



## South Asia Earthquake Health Situation Report # 17

25&26 October 2005

Health Cluster partners who wish to include information here should write to [health@whopak.org](mailto:health@whopak.org) copied to [southasiaearthquake@who.int](mailto:southasiaearthquake@who.int).

### Highlights

- The WHO/United Nations humanitarian supply management system, Logistics Support System (LSS) is being implemented for the health sector.
- Field hospitals and mobile teams continue to receive a substantial number of injured patients 18 days after the earthquake.
- New cases of tetanus are reported.
- Cases of acute jaundice syndrome are being investigated.
- Skin diseases such as impetigo and scabies have been reported from all affected area health centres.
- Measles cases are reported. Measles and tetanus immunization continues in Mansehra and Muzaffarabad and begun in Batagram and Bagh.



*Vaccination campaigns against measles and tetanus are ongoing. Source: Chris Black WHO*

### Health impact

- Scabies and ARI are becoming major public health problems due to lack of hygiene, cold weather and inappropriate shelter.
- The number of trauma cases is decreasing although epidemiological data received from Balakot shows that, as of 24 October, of the total 1,400 patients received at 17 health facilities, treatment given was for: injuries (44%), Acute Respiratory Infections (ARI) (25%) and Acute Diarrhoea (17%). Ministry of Health North Western Frontier Province (NWFP) data indicates that almost 46% of the patients treated in health facilities are children up to 15 years of age, while almost 53% are below 21 years of age.
- NWFP data from the Ministry of Health indicates that 85% of the affected population lost their homes in the earthquake. Approximately 55% have lost an immediate family member, 19% a next of kin and 9% have lost the family head.
- The number of patients who suffered severe trauma or gangrene and who underwent amputation is being assessed. It is essential that treatment and rehabilitation needs of disabled persons are included in the needs assessment exercises.
- A fire incident in Balakot destroyed 9 tents and killed an adult. One adult and two children were severely burned and were airlifted to the specialized burn unit at the Military Hospital in Kharian, Punjab.

### Health response

#### Communicable disease control and surveillance and outbreak response

- The French field hospital operating from Muzaffarabad, will be reporting from today all morbidity and mortality data on patients treated to the Disease Early Warning System (DEWS) set up by WHO.

- The total number of reported tetanus cases so far is 104, including 19 deaths. Cases were reported from all health centers in Muzaffarabad, Bagh, Abbottabad, Mansehra, PIMS Islamabad and other referral hospitals where patients have been evacuated outside of the affected area. Tetanus cases in Islamabad are under investigation by a joint National Institute for Health (NIH) /Global Infectious Disease Surveillance and Alert System (GIDSAS) team.
- A total of 14 measles cases in Balakot and Batagram were reported. Measles vaccination teams have been mobilized to Batagram.
- Six Acute Jaundice Syndrome cases were reported from Mansehra Government Hospital, operating out of a large tented field hospital under difficult conditions. A team of WHO and Aga Khan University epidemiologists is investigating these reports.
- More than 400 cases of scabies out of 2,500 patient visits have been reported in Batagram and Balakot by the Ministry of Health and WHO active surveillance teams.
- WHO is bringing in more antibiotics and anti-scabies drugs to fill the current and prospective needs.
- Active case investigation was carried out in Dewan Soliman Fiber Limited camp in Muzaffarabad, following a rumor of a skin disease outbreak. Epidemiologists from WHO and the French surgical team reported 6 cases of impetigo and 8 cases of scabies in the camp having an estimated population of 1,500. Impetigo is a common, highly infectious skin disease caused by the staphylococcus bacteria and less frequently by the streptococcus bacteria. Cases in the camp are being treated with antibiotics as appropriate.
- Laboratory investigation kits and barrier supplies will be sent to Mansehra and Muzaffarabad in preparation for potential disease outbreaks.

### **Medical care and referral systems**

- The NGO MDM reports that one third of cases treated at the field hospital in Balakot require change of dressings of their injuries. Acute diarrhoea and ARI are also common diagnoses.
- Approximately 150 patients are treated daily at the tent hospital installed on the hospital grounds of the completely destroyed Balakot Hospital.
- A total of 1,400 consultations were carried out in the past five days at Bagh Hospital. A 24 hour-per-day functioning blood bank will be reestablished in Bagh.
- WHO will provide the Ministry of Health with a big tent for storage of drugs and other medical supplies in Bagh.
- The NGO Mercy Malaysia carries out 30 orthopedic surgeries on average per day (mainly trauma) at their field hospital in Bagh. One medical team will be mobilized to Shangla soon.
- The NGO MSF Belgium plans to set up a field hospital in Bagh with capacity of 80-100 beds, to support the Ministry of Health.
- The NGO International Medical Corps (IMC) has delivered 10,000 blankets, 4 generators and 5,000 jerry cans for distribution in Ghari Habibullah (3,000 families), Balakot (5,000 families) and Batagram (5,000 families). IMC has mobilized five medical / health teams to the remote villages Niral, Kashtra and Batron, near Garhi Habibullah, where IMC continues to provide first aid and primary health care. In addition, IMC will provide basic health services in and around Batagram, Balakot and Ghari Habibullah for 13,000 families (78,000 people).
- So far 15,000 patients have been received in Ayub Medical Complex in Abbottabad. A total of 4,500 minor surgical operations and 1,200 major surgeries have been carried out. ICRC is establishing a field hospital in the premises of Ayub Medical Complex.
- Major reconstructive surgery is conducted at Shaheena Jamil Medical Hospital in Abbottabad. So far, a team of British and Cuban doctors carried out 1,300 surgical procedures, out of which 462 were major surgeries. 291 patients are currently admitted.
- There is a need to assess whether today's departure of the Russian field hospital from Muzaffarabad will have an impact on the referral systems capacity .
- IOM has supplied 4 ambulances for medical evacuations from and to hospitals in Muzaffarabad. IOM staff have already started medical evacuations by air through assistance from Japanese Self Defense Force to get urgent specialized medical attention to victims.
- Of the several items that IOM made available: 170 beds were delivered to the hospital in Muzaffarabad and 33 hospital tents were delivered to Muzaffarabad Hospital Logjam (Each 8m x 5m tent will house 20 patients and each patient being accompanied by one family member). Over 600 mattresses were delivered and tents provided for WHO teams.

