

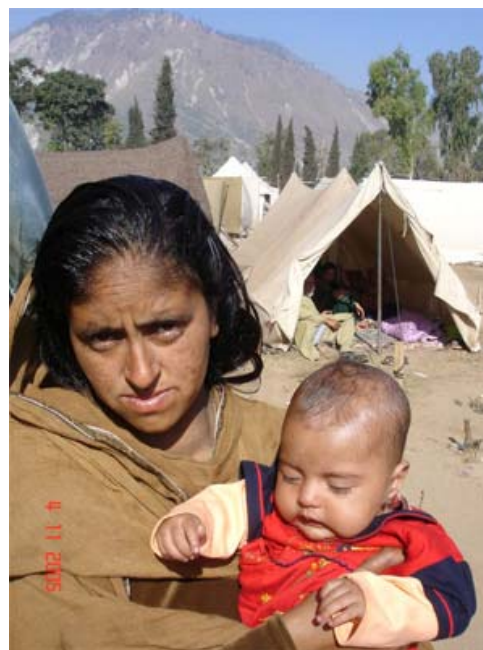


South Asia Earthquake Health Situation Report # 20 2-7 November 2005

Health Cluster partners who wish to include information here should write to health@whopak.org copied to southasiaearthquake@who.int.

Highlights

- District government data confirms 73,276 dead, 69,260 seriously injured and another 59,000 less seriously injured in the Pakistan earthquake affected areas. An estimated 3.2 million are homeless. With almost 117,000 tents distributed and another 192,000 in the pipeline, roughly 1.5 million people can be provided with necessary shelter. Another 1.7 million will remain without shelter if no urgent action is taken.
- Primary concern continues to be for appropriate shelter. Winterized tents or prefabricated shelters are urgently needed for health facilities and personnel.
- Number of daily air evacuations of injured has decreased to 19 (compared with 80 last week).
- WHO has received sufficient supply of drugs for the month of November.
- WHO continues to actively investigate rumours of potential disease outbreaks.
- A telephone-based outbreak alert and notification system is fully functioning at WHO in Muzaffarabad. An increasing number of health partners are contributing to the system.
- The transportation of samples for laboratory verification from the field to the National Institute of Health in Islamabad has been streamlined.



Woman and baby in Muzaffarabad tent camp on day of Eid, 4 November 2005.

Source: Shahzad Alam Khan, WHO Pakistan

WHO response

Project 1: Revitalize the system for delivery of primary health care services including immunization, vitamin A supplementation, maternal, child and neonatal health services, as well prevention and treatment of disabilities for earthquake affected populations in northern Pakistan.

Objectives: To assist the Government of Pakistan to revitalize/ establish primary health care facilities and services in the affected areas to mitigate the impact on health of the earthquake and to ensure continuity of pre-existing program/services.

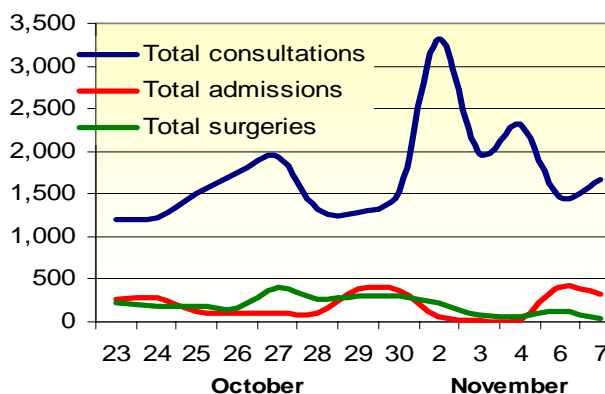
- WHO is supporting with supplies and salaries 125 Lady Health Workers in Batagram to carry out health promotion and consultation activities.
- WHO provided a total of 27 New Emergency Health Kits (NEHK) to various NGOs in remote areas and to Cuban brigades working in Abbas Hospital (AIMS) in Muzaffarabad and Batagram.
- Recovery of Tuberculosis Programme activities are ongoing. WHO is providing tents and drugs to restore TB health facilities in the earthquake affected areas.

