

## Highlights

Many UN agencies are **cutting down presence** in the earthquake affected areas and handing over activities to the government. The largest humanitarian helicopter operation ever organised by the UN ended on 31 May having successfully transported nearly 30,000 tonnes of aid supplies and tens of thousands of aid workers and other passengers. The UN refugee agency UNHCR has closed its field office in Battagram after local authorities assumed responsibility for camp management. UNHCR was supporting more than 170 camps housing some 200,000 people. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) will conclude its active engagement on 30 June. National and International health NGOs like Aga Khan Health Service Pakistan (AKHSP) and Australian Aid International (AAI) have already phased out from Bagh per 1 June 2006.

WHO has finalized 99% of its 35 planned **prefabricated Basic Health Units** in the earthquake affected district, of which 95% (32) were officially **handed over the local health authorities**. 80% of the BHUs are functional. Water schemes for the BHUs are providing clean drinking water to staff and patients thanks to the NGOs OXFAM GB and International Medical Corps (IMC), while proper disposal of medical waste has been made possible thanks to the installation of drum incinerators by the NGO ACF.

In Muzaffarabad, in 20% of the BHUs a Medical Officer is available and in 42% a Vaccinator. UN-FPA supported BHUs, RHCs and hospitals in Mansehra district with one women medical officer and one Lady Health Visitor each as well as nurses for the neonatology unit and women medical officers for the THQ hospital in Balakot.

As part of the Earthquake Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Agency (ERRA) plan for the health sector, the NGO AmeriCares with support from WHO, will be **reconstructing 20 Rural Health Centers** (RHC). RHCs are small hospitals serving a population between 50,000 to 100,000 people. AmeriCares will purchase the structures, fully equip and supply each center with essential medicines and ambulance for a value of 3.4 million USD.

The **first prefabricated Mother and Child Health Care (MCH) unit** has started functioning in Tehsil Headquarter (THQ) Hospital Hattian Bala, Muzaffarabad district. Two more prefabricated Rural Health Centres (RHC) in Garrhi Dopatta and Chakkar in Muzaffarabad district, two BHU in Chatter Klass and Muzaffarabad, and three in Mansehra district had already been put in place by UNFPA in an earlier stage. The remaining 12 prefabricated health units are still under construction. UNFPA also provided the Executive District Officer (EDO) Health in Mansehra with an equipped office.



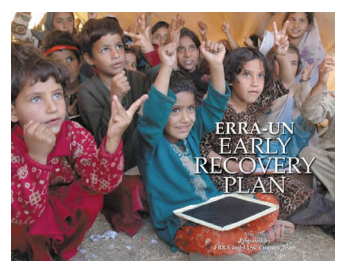
The **construction of the modular hospital at the District Headquarters (DHQ) Hospital** in Bagh by the NGO MSF-Belgium is at its final stage and will be operational by mid June. Other NGOs like Merlin maintain the focus on providing health care to remote areas. UNFPA is increasing the current number of nine Mobile Service Units (MSU) providing emergency Maternal and Neonatal Health (MNH) services.



**ERRA - UN Early Recovery Plan**

The earthquake of 8 October 2005 was unprecedented. Never since its foundation has Pakistan been confronted with a natural disaster of such magnitude. The death toll reached over 73,338 with another 69,400 seriously injured and more than 3.3 million left homeless.

<http://www.unhcr.org/Documents/ERRA-UNEarlyRecoveryPlan.pdf>



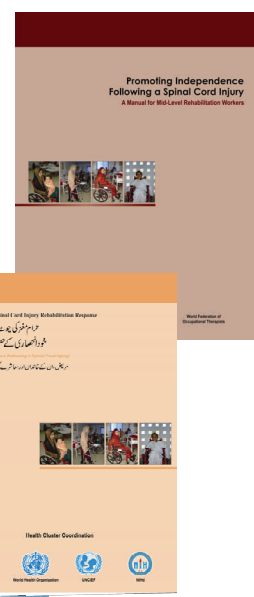
**Disability advisory committee** is being set up to facilitate the implementation of the plan of action for disabilities in the transition phase from relief to recovery after the earthquake.

