

EARTHQUAKE 08 October 2005

PAKISTAN

INDIA

AFGHANISTAN

Overview of events as of 8th October

General Overview - Pakistan

- A powerful earthquake (7.6 on the Richter scale) struck northeast of Islamabad, Pakistani Kashmir, near the Indian border, just before 0900hrs local time. The affected area comprises forest-clad mountains about 92 km. from the border. The first quake was followed by a series of aftershocks of magnitudes between 5.4 and 5.9.
- The areas affected in Pakistan include a number of districts in NWFP, Punjab, and AJK where a number of villages have been reported destroyed
- Cities affected are : Islamabad, Muzaffarabad (Kashmir) and Rawalpindi,
- Several buildings in residential areas have collapsed in Islamabad and a significant number of people are feared to be trapped in the rubble.
- Initial reports indicate significant damage to buildings in the disaster area; high mortalities and casualties are expected. Pakistani authorities have indicated the death toll could run into thousands.
- Significant military and civilian resources have been deployed by the Pakistani authorities to provide search and rescue measures.

General Overview - India

- In India, the worst hit have been the towns of Baramullah and Uri in Kashmir. Over 50% of the houses in Uri have been reportedly been damaged after a fire broke out following a short circuit.
- There are also reports of severe damage in the Tangdhar, Keran, Machil and Gurez areas near the Line of Control.

GENERAL Overview - Afghanistan

- Cities of Lahore and Jalal Abad are affected. However damages seem to be less extended than in Pakistan.

Immediate Health concerns

- Lacking detailed assessment, the immediate potential health concerns are related to high mortality resulting from trauma, asphyxia, dust inhalation (acute distress), or exposure to the environment (i.e. hypothermia). Burns and electroshocks have also been observed.
- Surgical needs are usually important the first weeks.
- Major Public Health concerns are water-borne diseases as a result of massive damage to water and sewage systems.
- Damage to health facilities can lead to disruption in basic health services.
- Continued power outages can lead to disruption in the cold chain system, damaging stocks of vaccines and specific medicines.
- Ensuring that hospitals and health facilities are operational have the necessary equipment and supplies to deal with the wounded

WHO Actions:

- 2 New Emergency Health kits (NEHK) (each kit is designed to cover the health needs of 10 000 people for three months) have been released from the WHO office warehouse in the Islamic Republic of Iran. An additional 4 NEHK kits and 8 Trauma kits (each kits cover the need for 100 surgical interventions) will be quickly mobilized by WHO from the UN warehouse in Brindisi, Italy.
- WHO has mobilized and placed on standby Emergency Public Health Professionals to the dispatched affected areas
- WHO experts are also included in the UNDAC mission.
- The WHO Representative has requested financial support and is coordinating with the Ministry of Health and United Nations agencies to streamline humanitarian assistance to affected areas.
- Operational rooms have been activated at the WHO HQ, the Regional Office (EMRO) and in Islamabad to monitor the situation
- The WHO Representative has been authorized to provide immediate financial support for urgently needed supplies.
- WHO experts will participate in UN inter-agency missions to NWFP and AJK tomorrow to aid in relief and assessment efforts