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**U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**  
BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)  
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)

## South Asia – Earthquake

Fact Sheet #5, Fiscal Year (FY) 2006

October 12, 2005

### BACKGROUND

- A magnitude 7.6 earthquake struck Pakistan, India, and Afghanistan, on October 8, 2005, at 8:50 a.m. local time, according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). The epicenter of the earthquake was located near Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistani Kashmir, and approximately 60 miles north-northeast of the national capital, Islamabad.
- Aftershocks continue in the affected areas. The delivery of humanitarian assistance is constricted by the mountainous area, cold weather, and damaged or collapsed infrastructure. The most affected areas are the North West Frontier Province (NWFP), Northern Punjab, and Pakistani Kashmir in Pakistan, and Indian Kashmir in India.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE <sup>1</sup>		SOURCE
<b>Pakistan</b>	23,000-40,000 dead / 50,000 injured	Government of Pakistan – October 12
<b>India</b>	1,300 dead / 4,500 injured	Government of India – October 12
<b>Total Affected Population</b>	4 million affected / 1 million in need of immediate assistance	U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) – October 11

**U.S. Government (USG) Humanitarian Assistance Pledged ..... up to \$50,000,000**  
**USAID/OFDA Humanitarian Assistance Committed to Pakistan ..... \$10,886,241**  
**USAID/OFDA Humanitarian Assistance Committed to India ..... \$100,000**  
**Total USG Humanitarian Assistance Committed to South Asia ..... \$10,986,241**

### CURRENT SITUATION

#### *Pakistan*

- On October 11, severe weather hindered humanitarian efforts by temporarily grounding relief flights out of Islamabad. Roads to Balakot, located near the epicenter of the earthquake, are reportedly open and flights resumed on October 12.
- Looting of relief trucks has slowed the delivery of assistance to the most vulnerable populations. However, according to the U.N. Security Officer, the security situation is generally stable. According to the U.N., looting is occurring in isolated areas, driven by desperation. The Pakistani military is increasing troop strength in the affected areas to promote a safe and secure environment.
- Increasingly cold temperatures are of particular concern for the millions in need of shelter and assistance. According to OCHA, the immediate needs in Muzaffarabad (one of the most affected areas), are water, blankets, and 15,000 winterized tents for the city and 116,000 tents for rural areas. The Government of Pakistan has appealed for 200,000 tents in addition to blankets, medicine, emergency food assistance, water purification kits and tablets, field hospitals, and mobile health clinics.
- The U.N. has adopted a cluster approach in an effort to coordinate the humanitarian response. The lead agencies in each major sector are the U.N. Children’s Fund (UNICEF) for nutrition, the World Health Organization (WHO) for health and telecommunications, UNICEF for water and sanitation, the World Food Program (WFP) for logistics, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) for emergency shelter, the U.N. Development Program (UNDP) for reconstruction, and the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for protection and camp management.
- The Government of Pakistan has identified five staging areas for the relief operation: Muzaffarabad, Balakot, Rawalakot, Bagh, and Manshera.

#### *India*

- There are 1,300 confirmed deaths in Indian Kashmir resulting from the earthquake. Up to 5,000 people are reportedly injured. According to the Government of India (GOI), the earthquake destroyed 32,000 homes.
- On October 12, Indian army troops accessed previously inaccessible areas in Jammu and Indian-Kashmir. According to the GOI, military personnel have reached 90 percent of formerly inaccessible areas in Uri and Tangdhar to assist rescue and relief efforts. However, many other remote villages have yet to be contacted or reached.
- The GOI has not issued an appeal for international assistance.

<sup>1</sup> These figures are preliminary.

## USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

### *Pakistan*

- In response to the U.N. Flash Appeal, USAID/OFDA has provided \$9.3 million in funding to date. USAID/OFDA funds will support the following U.N. agencies and activities:
  - The International Organization for Migration (IOM) — Movement of supplies to affected populations and movement of those populations to safe areas.
  - WHO — Assessment of the health sector to ensure that immediate health needs are met and critical gaps in the response are identified; support for the Ministry of Health and local authorities in coordinating the health response; and support for critical public health initiatives including communicable disease surveillance, detection, and response, as well as access and availability of secondary and tertiary health care.
  - UNICEF — Provision of safe drinking water and access to sanitation facilities to affected populations.
  - WFP — Support for a Humanitarian Air Service for essential relief cargo and passenger service.
  - WFP — Support for a Joint Logistics Center that will solicit and prioritize requirements for air transportation through a Strategic Coordination Cell, conduct infrastructure assessments, collate and disseminate logistics information.
- A USAID airlift of 10 WHO emergency health kits is scheduled to arrive in Islamabad on October 14. The 10 kits contain sufficient medical supplies to treat 100,000 people for 3 months. The total value of the kits, including transport, is approximately \$122,500.
- On October 10, a USAID airlift of relief commodities arrived in Islamabad, carrying 250 rolls of plastic sheeting—sufficient for approximately 2,500 families—5,000 blankets, and 5,000 water containers. The commodities are consigned through USAID/Pakistan to Save the Children for distribution to affected populations in Mansehra and Batagram Districts. The total value of the commodities, including transport, is approximately \$170,000.
- A nine-person Disaster Assistance Response Team (USAID/DART) deployed to Pakistan on October 10. The team includes a team leader, two operations specialists, two medical experts, a military liaison officer, an information officer, an administrative officer, and a communications officer. The mission of the USAID/DART is to assess humanitarian needs, assist with targeting and coordination of USG assistance in conjunction with USAID/Pakistan, and provide technical assistance as required.
- The U.S. Department of Defense has dispatched eight military helicopters to assist in delivering relief to isolated areas in northern Pakistan and Pakistani Kashmir. The military helicopters transported 16 tons of relief supplies and evacuated 102 casualties to Islamabad as of October 12. Four additional helicopters are due to arrive in the area by October 14. U.S. military cargo aircraft continue to deliver relief supplies, including food, water, medicine, blankets, plastic sheeting, to affected areas.
- A Contingency Response Group (CRG) from McGuire Air Force Base, New Jersey, arrived in Islamabad on October 10. The CRG will conduct an initial airfield capability assessment and establish the conditions necessary to receive U.S. military aircraft carrying humanitarian assistance.
- On October 9, the IFRC issued a Preliminary Emergency Appeal for \$8.4 million. USAID/OFDA provided \$1 million through the American Red Cross to support relief efforts identified in the appeal.
- On October 8, 2005, U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan Ryan C. Crocker declared a disaster due to the magnitude of damage caused by the earthquake. On October 8, USAID/OFDA provided an immediate \$100,000 through USAID/Pakistan for emergency relief supplies to meet the immediate needs of those affected by the earthquake.

### *India*

- A USAID/OFDA Regional Advisor is in India to assist USAID/India to conduct damage assessments, identify needs, and make recommendations regarding any additional assistance.
- On October 10, U.S. Ambassador to India David C. Mulford issued a disaster declaration due to the effects of the October 8 earthquake across northern India. In response, USAID/OFDA is providing \$100,000 through USAID/India to help meet the immediate humanitarian needs of the earthquake victims, \$50,000 of which will be provided to the Indian Prime Minister's Relief Fund and \$50,000 to support emergency relief activities.

## U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO PAKISTAN

USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE <sup>1</sup>			
American Red Cross	IFRC Preliminary Emergency Appeal	Affected Areas	\$1,000,000
IOM	Delivery of relief supplies and transport of displaced populations to safe areas	Affected Areas	\$1,500,000
USAID/Pakistan	Emergency relief supplies	Affected Areas	\$100,000
UNICEF	Water and Sanitation	Affected Areas	\$2,000,000
WHO	Health	Affected Areas	\$2,000,000
WFP	Joint Logistics Center	Affected Areas	\$300,000
WFP	Humanitarian Air Operations	Affected Areas	\$3,500,000
	WHO Emergency Health Kits	Affected Areas	\$52,511
	Emergency relief supplies (Distributed by Save the Children)	Affected Areas	\$111,750
	Airlifts of emergency relief supplies		\$126,980
	Administrative support		\$195,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO PAKISTAN</b>			<b>\$10,886,241</b>

<sup>1</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents amounts committed or already provided as of October 12, 2005.

## U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO INDIA

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>2</sup></b>			
Prime Minister's Relief Fund	Emergency relief activities	Affected Areas	\$50,000
USAID/India	Emergency relief activities	Affected Areas	\$50,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO INDIA</b>			<b>\$100,000</b>

<sup>2</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents amounts committed or already provided as of October 12, 2005.

## PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. Information on identifying such organizations is available in the “How Can I Help” section of [www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov) – Keyword: South Asia Earthquake, or by calling The Center for International Disaster Information (CIDI) at 703-276-1914.
- USAID encourages cash donations because they: allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, warehouse space, etc); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information on making donations and volunteering can be found at:
  - USAID: [www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov) – Keyword: Donations