



**World Health
Organization**

منظمة
الصحة العالمية

South Asia Earthquake Situation Report # 7

14 October 2005

Highlights

- Estimated number of deaths has risen to 23,000.
- Survivors are facing many challenges from lack of adequate shelter to lack of water in addition to cold weather and insufficient provision of emergency care.
- The number of injured survivors in need of trauma care and surgery is very high.
- No reports of outbreaks so far, but many injured are presenting with complicated crush and wound infections.
- Due to limited accessibility, relief efforts are concentrated in urban areas.

Health impact

- Mobile teams are reporting infected wounds and gangrene as well as Acute Respiratory Infections, due to the weather becoming colder every day. There are still many injured being transported around the clock to hospitals in other provinces.
- Approximately 22 mobile hospitals and medical teams from abroad are offering services in affected areas, but the number of beds available is insufficient compared to the number of wounded. In the Panjkot valley, Merlin reported that an estimated 11,000-12,000 are awaiting surgery.
- Medical evacuation through airlifting is continuing. The Pakistan Institute for Medical Sciences (PIMS) has increased the number of beds with 300 for emergency cases.
- WHO assessment informs that the Abbas Institute of Medical Sciences (AIMS) in Muzaffarabad is a working hospital where the Turkish government has posted 14 doctors and 14 paramedics.
- Lack of clean drinking water in general remains a major issue and especially lack of clean water is hampering effective treatment of cases in the functioning hospitals. The transport of water bladders to the affected hospitals is a priority activity.
- In Muzaffarabad, water shortage seems not to be a problem for the time being, as springs are still widely available.
- The fact that people are not crowding together in camps, has reduced the likelihood of disease outbreaks until now. Due to fear of aftershocks, people have established provisional shelters near their homes. However people are not building latrines and thus water sources should be considered contaminated and unsafe.
- Lack of food in some areas where distributions are still erratic, or had not taken place, will definitely impact on health and the challenged immune system of the survivors.
- Reports from assessment missions and partners in the field are not all forthcoming due to communication problems with radio which is so far the only means.



Muzaffarabad, Pakistan, 5 days after the earthquake. 13 October 2005

WHO Response

- WHO is setting up a management system for medicines and medical supplies. Essential drug lists and donor guidelines are available and should be consulted by all donors.
- The teams in Muzaffarabad and Mansehra are undertaking an assessment of the hospitals and health facilities.
- Environmental health assessment is also proceeding.
- WHO will be disseminating health messages through local radio stations to convince the local population that dead bodies do not transmit diseases, as is still strongly believed.
- Reinforcement of WHO's teams from other countries in the Eastern Mediterranean region, such as Sudan and Iran, as well as from HQ and the regional offices in the Americas and the European region is expected in the next 48 hours.
- Coordination: Health agencies as well as individuals from all over the world are seeking advice from and relying on WHO for the coordination of health activities in the affected areas, such as the mobilization of emergency medical teams, field hospitals, etc.

Other UN agencies response

- UNHCR had been mandated by the government of Pakistan to set up shelters for the displaced population. A large logistical operation is expected to take place early next week for transport and delivery of necessary supplies to the affected population.
- UNICEF has Wat/San officers in Mansehra making a rapid assessment of the situation. Two shipments including water supply emergency materials have been dispatched from a UNICEF warehouse in Karachi.
- An FAO impact and assessment mission will be fielded as early as possible to the worst hit areas. The assessment mission will take approximately two weeks. The mission will examine the current food security situation and food production scenarios for the coming months. It will also undertake an initial review of the impact of the earthquake on livelihood systems and possible livelihood strategies adopted by the affected population.

Other agencies response

- USAID has donated 10 New Emergency Health Kits, to be distributed by WHO as soon as possible.
- Merlin is requesting to set up a field hospital in Panjkot valley. The Punjab medical school team, staffed with 7 surgeons and 4 paramedics already has a health facility in place, where an estimated 11-12,000 people are awaiting surgery.
- Doctors Worldwide has been treating 2100 patients in Muzaffarabad since last Monday. An assessment will be carried out in Dhanni today. On Saturday, Doctors Worldwide will send three doctors to two camps run by Muslim Hands in Rawalakot and Abbottabad, and another three doctors will be sent to a camp run by Muslim Aid in Balakot.
- International Federation of the Red Cross is supplying mass water and Emergency Response Units in Battagram and Balakot since last night. IFRC will be setting up a base camp in Mansehra and wishes to set up another field hospital. Also, IFRC will be distributing soon 5 New Emergency Health Kits. IFRC has deployed two teams for water and sanitation assessment. Two health units and two logistics units are already in place.
- Oxfam reports that a plane with water equipment and tents has been sent out.

Other Health Partners Response

- Several countries have dispatched medical personnel and humanitarian aid material.
- In addition to those mentioned in previous situation reports, Turkey has also dispatched relief teams and sent humanitarian supplies.

Urgent needs

- WHO is publishing an advertisement in the local news papers tomorrow to appeal for a large number of health professionals to be recruited, equipped and mobilized to join the mobile centers and hospitals and to support the EWARN.
- Winterized tents and blankets in large numbers are urgently required with the weather becoming colder every day.
- Mobile operation theatres are still needed.

Donations

- The British Government has donated USD 252,951 for WHO support to the disaster response.
- The Swiss Government has donated USD 100,000 for WHO support to the disaster response.
- The Norwegian Government has donated USD 250,000 for WHO support to the disaster response.
- The Principality of Monaco has donated EURO 100,000 for WHO support to the disaster response.
- The Government of Italy has donated EURO 250,000 for WHO support to the disaster response plus in-kind donation of 5 Trauma kits A, 5 Trauma kits B, 5 New Emergency Health Kits and transport.
- The Government of Australia has donated USD 1,899,696.
- The Government of Ireland has donated EURO 100,000 for WHO support to the disaster response.
- The Government of Sweden has donated USD 1,928,020 against the Flash Appeal.
- The Government of the United States has donated USD 2,000,000 against the Flash Appeal.
- The Government of Canada has donated CDN 1,750,000.