



South Asia Earthquake Health Situation Report # 21 8-12 November 2005

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

Highlights

- An outbreak of acute watery diarrhoea in Muzaffarabad has been rapidly controlled through immediate WHO action in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and other stakeholders.
- Shelter and water & sanitation remain the main priorities.
- The establishment of an effective rehydration treatment centre, clean drinking water provision and hygiene messages had immediate impact on the number of diarrhoea cases in Muzaffarabad, from 170 cases on 7 November to 20 cases on 12 November, with no related deaths.
- Population movement from higher areas into Batagram and Mansehra has been reported. UN agencies are conducting a crash course on camp management for Pakistani authorities to ensure appropriate living conditions for the increasing number of spontaneous settlements in populated areas.
- A total of 13 medical teams have been mobilized by the Ministry of Health and WHO to provide primary health care to affected populations in remote areas.
- After an intensive training course for 10 logisticians, the UN Logistics Support System (LSS) is now fully functional at the two WHO warehouses in Mansehra and Muzaffarabad as well as at the Ministry of Health pharmacy at Abbas Hospital (AIMS) in Muzaffarabad.
- WHO is providing essential health kits and appropriate training to more than 200 voluntary community health workers mobilized by the NGO NCHD to inaccessible areas.



Water tank at rehydration treatment centre in Muzaffarabad.

Source: Dr Hammam El Sakka, 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.

- In the earthquake affected zone there is a total of 44 basic health units (544 total bed capacity) providing primary health care services (PHC).
- WHO has coordinated recovery activities of the Tuberculosis Programme at 29 functional TB centres so far, of the 57 TB centres in total that were active before the earthquake. The TB centres also function as PHC units. All health facilities are requested to report any suspected TB case to TB tehsil or district focal points¹.

¹ For the list of functional TB centres and contact details of TB focal points see www.whopak.org/disaster.

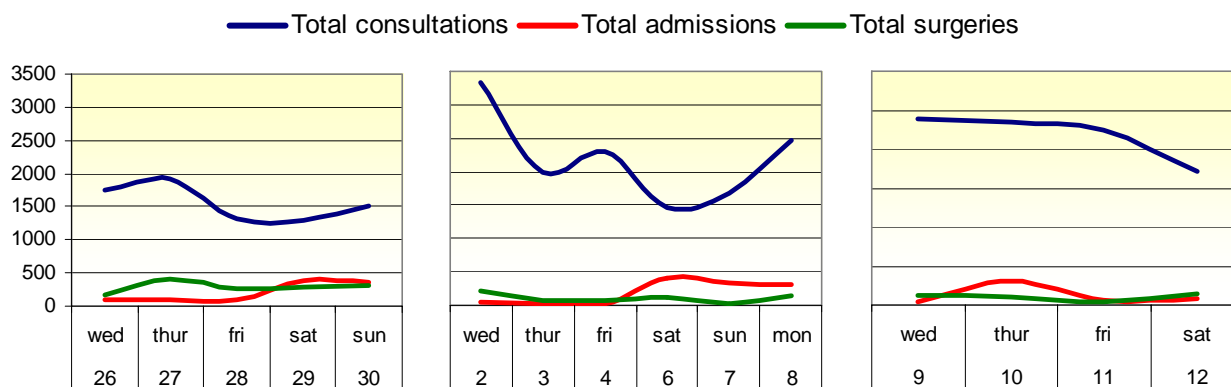
- WHO distributed 450 vials of diphtheria anti-toxin to field hospitals in Muzaffarabad with suspected diphtheria cases and to Rawalpindi and Islamabad hospitals as a precautionary measure.
- To date, a total of 314,185 children have been vaccinated against measles. A second phase of vaccination has been initiated in close collaboration between the Ministry of Health, WHO and UNICEF. It will include DPT and Td vaccines (against diphtheria and tetanus) and Haemophilus influenza vaccine type b (Hib). WHO is purchasing 500,000 doses of Td vaccine, in addition to 1 million doses purchased by UNICEF and 500,000 doses donated by the Government of Iran through WHO.
- The Ministry of Health in collaboration with WHO and UNICEF will conduct meningitis vaccination activities for children and adults in camps and other congested areas.
- National Immunization Days for Polio will be conducted from 22 to 24 November in the accessible areas only.

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.

- Presently 13 field hospitals registered according to WHO international guidelines are in place in the earthquake affected zone. These have a total capacity of 875 beds and 15 operating theatres.
- A total of 753 amputations and 454 patients with paraplegia and/or spinal injury have been reported so far. WHO is currently looking into ways to support the Ministry of Health with physiotherapy-based treatment for this large number of earthquake victims facing life-long disability. Volunteers have been trained to care for spinal injury patients.
- Figure 1 compares the trend in each week of the total number of consultations, admissions and surgeries at all Muzaffarabad hospitals, including field hospitals. The peak on Wednesday 2 November may be explained by the end of Ramadan Eid holidays. The increase in consultations, admissions and surgeries after 7 November may be due to the increasing number of survivors coming into Muzaffarabad from remote areas, settling into tent camps.