Project 2: Revitalize hospital care services (secondary level) in regions affected by the earthquake

Objectives: To ensure that basic comprehensive health services (system and structures) are available for affected populations include treatment of medical and surgical conditions, prevention and treatment of physical disabilities, essential and emergency obstetric care and newborn and child care. To ensure the availability of health human resources to provide medical services.

- The trend in the total number of consultations, admissions and surgeries in all hospitals in Muzaffarabad is shown in Figure 1. After a peak in the number of consultations on November 2nd (one day before the Eid holiday weekend), the number has decreased again to previous levels yet remains high.

Figure 1: Trend in total number of consultations, admissions and surgeries in all Muzaffarabad hospitals



Project 3: Increase access to health care for affected communities

Objective: Re-establish through the provision of temporary or semi permanent health infrastructure and equipment, essential primary health care services in areas where health facilities are destroyed and/or to the new settlements.

- WHO is looking into how best to strengthen laboratory facilities at the Pakistan Islamic Medical Association (PIMA) Hospital in Muzaffarabad, including providing lab kits and technical guidance. The PIMA Hospital has the highest outpatient attendance among all hospitals and serves the main tent camp in the city. The laboratory is currently equipped to carry out limited bacteriological tests, which, with support from WHO, will be expanded to a full fledged public health laboratory.

Project 4: Emergency health relief operations including coordination and information management

Objectives: To establish and lead together with MOH a coordination mechanism whereby a central office and 5 field offices (Muzaffarabad, Mansehra, Bagh, Balakot and Rawalakot) are operational to assess and monitoring the evolving health situation, coordinate health response, manage, analyse and disseminate essential health information, highlight the health priorities.

- WHO's recently opened sixth field office in Batagram supports coordination focusing on surveillance and increased access to primary health care of the affected population.

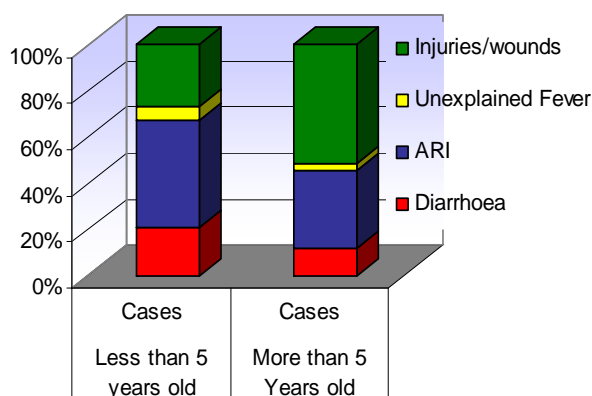
Project 5: Disease Surveillance and Early Warning System

Objectives: To detect, investigate and respond to disease outbreaks in order to reduce morbidity and mortality due to epidemic prone diseases. Provide the operational and technical support to MOH to set up and sustain an early warning surveillance system in all the affected areas, as well the local capacity to enter, process and analyse the epidemiological data, and provide a prompt response to any outbreak.

- The majority of cases from all Muzaffarabad health facilities reporting to the Disease Early Warning and Surveillance (DEWS) system are due to injuries (age group of over 5 years of age). For children 5 years and under, Acute Respiratory Infections (ARI) has been the main reason for consultation (See Figure 2 below).

- The Canadian DART team and Merlin have reported several cases of suspected diphtheria and one related death from remote areas in the Muzaffarabad District, Garhi Dupotta and Deolian. All available contacts have been treated and investigation of villages of origin is under way. WHO is rapidly mobilizing diphtheria anti-toxin and tetanus/diphtheria (Td) vaccine.
- Case investigation concludes that no deaths from a previously mentioned suspected acute diarrhoea outbreak in Alai (Bagh District) can be confirmed. Patients diagnosed with suspected acute diarrhoea are recovering and MSF reports that the situation is under control.
- A total of 170 cases of diarrhoea were reported from a spontaneously set up tent camp known as Old University in Muzaffarabad (1,500 estimated population). No water or sanitation facilities is available. WHO is organizing a collaborative response: Oxfam has provided water tanks; the Ministry of Health with support from WHO is sending a medical team to set up a rehydration treatment facility with the German NGO Humanity First; and UNICEF is assisting with water and sanitation measures.
- Two deaths from suspected meningitis have been reported from Muzaffarabad.
- Cases of acute jaundice syndrome have been reported from all affected districts. Laboratory confirmation on recently submitted samples from Muzaffarabad is pending.
- Several measles cases have been reported from Garhi Dopotta, Muzaffarabad and Sri Sachal, where vaccination teams have responded immediately. Merlin and MSF will be conducting measles vaccination in Bandi Saeed, Deevlian in Neelam Valley, after one case of measles was reported.

