



South Asia Earthquake Health Situation Report # 15

22 October 2005

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

Highlights

- Helicopters are airlifting injured from areas not accessible by road.
- Tetanus and measles vaccination is scaling up.
- Field hospitals continue to receive many injured and a referral system has been strengthened.
- Clean water has been distributed to AIMS hospital and other health care facilities, in close collaboration with the Austrian army.
- A clean up campaign is taking place in Muzaffarabad.



Clean up campaign in Abbas Institute of Medical Sciences, Muzaffarabad, 20 October 2005.

Source: Osama Ali-Maher, WHO Pakistan

Health impact

- Reports from Mansehra estimate a total of 15,000 deaths and 6,000 injured.
- Of the 1,000 patients treated in the last 3 days at Mansehra Hospital, 70% of treatments were for injuries, 20% for Acute Respiratory Infections (ARI) and 10% were for Acute Watery Diarrhoea.
- Approximately 50% of the pre-existing water distribution network in Muzaffarabad is still functional and providing clean drinking water to the population. Ongoing enhancement work is being done to ensure the water distribution system is maintained. The population not served by the water system is receiving chlorinated water through mobile tanks provided by the Ministry of Health and NGOs.
- Transported by helicopter, the Ministry of Health / WHO medical teams are assisting in airlifting injured from otherwise inaccessible areas surrounding Muzaffarabad, to the Abbas Institute of Medical Sciences (AIMS).

Health response

Communicable Disease Control and Surveillance and Outbreak Response

- Immunization against measles and tetanus continues. The Ministry of Health mobilized 40 vaccinators from Rawalpindi district to Pakistan-administered Kashmir (Muzaffarabad, Bagh, Rawalakot) and will be strengthened with another 110 teams in the coming days.
- Due to measles cases in Mansehra, the Ministry of Health will increase their vaccination teams from 50 to 200. So far, more than 2,500 children from 6 months to 15 years of age were vaccinated against measles, while over 4,500 people received the tetanus vaccine.
- Guidelines for management of tetanus cases are available at www.whopak.org/disaster
- MSF is establishing a center for tetanus cases in Mansehra for referral of all tetanus patients from health facilities.
- The Turkish Red Crescent vaccinated 26,000 people against tetanus in the past few days. An additional 100,000 doses of tetanus, polio and measles vaccines will be supplied to the Ministry of Health.

Medical Care and referral systems

- UNFPA received 20,000 individual kits for clean home deliveries and obstetrics kits for 10,000 clinical deliveries. Kits for blood transfusion; management of complications of miscarriage; stabilization of pregnancy complications; and caesarean sections and resuscitation of mothers and babies were also received. The kits will be used by UNFPA's nine mobile service units and will be distributed to government and NGO partners providing primary and secondary health services.
- A Canadian Disaster and Response Team (DART) is providing potable water and primary care medical treatment for 250-300 patients a day in Gari Dupatta area. An additional 3 water purification units, producing roughly 150,000 litres of water per day, will be distributed to the rural areas surrounding Muzaffarabad, in collaboration with the Pakistan Army.
- The VHF communication system used for the referral and evacuation coordination system set up by WHO in Muzaffarabad is in operation. A field hospital installed by the US Navy 15 km from Muzaffarabad, will take part in the evacuation and triage system.
- A Ukrainian field hospital with 300 beds is providing medical care in Besham, Shangla District. Oxfam is also carrying out activities in Shangla.
- 9 Turkish military aircraft were dispatched and 6 more will come. These have transported medical staff and delivered tents, other shelter material, sleeping bags and medical supplies.

Environmental Health

- Water testing at AIMS Hospital conducted by the NGO Caritas, in coordination with WHO, shows the water quality is acceptable.
- The Municipality of Muzaffarabad in close collaboration with the NGO Oxfam and WHO initiated a clean up campaign for the city of Muzaffarabad, focusing as a priority on AIMS Hospital and other health facilities.

Urgent needs

- With a narrowing window of opportunity to save those injured and sick in inaccessible areas, a minimum of 2 helicopters dedicated for health interventions is urgently needed.
- Cold weather has set in and more tents and blankets are needed in every area.
- Priority is to equip and dispatch more medical teams that include female health professionals.
- Ensuring communication equipment for surveillance teams and for sentinel sites is also a priority.
- The Government of Pakistan has requested urgent supply of haemaccel infusions and portable x-ray machines.

Donations

Previously reported donations

Donor	Funding intentions (in USD)	In-kind contributions
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	
Total	10,819,335	

* New Emergency Health Kits