- The Pakistan Islamic Medical Association (PIMA) reported 607 consultations, 3 evacuations and 10 major surgeries performed by their medical team in Muzaffarabad. WHO will provide PIMA with emergency medical kits.
- The ICRC hospital in Muzaffarabad reported 36 referrals and 24 major surgeries.
- UNFPA dispatched 5 mobile teams to remote areas around Muzaffarabad such as Hattian Bala, Chatter Khalas, and Pavem Dupotta to provide basic medical care and family health care.
- Pakistan authorities report that of the 22 rescue teams initially employed, 9 are no longer functional. The 19 field hospitals in the affected area carried out over 3,900 surgeries, while 400 tons of medicine has been transported to the affected districts, with 130 tons of medicines stockpiled.
- The national NGO Maeraj Family Trust started a clinic with 16 beds in Upper Chatter Valley with 21 volunteer doctors.

### **Environmental health**

- The German team in Balakot is currently purifying 50,000 liters of water per day. The team will leave by the end of this week and are expected to be replaced by another organization. Water purification remains crucial in Balakot, as people are using unsafe water from the river.
- Thanks to rapid rehabilitation of the Bagh town water supply system by the Public Works Department, 70% of it is now functional. Portable water testing kits (Wagtech) will be provided for rapid water quality testing.
- A Clean Up Campaign to dispose of the extensive solid waste (mainly unused relief items, plastic water bottles and cartons) has been initiated in Bagh.
- Spraying as a vector control measure is ongoing in Bagh and surrounding areas in order to reduce the risk of malaria, dengue, and leishmaniasis. The Ministry of Health and WHO in Bagh are spraying the rubble of deteriorated buildings, occupied and unoccupied buildings, tents and dense vegetation near houses to control houseflies, mosquitoes, sandflies and other crawling insects. Foodstuffs and water are removed from houses/tents before spraying.
- The Abbas Institute of Medical Sciences (AIMS) received two trucks of sanitation material for the ongoing Clean Up Campaign in Muzaffarabad.
- The Canadian DART team has started pumping clean water through the water purification unit they installed in Muzaffarabad.

### **Coordination**

- The WHO/United Nations humanitarian supply management system Logistics Support System (LSS) is being implemented for the health sector. LSS inventories all incoming donations and monitors their distribution to warehouses in the affected areas. The software system enables information exchange between disaster response organizations, enhancing transparency and efficiency in humanitarian logistics coordination.
- It is important to ensure that all information regarding all health-related activities is shared with the Ministry of Health, in order to avoid duplicating efforts and to improve coordination. The coordination cell at the Health Emergency Operation Centre - WHO Pakistan - PIMS, Islamabad is ready to receive all input and transmit as needed.

### **Health promotion**

- The Ministry of Health, UNICEF and other partners, will be providing 6,000 FM radios and batteries to the population in affected areas that can receive FM. Health promotion messages are being transmitted continuously.

### **Urgent needs**

- Distribution of necessary supplies such as New Emergency Health Kits (NEHK) to the affected areas, including remote villages, needs to be carried out soon before the start of the winter season.
- More field hospitals with a long-term commitment and complete self sustaining capabilities are needed.

- Female paramedics and nurses are needed since female patients prefer to be seen by females only. Separate female and male accommodation provided by agencies involved with field hospitals is necessary.
- Orthopaedics supplies, anaesthesia machines, operation theatres, surgical instruments, orthopaedic implants and plasma volume expanders are needed.
- There is an urgent need to improve the overall water and sanitation conditions for the affected population living in temporary shelters so that sufficient water is available for washing and sanitation measures are in place.

## Donations to WHO

### New donations

- The Slovak Republic has donated US\$ 126,622 for WHO support to the disaster response.

**Reported donations to date** against the WHO total requirement of US\$ 27,750,000. Donations to date currently meet 42% of WHO total requirements.

Donor	Funding intentions (in USD)	In-kind contributions
Australia	1,899,696	
Australia	379,939 for emergency health kits and their transportation & coordination of delivery	
Canada	1,483,050	
Denmark	483,870	
Ireland	120,192	
Italy	300,481	Kits - 12 Trauma A, 12 Trauma B, 15 New Emergency Health, 5 Diarrhoea Profile D and 5 Diarrhoea Profile F (total value: US\$ 351,000).
Japan	1,000,000 for kits & vaccines	
Monaco	120,192	
Norway	250,000	
Slovak Republic	126,622	
Sweden	1,928,020	
Switzerland	100,000	
UK/DFID	252,000	
UK/DFID	881,834 for disease control	
United States	2,000,000	
<b>Total</b>	<b>US\$ 11,325,896</b>	<b>US\$ 351,000</b>