



## South Asia Earthquake Health Situation Report # 16

24 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

- Two weeks after the earthquake, WHO field offices are operational in five of the most affected locations: Bagh, Balakot, Mansehra, Muzaffarabad and Rawalakot.
- The medical evacuation system is fully functional.
- Mental health activities have begun in Muzaffarabad and Mansehra.
- There are no reported disease outbreaks to date.



*WHO established a successful medical evacuation system in Muzaffarabad, Pakistan*

### Health impact

- WHO teams have assessed so far 535 health facilities in the six districts affected. 320 of these health facilities have been completely destroyed and 171 are still functional.
- The medical evacuation system in Muzaffarabad has referred 14,000 persons to Islamabad so far. It is estimated that the medical evacuations to Islamabad represent less than 10% of all cases in need of hospital treatment.
- Active surveillance system in the affected areas and reports from the patients referred to Islamabad and Rawalpindi report a total of 93 cases of tetanus and 17 related deaths. An increased incidence of tetanus is expected in situations where wounds are left untreated for an extended period of time. The Pakistan Ministry of Health received more than 15,000 doses of anti-tetanus globulin (ATG) yesterday, channeled through WHO and donated by the United Kingdom and United States.

### Health response

#### **Communicable Disease Control and Surveillance and Outbreak Response**

- Immunization against measles and tetanus is ongoing.
- The national polio immunization campaign planned for November will be covering only temporary camps for those earthquake victims who lost their homes and health centers in Muzaffarabad, Balakot and Bagh.

#### **Medical Care and referral systems**

- The ICRC field hospital with 150 beds is now fully operational in Muzaffarabad. ICRC mobilized several teams to Patika and Chikar, both remote areas.
- Ayub Medical Hospital in Abbottabad treated a total of 8,872 patients since the earthquake and carried out 7,289 surgeries. The hospital has 4,204 admitted patients, of whom 340 are located in tents. From the 2,597 discharged patients, more than 2,000 are residing in a tent camp beside the hospital.

- The acute shortage of hospital beds for post operative care at Abbas Hospital (AIMS) in Muzaffarabad has been solved thanks to a donation by IOM of supplies including tents, mattresses, pillows and others, sufficient to accommodate 200 patients. IOM will also provide 4 ambulances, two for Abbas Hospital and two for the Helipad. There is still an increasing number of patients referred to AIMS.
- WHO will participate today in an interagency mission, covering health, nutrition, shelter, food and logistics, to areas in Neelam Valley that have not been reached so far by aid workers.
- A nutrition survey is planned by UNICEF in Mansehra for mid-November.
- The Korean NGO, Food for Hungry International, has mobilized surgeons to remote areas in Muzaffarabad District.
- MSF-Holland has mobilized teams to Charak Pora, Therian, Kumikek, Sarli Sacha and Saidpur, around Muzaffarabad. The mobile teams provide basic medical needs and minor surgeries. MSF will assist in the measles and tetanus vaccination campaigns in remote rural areas in Muzaffarabad District.
- A medical team (180 personnel in total) comprised of surgeons, paramedics and general doctors sent by the Cuban Government is now working in Balakot, Abbottabad, Rawalakot, and Murree.
- The NGO, Citizens Foundation, upgraded their field hospital in Muzaffarabad to a surgical hospital.

### **Environmental Health**

- The Muzaffarabad Clean Up Campaign is ongoing. Large quantities of unused donations (mainly clothes), empty water bottles and other solid waste spread all over the city are being collected and disposed of. The campaign will continue for one month.
- WHO and Oxfam have initiated a health promotion campaign regarding sustainable solid waste management.
- UNICEF provided one mobile water tank for the Austrian army, to ensure that sufficient safe drinking water is available for all health care facilities.

### **Mental Health**

- Two teams of four mental health professionals have been mobilized to Mansehra and Muzaffarabad to initiate counselling sessions at the major health facilities.
- More teams of mental health professionals will be trained this week and mobilized to Balakot and other earthquake affected areas.
- MSF is carrying out mental support activities in Muzaffarabad, Hattian, Bagh and at the PIMS Children's Hospital in Islamabad.

## **Urgent needs on behalf of the Health Cluster**

- There are no additional urgent needs to report. Please refer to previous WHO situation reports for urgent needs that remain unfulfilled.

## **Donations to WHO**

### **New donations**

- The Australian Government has donated US\$ 379,939 for emergency health kits, including their transportation and coordination of delivery.

### **Previously reported donations**

<b>Donor</b>	<b>Funding intentions (in USD)</b>	<b>In-kind contributions</b>
Australia	1,899,696	
Canada	1,483,050	
Denmark	483,870	
Ireland	120,192	

Italy	300,481	Kits - 12 Trauma A, 12 Trauma B, 15 NEHK*, 5 Diarrhoea Profile D and 5 Diarrhoea Profile F
Japan	1,000,000 for kits & vaccines	
Monaco	120,192	
Norway	250,000	
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>10,819,335</b>	

\* New Emergency Health Kits