Figure 2: Percentage of main categorized diseases among patients under 5 and over 5 years old in Muzaffarabad between 29 October and 4 November 2005



Project 6: Environmental Health Response

Objectives: To improve the environmental health conditions of affected populations, and health facilities, and therefore reduce environment related diseases and deaths among the population. To provide technical advice, partnering on activities and strengthening the link between disease surveillance, focused environmental health interventions and outbreak prevention.

- To prevent further outbreaks of water-borne diseases in Chenari, a joint WHO/UNICEF mission is being carried out to assess the water supply in the area. Chlorine tablets, buckets and soap have been distributed.
- Rapid public health assessments in tent camps in Maira and Batagram reveal serious risks due to poor quality and insufficient, limited and insufficient number of latrines and poor environmental hygiene (4,200 total population of tent camps). An environmental health campaign focusing on the improvement of personal hygiene and a total clean up of the main tent camps is currently being carried out jointly between the Ministry of Health and WHO.
- A joint WHO, OCHA and UNEP Environmental Health assessment was carried out in Muzaffarabad city into Abbas Hospital (AIMS). Urgent action needs to be taken for proper excreta disposal and medical and solid waste management at AIMS hospital. The hospital has a normal bed capacity of 100 and has expanded to 375 due to the current overload of patients.
- WHO in close collaboration with the District Government of Rawalakot started refurbishing and rehabilitating all earthquake-affected water treatment plants, pumping stations and supply lines. A water chlorination system will be placed in Rawalakot in addition to necessary training activities to provide safe drinking water for a population of 150,000 within two weeks.

Project 7: Coordination, policy formulation and provision of mental health and psychosocial actions.

Objective: To provide access to emergency related mental health care all levels of care. To ensure interagency coordination and quality assurance in the area of mental health and psychological support.

- Three more mental health teams have been mobilized to Bagh, Rawalakot and Batagram, now totalling seven teams. The joint WHO and Ministry of Health teams provide psycho-social support to those patients that have been referred from the different health facilities. The teams also focus on the training of health staff in properly diagnosing patients with severe stress.
- Messages related to mental health will be widely disseminated through local radio stations transmitting throughout the affected areas as of tomorrow. The messages focus on the “normality” of stress reactions after experiencing severe loss in an earthquake situation, and Two Training of Trainers workshops are scheduled in the coming days in order to increase the number of community outreach teams.

WHO operations

Human resources

- A total of 170 staff are now working for WHO in Islamabad and the 6 field offices in the affected areas, of which 52 are internationals.

Logistics

- WHO has received sufficient supply of drugs for the month of November.

Donations to WHO

Reported donations as at 9 November 2005 against the WHO total requirement of US\$ 27,750,000. Donations to date currently meet 45.34% of WHO total requirements.

Donor	Funding intentions (in USD)	In-kind contributions (USD equiv.)	Purpose
Australia	1,899,696		
Australia	379,939		emergency health kits and their transportation & coordination of delivery
Canada	1,483,050		
Canada	423,729		
Denmark	487,013		
Ireland	121,065		
Italy	300,481		
Italy		351,000	kits - 12 Trauma A, 12 Trauma B, 15 New Emergency Health, 5 Diarrhoea Profile D and 5 Diarrhoea Profile F
Japan	1,000,000		vaccines and kits
Monaco	121,065		supplies
Norway	250,000		
Slovak Republic	126,622		
Sweden	1,928,020		
Switzerland	100,000		
Turkey	500,000		
UK/DFID	246,913		NEHK & trauma kits & transport

UK/DFID	864,197		disease control
USAID	2,000,000		
Private donations	178		
Total	12,231,968	351,000	