The action plan focuses on **community based rehabilitation** of those people with permanent disabilities due to spinal cord injuries or amputations as a result of the earthquake. The action plan also foresees in the establishment of **medical rehabilitation centers** in the earthquake-affected areas, as well as **workshops** for the production and maintenance of orthotec and prosthetic material. Institutional strengthening of health care facilities providing care for disabled patients is a further objective.

One of the main objectives is to ensure **wheelchair access** in all public buildings in the earthquake affected areas.

WHO is providing the Earthquake Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Agency (ERRA) and the National Institute for Handicapped with the necessary technical assistance.

The publications on Care for the Disabled published by the Ministry of Health, the National Institute for Handicapped, UNICEF and WHO are now available at:



- [Promoting independence for community and family \(in Urdu\) \(1.5 MB\)](#)
- [Promoting independence for mid level rehabilitation workers \(in Urdu\) \(1.4 MB\)](#)
- [Promoting independence for community and family \(in English\) \(3.3 MB\)](#)
- [Promoting independence for mid level rehabilitation workers \(in English\) \(4.9 MB\)](#)

# Essential drugs Procurement and Management workshop on 15 June 2006

Experiences Gained and Lessons Learnt from the Recent Earthquake in Pakistan Organized jointly by the Ministry Of Health, ERRA, WHO and IHP-UK.

**Thursday 9.00 – 16.00 at the National Institute for Health (NIH) Islamabad.**

The main aim of this workshop is to provide a forum to exchange experiences and lessons learnt on the provision of essential drugs to earthquake victims, as well as agree on commonly identified recommendations for action between donors, national and international organizations, UN agencies, and government. The workshop will focus on:

- Review the emergency response with regard to planning, procurement and management of the essential drugs supply and storage system;
- Drug donations: efforts, challenges and experience gained;
- Lessons learnt and future recommendations.

All health partners interested in participating can contact Syed Khalid BUKHARI, at [bukharis@eqpak.emro.who.int](mailto:bukharis@eqpak.emro.who.int)

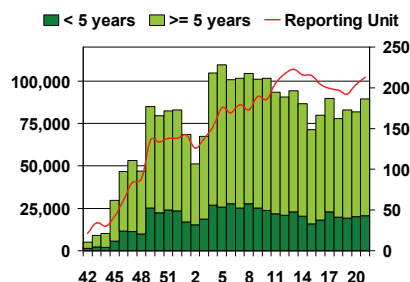
## Communicable Diseases

In the past month (Epidemiological weeks 18-21 inclusive), 341,521 health events under surveillance were reported including 47 deaths.

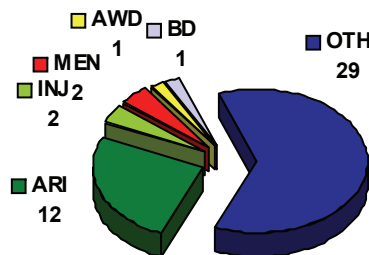
In summary for the past month between 21 April and 26 May (Epidemiological weeks 18-21 inclusive), a total of 341,521 health events under surveillance were reported, of which 19% (64,952) were due to acute respiratory infection (ARI), 9% (31,871) acute diarrhoea (AWD), 6% (19,578) Unexplained fever (FUO) and 5% (17,238) Injuries (INJ).