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



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.

- The MOH, WHO and UNICEF are jointly setting up temporary health units in priority areas. Locations will be identified soon.

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.

- Last week health coordination meetings were held in Islamabad, Muzaffarabad, Mansehra, Bagh, Balakot and Rawalakot. In Islamabad the meeting was co-chaired by WHO and the MOH. Attendees were mainly donors, international NGOs and UN agencies. The coordination meetings have generally focused on technical advice, information sharing, joint planning, and identifying and filling gaps to prevent duplication of efforts.

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.

- A suspected outbreak of acute diarrhoea in a spontaneous settlement at the Old University grounds in Muzaffarabad has been adequately prevented by the Ministry of Health. A rehydration treatment centre was erected by the Ministry and appropriate medical supplies were provided by WHO. Since the beginning of the alert, approximately 469 patients were given Oral Rehydration Salts. Of these, 34 severely dehydrated patients required IV rehydration in addition. No related deaths have been reported.
- A rapid outbreak response team in Batagram has conducted case investigation into several suspected acute diarrhoea cases in Tandol Village (10 km from Bana) and Ashadi (10 km from Batagram). Appropriate water quality measures will be taken accordingly, as well as hygiene promotion activities.
- Three cases of measles in Muzaffarabad have been laboratory confirmed by the National Institute for Health in Islamabad.
- Three to five patients suffering from severe dehydration are admitted daily at the ICRC rehydration facility in Chenari, a remote area in Muzaffarabad District. The total acute diarrhoea cases treated at this centre is 52. No deaths have occurred among treated patients. The Ministry of Health, WHO and ICRC have provided chlorine tablets, buckets and soap to Chenari and Kathama areas.
- One suspected case of typhoid was reported from Deolian. The patient was treated with chloramphenicol and recovered rapidly. No sample was available for laboratory testing.
- A 10 year old male patient with suspected hemorrhagic fever was transferred from Muzaffarabad to Islamabad. The case was confirmed negative.
- One case of suspected meningitis was reported at the MASH field hospital in Muzaffarabad. There is no apparent link with the earlier diagnosed suspected meningitis cases. A CSF sample has been transported to Islamabad for laboratory testing.
- WHO coordinated the supply of diphtheria anti-toxin to the NGO Doctors Worldwide in response to a suspected diphtheria case at Tariq Abad camp in Muzaffarabad.

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.

- Responding to the increased number of acute diarrhoea cases, the water and sanitation conditions have been improved adequately at the spontaneous settlement at the Old University grounds in Muzaffarabad. A second water tank was installed and is providing the camp population with sufficient safe drinking water. Sixteen new latrines are near completion, MSF distributed 300 hygiene kits and the Ministry of Health and WHO distributed education material in Urdu language on hygiene and prevention and management of diarrhoeal and water borne diseases. WHO is looking into ways to improve the disposal of medical and other solid waste material.

- Training of trainers on hygiene promotion continues, focusing on community mobilization and dissemination of hygiene messages. The training is organized in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health, WHO, UNICEF and the NGOs Oxfam and RWSSP.

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.

- The 9 mental health teams currently active in the earthquake affected areas report between 400-540 consultations per day, either through group counselling or individual consultations. The teams provide mental health support at the outpatient services of established health facilities or by visiting affected communities in the surrounding areas. Counselling and support to relief personnel and health professionals are also provided. Anxiety, depression, acute stress reactions and epilepsy (relapse) are the most common diagnoses.

WHO operations

Human resources

Location	International staff	Local staff
Islamabad	25*	26*
Bagh	4	1
Muzaffarabad	5	1
Balakot	4	-
Rawalakot	3	2
Mansehra	4	2

*Includes roaming staff to remote areas

Logistics

- LSS-trained Ministry of Health and locally recruited WHO staff will implement the system in warehouses in Bagh and Batagram and the Ministry of Health pharmaceutical warehouse in Islamabad.
- Supplies delivered during the last week are:
 - Muzaffarabad: 2 New Emergency Health Kits (NEHK) & 10 tents
 - Balakot: 4 ENHK, 22 tents,
 - Batagram: 1 Diarrhoea kit
 - Mansehra: 4 generators
 - UN OCHA: 1 NEHK

Donations to WHO

Reported donations as at 10 November 2005 against the WHO total requirement of US\$ 27,750,000.
Donations to date currently meet 45.35% 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		
United Kingdom	246,913		NEHK & trauma kits & transport
United Kingdom	864,197		disease control
USAID	2,000,000		
Private donations	678		
Total	12,232,468	351,000	