

## SOUTH ASIA EARTHQUAKE

Situation Report (3) 10 October 2005

### Highlights

- Search and rescue efforts continue in the affected areas, and will increase with the arrival of additional teams from WHO and elsewhere. Emergency teams are working around the clock to search for survivors in the rubble, provide essential first-aid to injured victims, clear roads and organize the provision of food, blankets, shelter and essential medicines. Use of helicopters is presently crucial in the distribution of medical supplies, but should not be relied on. Clearing roads is therefore high priority in order to move supplies.
- WHO is working with the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination team in its initial assessment work. The weather conditions are currently good: dry, warm and sunny.
- The EMRO Regional director and the Representative of the Director General are travelling to Islamabad tomorrow.

### Health impact:

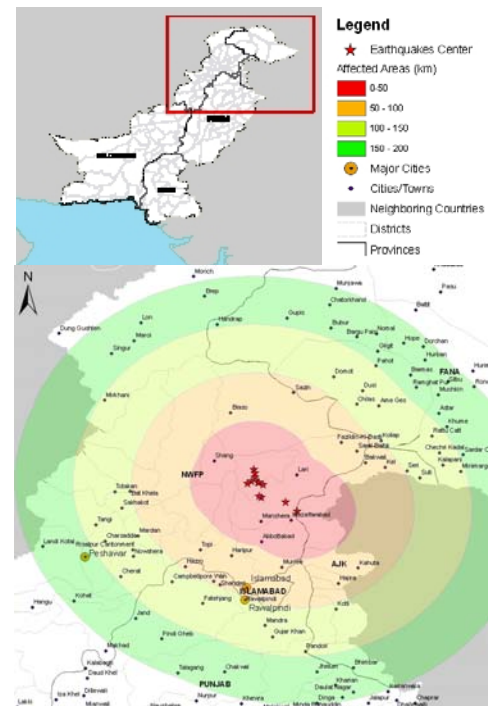
- Several major hospitals have been completely destroyed and many health personnel have perished. There are thousands of wounded people who are still waiting to receive emergency treatment.
- A mass measles vaccination campaign will need to take place urgently in order to protect the displaced population from outbreaks
- There is severe damage to the water and sanitation system, which poses serious risks of diarrhoeal disease.
- A large number of medical and trauma kits are needed urgently
- Ambulances are urgently needed to transport injured survivors to health facilities for treatment

### WHO Response:

- WHO's initial assessment has confirmed the need for surgical and trauma equipment and medical supplies.
- WHO assessment teams of public health, epidemiology, health systems, logistic and water/sanitation specialists have arrived in the field.
- WHO's team in the country has been engaged in immediate efforts to assist survivors
- A joint (MOH/WHO) operational centre has been established in Islamabad to coordinate Health response with partners. It is located in the Pakistan Institute of Medical Studies (PIMS)
- Similarly a field operation centre has been established in Abbotabad. Other field operation centres are being considered.
- WHO is providing newly required guidance materials and updating the water and sanitation information on the WSH web site to meet the actual needs of the current crisis
- WHO is dispatching a Mental Health specialist to Pakistan
- Cash has already been sent to the WHO country office in Islamabad for the local purchase of vital medical supplies and equipment

### Urgent needs:

- The Pakistani authorities are reporting no needs for additional external manpower to be despatched to Pakistan. Instead they emphasize the need for medical supplies, water/sanitation supplies and cash donations.



- Ambulances are required as roads get rehabilitated.
- Vaccines need to be made available in order to start vaccination campaigns.

**Donations:**

- The British Government has donated USD 252,000 for WHO support to the disaster response.
- The Swiss Government has donated USD 100,000 for WHO support to the disaster response.
- The Norwegian Government has donated USD 250,000 for WHO to support to the disaster response.
- The Principality of Monaco has donated EURO 25,000 for WHO to support the disaster response.