian community. Although many challenges are still existing, the relatively mild winter weather so far has helped the emergency relief operation to reach as many affected people as possible.

Health News Portal

For constantly updated links to national and international newspapers on HEALTH and the EARTHQUAKE visit the [Health News Portal](http://202.165.250.89) at <http://202.165.250.89>



Earthquake Facts

Control of Communicable Diseases

The population under surveillance from the 185 health facilities in the earthquake-affected areas that are now reporting epidemiological findings for the Disease Early Warning System (DEWS) per 23 January 2006 was 3,933,896. 333,203 health events were reported between 17 December 2005 and 20 January 2006, 27% was due to Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI), 6% due to Acute Diarrhoea and 5% due to Injuries.

So far 92 potential disease outbreaks have been averted, while three outbreaks were effectively contained. (See Figure 2)*

Field hospitals

An updated list of all field hospitals is available at www.whopak.org/disaster



A total of 1,367 staff, with over 300 Cuban doctors and surgeons are working in the 16 Cuban field hospitals and mobile teams covering at least 19 towns in the earthquake affected area.



ICRC

ICRC chronology

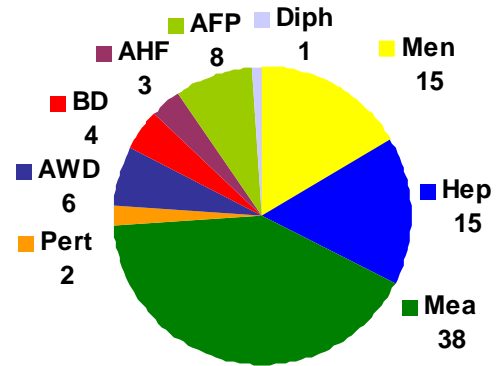
- 700 medical evacuations (17 October)
- 800 surgeries by surgical teams (27 October)
- 700 surgeries in field hospital (130 beds, Operating Theatre, laboratory and x-ray) (23 January)
- 17,000 patients treated in Basic Health Units

Future ICRC plans to withdraw their medical teams from the Basic Health Units for the end of winter or beginning of the spring. The structure of the referral field hospital in Muzaffarabad will be donated to the local health authorities.



ICRC will furthermore be involved in supporting the Mother and Child Health Care services, hygiene promotion and Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses in a number of locations to be agreed upon with the local health authorities. ICRC also plans to set up a physical rehabilitation centre in Muzaffarabad for the installation of artificial limbs to amputees.

Figure 1: Reported outbreak alerts per disease, 26 November 2005-20 January 2006.



*AHF=Acute Hemorrhagic Fever; AFP=Acute Flaccid Paralysis; AWD=Acute Watery Diarrhoea; BD=Bloody Diarrhoea; Men=Meningitis; Per=Pertussis or Whooping cough; Hep=Hepatitis; Mea=Measles; Diph=Diphtheria

Vaccination coverage
from 10/10/05 to 31/12/05

Measles	1,237,323
Meningitis	112,820
TB*	1,472
Hepatitis B	4,809
Tetanus	163,076
Polio	509,136
DPT**	298,116
Vitamin A	513,885



* BCG=Bacille Calmette Guerin
** Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus

Field Hospitals 4 Italian Red Cross, Mansehra

- 1 IFRC Abbottabad:** 12,242 consultations up to 13 January, 254 patients admitted since 26 October, 132 operations, 100 beds and average bed occupancy rate 70%, 2 Operating theatres
- 2 Saudi Red Crescent Mansehra:** 47,880 consultations, 30 beds, Pull out April 2006
- 3 Qatar Red Crescent Upper Dhuli, Bagh:** 9,305 consultations, average of 300 patients per day, 40 beds, Pull out April 2006

- Emergency Response Unit (ERU)**
- 1 Spanish Red Cross Balakot:** 5,864 consultations, Pull out February 2006
 - 2 French Red Cross Battagram:** 9,487 consultations, 30 beds, Pull out April 2006 (probably longer)

- Mobile medical teams**
- 1 Pakistani Red Crescent:** 40,635 consultations in different locations all over the affected area (Balakot, Garh Habibullah)
 - 2 Pakistani Red Crescent / Korean Red Cross:** 4,382 consultations in different locations in NWFP (including Mansehra, Besham)
 - 3 Malaysian Red Crescent:** 1,182 consultations in Mansehra and Mang Mountains
 - 4 Turkish Red Crescent Society, Muzaffarabad:** 27,718 consultations

Water and Sanitation
IFRC and Red Cross and Red Crescent societies are providing 30,000 beneficiaries with 206,000 liters of water which is purified on a daily basis in Balakot, Battagram, and Maira Camp. Also, 226 latrines have been constructed.

