



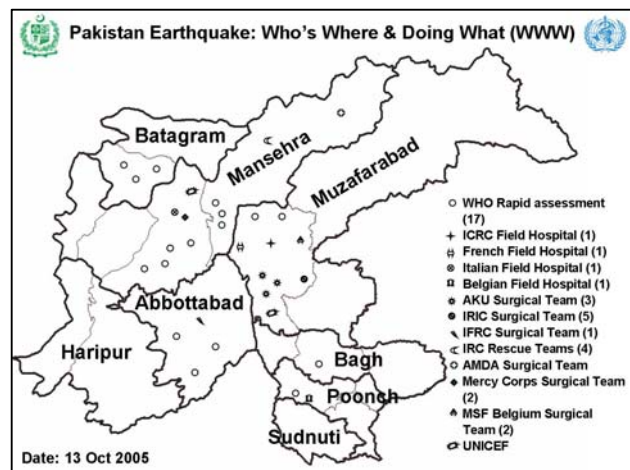
South Asia Earthquake Situation Report # 6

13 October 2005

WHO is inventorying and mapping the large number of institutions mobilizing and setting up field hospitals, trauma teams, and Primary Health Care facilities in the earthquake affected areas. Information can be sent to health@whopak.org, and the following contact numbers can be used for queries or information sharing: +92 300 50 10 635 and +92 51 9263240.

Highlights

- Access to health services has started to improve. Consultations are mainly trauma and Acute Respiratory Infections.
- No epidemic outbreaks have been detected so far, but measles vaccination remains a priority.
- Lack of safe drinking water remains a problem.
- Search and rescue activities are still ongoing.
- Weather conditions are becoming cold, rainy, and even snowy, especially at night.
- A Representative of the Director General for Health Action in Crises, Dr. Ala'din Alwan, is visiting the affected region with the UN Emergency-Relief Coordinator, Mr. Jan Egeland, today.



Health impact

- The number of patients treated is vastly increasing as the earthquake victims from remote areas reach the field hospitals.
- In addition to the already operational field hospitals and surgical teams (see map), federal hospitals in less affected areas have been offering referral support to all serious cases, facilitated by medical evacuation through air lifting.
- Several major health facilities (the Abbassi Institute of Medical Sciences (AIMS) and some Rural Health Centres in Muzaffarabad) have been rehabilitated and are reinitiating their services.
- In Muzaffarabad, the stadium is used for initial medical care of evacuees. There is concern about the availability of medicines for chronic diseases but these can be purchased locally. The local manufacturing industry is prepared to double production of urgently needed items. Insulin should be provided from abroad.
- Many partners, e.g. ICRC, IFRC, MDM, MSF Belgium, Holland and France, USAID, AMDA, IRC and Merlin are preparing to provide primary care.
- Shortage of ambulances required for transportation to referral centres.
- Shortage of skilled human resources has been reported, including doctors and paramedical staff.
- Measles vaccinations remain a priority (coverage has been reported as low as 60%). The problem in the cold chain equipment is partially solved thanks to UNHCR.
- Due to lack of electricity, water cannot be pumped out of wells, hence water supply in hospitals is becoming scarce.
- Safe drinking water is still a major problem in many areas.
- Due to damaged blood banks and laboratories, safe blood transfusion cannot be guaranteed.

WHO Response

- 4 new emergency health kits and 2 trauma kits donated by WHO Iran have arrived and have been dispatched for distribution.
- All medicines supplied should be according to the WHO and national list of Essential Medicines. All medical supplies donated need to follow WHO guidelines.
- An Early Warning and Response Surveillance system will be set up, starting in Muzaffarabad to where the WHO surveillance experts have travelled today.
- The WHO environmental health experts, who are travelling from Mansehra to Muzaffarabad on an assessment mission, are raising their concern about the need to ensure mobile water purification plants in order to solve the water shortage.