For more information, see the Weekly Morbidity and Mortality Report available at: <http://www.whopak.org/disaster/diseasecontrol.htm#wmmr>

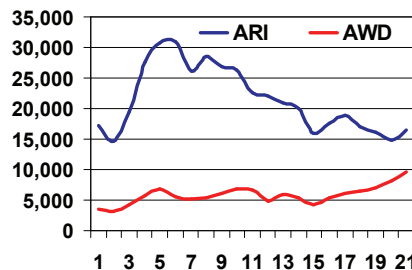
Reporting units and number of consultations



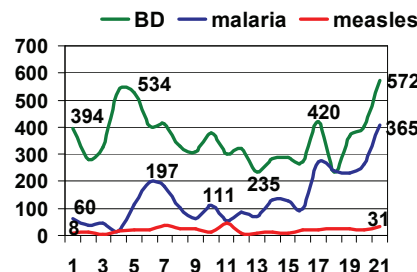
Number and causes of deaths reported under DEWS, earthquake areas 21 April-26 May 2006 (n=47)



Trend in number of cases of Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) and Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD)

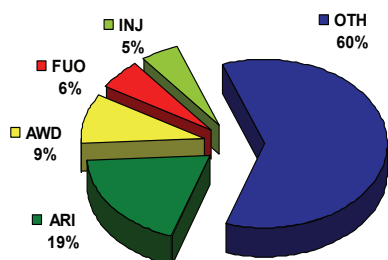


Trend in number of cases of Bloody Diarrhea (BD), Malaria and Measles 1 January-26 May 2006



### Legend:

ARI = Acute Respiratory Infection  
 AWD = Acute Watery Diarrhea  
 BD = Bloody Diarrhea  
 IFUO = Fever of Unknown Origin  
 INJ = Injuries  
 MEN = Meningitis  
 OTH = Others



Percentage of most reported cases under DEWS earthquake areas 21 April-26 May 2006 (n=341,521)

# Environmental Health

The Challenge in Disaster Reduction for the Water and Sanitation Sector: Improving Quality of Life by Reducing Vulnerabilities

<http://www.paho.org/english/dd/ped/DesafiodelA-gua.htm>



Combined outbreak investigation with environmental health assessments are carried out on a regular basis.

Thanks to reports of International Committee of the Red cross on a large number of suspected Leishmaniasis cases in Jambura village, Battagram district immediate intervention was carried out by WHO and UNICEF to improve the sanitation and reduce the sand fly population, responsible for transmitting the disease, through vector control activities like spraying.

A cluster of suspected cases of Acute Jaundice syndrome was carried out in Qazi abad, Attershisha in Mansehra district, resulted in collection of water samples from source and consumer points (hand-pumps) and inside the houses. The water in the village is used without boiling or other disinfection. Chlorine tablets were distributed and information on how to use was provided on the spot. Health education on hygiene and clean water consumption was also given.

Another donation of bottles of benzyl benzoate lotion to treat scabies (a skin condition caused by bad hygiene due to lack of water), and sachets of oral rehydration salts was carried out to the Ghari Field Hospital in Balakot, as well as benzyl benzoate skin lotion and soap cakes to scabies affected families in the community in collaboration with Terre des Hommes (Tdh) and MDM.

**Australian NGO AAI** is phasing out of post-earthquake Pakistan. Their main achievements during their last month in Kahuta, Bagh district are:

- 1. REVITALIZATION OF PRIMARY HEALTH CARE FACILITIES** The refurbishment of the Soli dispensary consisting of a water tank and bathroom.
- 2. ACCESS to REMOTE AND ISOLATED BEHEDI REGION** With the road to Behedi finally opened this month after being blocked by snow and landslides since December, the AAI team at Kahuta visited the area for drugs distribution and training sessions for 7 Lady Health Workers (LHW) covering Hygiene and Sanitation, Disease Surveillance and bird flu information.
- 3. INCINERATORS RUNNING HOT** 10 of the 12 brick incinerators for clinic infectious waste have been constructed.
- 4. MEDICAL DISTRIBUTIONS** AAI purchased and distributed medical equipment and medicines to a total of 18 clinics.
- 5. HYGIENE KITS** AAI distributed 3,400 UNICEF hygiene kits to union councils and Community Based Organizations (CBO's) in the area.
- 6. VOLTAGE STABILIZERS** AAI provided twelve voltage stabilizers for EPI vaccination centers to ensure continued cold chain for vaccines.