Mental Health

37 mental health/psychosocial support teams with 150 personnel treated more than 13,000 people in Muzaffarabad, Bagh, Rawalakot, Battagram, Balakot and Mansehra.

39% anxiety, stress related and somatoform disorders.

32% mood disorders

17% emotional and behavioural disorders of childhood
7% schizophrenia and delusional disorders

About **one third** of the patients were provided with pharmaceuticals.





UNFPA will be inaugurating the first prefabricated rural health centre in Shohol Najaf Khan in Mansehra on 2 February. The unit is fully equipped, including the necessary drug supply.



Australian Aid International (AAI) medical teams support 12 health facilities in Haveli tehsil, Bagh district (total population of 112,090), where on average 2,800 patients are treated. www.aai.org.au/pakistan.htm



Greenstar Social Marketing together with Population Services International (PSI) provided 1,500 clean delivery kits, more than 500,000 condoms, and 60,000 contraceptives to the Balakot region. Nearly 4 million water purification sachets – enough to treat 40 million litres of water, were supplied to an estimated 40,000 families. www.greenstar.org.pk/; www.psi.org/



Response International established four primary health care clinics in Rawalakot (Serari and Banjosa) and Bagh (Chattar No.2 and Sudhan Gali) with a total beneficiary population of over 50,000, with support of Islamic Relief Pakistan and the International Development and Relief Foundation (IDRF).

The clinics are all based at existing (but damaged or destroyed) government health posts, are employing local health workers, and will be operative for the next six months. www.responseinternational.org.uk



Over £2.6 million of top-quality vaccines, medicines and supplies have been donated by the United Kingdom industry and government to hospitals and clinics run by the Pakistani Government and NGOs in the earthquake affected areas through International Health Partners. IHP is partnering with Islamic Relief and WHO to ensure that the medicines are distributed safely and quickly on the ground. www.ihpuk.org/

Spinal Cord Injuries

From the total of 667 spinal cord injury patients received, 368 are still admitted up to date at different hospitals of Rawalpindi, Islamabad, Lahore, Peshawar, Abbotabad and Muzaffarabad.

207 Spinal Cord Injuries or incomplete injuries: more movement in one limb than the other, have feeling in parts of the body, more function on one side of the body than the other.

200 paraplegia patients or complete injuries: do not experience sensation or movement with both sides of the body equally affected.

Figure 2: Distribution of total number of Spinal Cord Injuries according to type of injury

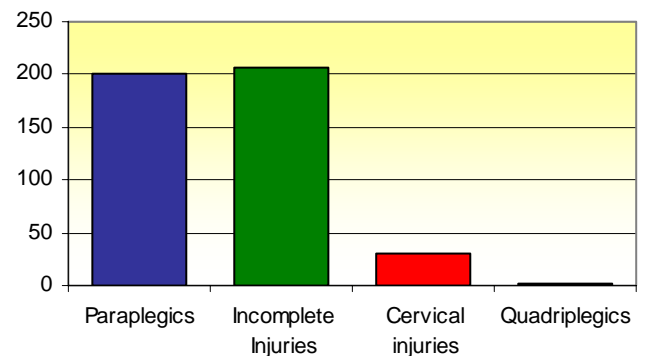
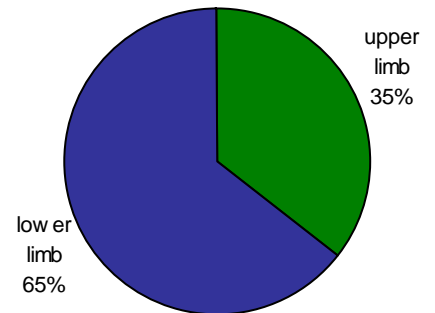


Figure 3: Distribution of amputations in lower and upper limbs

Amputations

713 amputations done in different Hospitals of Rawalpindi, Islamabad, Lahore, AJK and NWFP



TB programme

20 out of 26 centres in NWFP and 30 out of 37 centres in AJK were destroyed or severely damaged. Moreover, 80% of TB patients registered in the first two quarters of 2005 had been lost

in AJK, all 37 TB care providing PHC centres are functional (30 in tents); in NWFP 28 out of 35 TB diagnostic centres and 70 out 96 treatment centres are functional. Of all patients that were lost after the earthquake, 60% were located