Other UN agencies response

- UNAIDS donated 200 units of blood in refrigerated containers along with blood bank technicians.
- UNICEF:
 - Participating in the joint UN mission teams in the affected areas. UNICEF is in the process of establishing field offices in Muzaffarabad and now has an operational base in Mansehra.
 - A measles campaign was planned for December in 6 districts and efforts could be redirected to the affected areas. Vitamin A will be included. There is adequate measles vaccine stock with 2 million doses in store for routine immunization; an additional 2.5 million doses due to arrive this month and 1.4 million to arrive in November. Central vaccine stores have not been damaged.
 - 8 emergency health kits arrived from Punjab: 4 will remain in Mansehra, 2 will be sent to nearby villages and 2 to Batacram.
 - Water and sanitation activities include procurement of pumps, generators and chlorine powder. UNICEF and Pakistan Council on Research on Water Resources are working together on water quality monitoring and water quality control in the affected areas. 10 teams left Islamabad today to work in 4 centres in affected areas. UNICEF is discussing with Islamic Relief UK to repair Muzaffarabad water system which was almost completely destroyed.
- UNFPA :
 - Donated Rs 2.2 million (approximately USD 40,000) for orthopaedic supplies to be used in rural health centers.
 - Two mobile Maternal Child Care units were set up in Muzaffarabad and Mansehra, as well as one Obstetrics and Gynaecology unit at the AIMS. These clinics are offering services within Muzaffarabad while waiting for roads to open up to Neelum valley and Garhi Dupata.
 - One more mobile Maternal and Child Health unit has reached Mansehra and is being deployed at RHC CHOKI where there is an LHV.
 - OBGYN services have been restored at AIMS hospital Muzaffarabad and have started deliveries
 - 4 more mobile units are on the way to these areas.
 - Reproductive Health Kits are being ordered for a population of 1,000,000.
 - A second tranche of 150 tents sent by UNFPA CO has been received in EDO(H) office, Mansehra. These tents will be used as field health facilities and store rooms for supplies. 10 tents have been sent to RHC Balakot to establish field health facility, where the health infrastructure was completely destroyed.
 - First tranche of orthopaedic equipment amounting to \$37,536 has been procured by UNFPA CO and should arrive in UNFPA DPO Mansehra on 12th of October. The second tranche of equipment will be dispatched soon.
 - UNFPA is working to establish several field health facilities. The office in Muzafargarh is coordinating with other stakeholders to establish a field health facility in AIMS hospital. One field health facility has been established in collaboration with MoH and Pakistan Medical Association. Army and French team are working to establish a field health facility in a combined military hospital, Muzaffarabad.
 - UNFPA is collaborating with District Health Office to establish a field health facility in Garhi Dopatta where the road is now open.

- 250 tents have been sent by UNFPA CO to Muzaffarabad. A truckload of emergency medicines, equipment and supplies has reached Muzaffarabad. A truck containing generators, emergency lights, petrol, water and food items has also reached Muzaffarabad.

Non UN Health partners response

- The German Red Cross is carrying out blood donations in Islamabad to ensure sufficient quantities of safe blood.
- ICRC has set up a triage post where basic lifesaving surgery is being carried out. (see map)
- Trauma teams and medical teams have been mobilized to the affected areas by Aga Khan, IFRC, ICRC, MDM France, the International Rescue Committee, AMDA, Concern, Islamic Relief, the French government, Merlin, Mercy Corps, and MSF Belgium. (see map)
- USAID donated \$100,000, as well as sheets and tents. The USAID Disaster Response Team, (DART) has arrived in Islamabad.
- CMDO has been treating 700 patients of head injuries at the hospital in Bisham. A team of 35 doctors and paramedics is searching for earthquake victims that have not yet been reached.
- Aga Khan Health Services Pakistan (AKHSP) treated 300 traumatic patients and 2 pregnant ladies. AKHSP will send 2 additional teams to Muzaffarabad.
- The Japanese Embassy has sent a 21-member medical team to Battagram, North West Frontier Province. A 29-member rescue team is ready to be mobilized.
- International Medical Corps is mobilizing three medical teams and is focusing its actions in Balakot, where a higher number of patients have been reported.
- The German Red Cross is carrying out blood donations in Islamabad to ensure sufficient quantities of safe blood.
- ICRC has set up a triage post where basic lifesaving surgery is being carried out.
- MSF Holland has a psychological support team active in the affected region.
- The American Refugee Committee is treating 150 patients daily.

Urgent needs

- WHO is urgently appealing for a large number of national public health officers to scale up all health activities in the earthquake affected areas. A national campaign will be published for this purpose. The need for skilled personnel has been identified by all other agencies.
- An urgent need for tents and blankets has been reported. In spite of the cold and wet nights, people do not feel comfortable sleeping inside any building.
- Several NGOs have reported problems with transportation, warehouse, storage and assistance with cold chain.
- Mobile operation theatres are needed in Balakot and other affected areas.
- There is a specific need for female doctors.
- A request was received to urgently procure one million doses of Tetanus Toxoid Vaccine and half a million doses of the Tetanus Immunoglobulin.

Donations

- The British Government has donated USD 252,000 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.