More information on AAI: [www.aai.org.au](http://www.aai.org.au)

**Mental Health** Training of 27 Lady Health Workers was conducted at the In-Service Training School Ghari Dupatta by WHO and Ministry of Health mental health experts.

Church World Service trained 12 teachers in two schools of Billiani and Mangali in order to identify students with mental problems. Community training is ongoing for volunteers who will provide psychosocial awareness in their own communities.

IMC has initiated training on Mental Health and Psychosocial support every Wednesday in WHO Sub Office, Mansehra.

Terre des hommes is maintaining its child friendly centres in earthquake affected villages to focus on child protection and help children with trauma through social workers and psychologists.

As part of **UNICEF's two-year Health Programme** in the earthquake affected districts (until April 2008), a **workshop to promote the work of Community Based Health Workers** was held on 2 June 2006. The Community Health Workers programme aims to accelerate Child and Maternal Survival by improving healthy behavior at family level through training and cooperation between health, education, water and sanitation and child protection.

## Return process

Medical teams of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) have escorted 119 earthquake affected families with serious health problems back to their home villages.

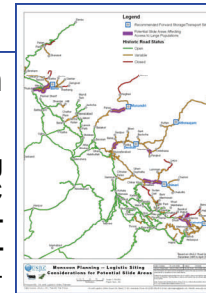
IOM also provided medical screening of almost 70,000 people returning to their villages to ensure that people are healthy enough before their journey home.

The 119 vulnerable people who were escorted by IOM doctors and paramedic staff included weakened infants and elderly, women with 32-week pregnancies and one-week post-partum, individuals with major disabilities like unstable chronic illnesses, multiple amputations, spinal cord injuries and paralysis, poorly-controlled epilepsy, psychosis, pulmonary, cardiac and severe asthmatic cases.

## Monsoon preparedness

To prepare for the coming Monsoon season, UNJLC published a **Monsoon Logistics Planning Snapshot**. The south-west monsoon reaches Pakistan in late June/early July and starts retreating towards the end of August. Click on the map for a larger picture or visit:

<http://www.unjlc.org/pakistan>



## Reproductive Health

**Intensive training programme on Basic Emergency Obstetric & Newborn Care (EmONC)** is being carried out in all of the earthquake-affected areas. Twenty Doctors, Lady Health Visitors (LHV) and staff nurses were trained at Abbas Hospital in Muzaffarabad.

The second level **reproductive health training** on Emergency and Obstetrics (EmOc) has been initiated in close collaboration with UNICEF, WHO and UNFPA in Mansehra and Battagram. Fourteen women medical officers from health facilities in Mansehra District are currently trained in collaboration with the Ayub Medical Complex (AMC).

The **mapping of the Maternal and Neo-natal Health (MNH)** situation in the earthquake affected areas by UNFPA with support of UNICEF and WHO shows an increased morbidity after the earthquake due to a lack of availability and accessibility of Mother and Child Health Services (MCH). The main problem is an insufficient number of Female Health Care Providers and a poor referral services for pregnancy related complications.

The MHN mapping facilitates the objective to increase of Basic and especially comprehensive EmOC services in most needed areas, as well as of relevant MCH staff such as Women Medical Officers, Lady Health Visitors and Midwives.

Visit the website of:

**Comprehensive Disaster Response Services, an NGO** helping the People of Kashmir to recover from the earthquake at <http://www.cdrspakistan.org/>



**Media** Pakistani journalist for the UN Integrated Regional Information Networks (OCHA IRIN), Ms Tahira Sarwar won the second position in the women and development category of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Developing Asia Journalism Awards.

Tahira is a thorough and reliable reporter, who has supported the response to the earthquake and specifically health related activities with continuous advocacy in well written articles, available at the [IRIN website](http://www.irinnews.org/). Congratulations, Tahira, and thank you!

<http://www.adbi.org/journalism.awards/> or <http://www.irinnews.org/>

