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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 #7, Fiscal Year (FY) 2006

October 14, 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 ¹		SOURCE
Pakistan	25,000 dead* / 52,000 injured	Government of Pakistan – October 14
India	1,300 dead / 4,500 injured 1,200 missing	Government of India – October 13 International Media – October 14
Total Affected Population	4 million affected / 1 million in need of immediate assistance	U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) – October 13

*This is the official number of casualties. The unofficial estimate of the number of casualties is 40,000.

U.S. Government (USG) Humanitarian Assistance Pledgedup to \$50,000,000
USAID/OFDA Humanitarian Assistance Committed to Pakistan..... \$14,301,491
USAID/OFDA Humanitarian Assistance Committed to India..... \$100,000
Total USG Humanitarian Assistance Committed to South Asia..... \$14,401,491

CURRENT SITUATION

Pakistan

- According to USAID/Pakistan, rescue workers have now reached most inaccessible areas in NWFP. However, according to local officials, approximately 500 villages in five affected districts of the province remain inaccessible due to severed road links. Delays in the delivery of assistance have forced many villagers to leave destroyed villages on foot, and hundreds of thousands of people are reportedly seeking assistance in Balakot. According to OCHA, relief items are being delivered without adequate organization or security on the ground.
- According to the USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (USAID/DART), military authorities have called off all search and rescue operations in Muzaffarabad. International search and rescue teams are being sent home.
- According to the Government of Pakistan (GOP), the earthquake destroyed more than 200,000 homes. Due to the cold weather, the GOP has prioritized shelter as the most pressing need. The GOP plans to construct tent villages to house the displaced. Due to high demand and resulting market shortage, the GOP plans to import 100,000 tents and 2 million blankets to provide immediate shelter to those affected by the disaster.
- On October 14, the USAID/DART visited the airport in Muzaffarabad and passed a camp on the road. Of the 600 people in the camp, only 50 to 60 are in tents and the rest are sleeping on the ground. The airport receives four to five C-130 airdrops of food, medical supplies, blankets, and water per day. However, no tents are being delivered.
- A 100-bed hospital run by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and located in the new stadium will be operational on October 18. The hospital will have a heavy surgical capability, as well as primary care, OB/GYN, and pediatrics.
- The Pakistani Air Force Hospital at the airport in Muzaffarabad opened on October 11. Since that time, hospital staff have treated between 300 and 350 patients per day. There are very few in-patients, and most of the treated return to their homes or camps. The USAID/DART was told by a doctor at the hospital that tents are the priority need.
- According to OCHA, a measles campaign has been initiated for children up to 15 years of age in the earthquake-affected area. Several trauma teams and primary health facilities have been set up by the International Federation of Red Cross And Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the Agha Khan Foundation, Médecins du Monde (MDM)-France, the Association of Medical Doctors of Asia (AMDA), Concern, Mercy Corps, and Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)-Belgium. The U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) has dispatched four trucks with medical supplies, including 11 generators, for health facilities in Mansehra and Muzaffarabad.

¹ These figures are preliminary estimates.

India

- According to local authorities in Indian-Kashmir, approximately 150,000 people are homeless following the earthquake. The government panel managing relief operations in Jammu and Kashmir State plan to construct 20 large halls to house the displaced.
- Six remote villages in Kupwara have not yet been reached by relief teams. Approximately 1,200 people remain missing. According to OCHA, weather conditions in the affected area have worsened, and temperatures in the quake-affected areas in Uri and Tangdhar have dropped.
- The Government of India has not appealed for international assistance, and has announced a national relief package of \$116 million in addition to the \$31.6 million already allocated for earthquake assistance.

U.N. Appeal

- To date, the U.N. has received \$165 million in pledges towards the Flash Appeal for \$272 million, according to OCHA. Of this, \$28 million had been committed.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Pakistan

- A nine-person 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. As of October 13, three members of the USAID/DART are in Muzaffarabad, which will serve as the logistical hub for relief efforts. On October 14, the USAID/DART Structural Specialist deployed to Mansehra, NWFP, with the U.S. Military and U.S. Embassy/Pakistan officials to conduct structural assessments.
- In response to the U.N. Flash Appeal, USAID/OFDA has provided \$10.8 million in funding to support transitional shelter programs, health, water and sanitation, a humanitarian air service, logistical coordination, and the movement of supplies to affected populations and movement of those populations to safe areas.
- On October 13, USAID/OFDA provided \$500,000 to ICRC to support the distribution of emergency relief supplies to affected populations.
- A USAID airlift of 10 WHO emergency health kits is scheduled to arrive in Islamabad on October 15. The 10 kits contain sufficient medical supplies to treat 100,000 people for 3 months.
- On October 14, a USAID airlift of relief commodities arrived in Islamabad, carrying 250 rolls of plastic sheeting—sufficient for approximately 2,500 families—5,000 blankets, 5,000 water containers, 8 water bladders. In addition, a flight containing 2 mobile water purification units is scheduled to arrive on October 15. The total value of these commodities, including transport, is approximately \$282,000.
- 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.
- On October 9, the IFRC issued a Preliminary Emergency Appeal for \$8.4 million. USAID/OFDA has provided \$2 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.
- The U.S. Department of Defense continues to support emergency relief efforts in Pakistan as part of the coordinated USG humanitarian response. On October 13, ten U.S. military aircraft flew 61 sorties transporting 192,680 lbs of supplies and evacuating 735 people to Islamabad. The U.S. plans to utilize as many as 40 helicopters in support of the humanitarian operation. Thirteen helicopters are already in Pakistan, two more are en route, and 25 more have been identified for deployment to Pakistan.
- 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.

India

- A USAID/OFDA Regional Advisor is currently in Srinagar to assess the affected areas.
- 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

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
American Red Cross	IFRC Preliminary Emergency Appeal	Affected Areas	\$2,000,000
ICRC	Delivery of relief supplies	Affected Areas	\$500,000
IOM	Delivery of relief supplies and transport of displaced populations to safe areas	Affected Areas	\$3,000,000
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
	Emergency relief supplies	Affected Areas	\$223,750
	Airlifts of emergency relief supplies		\$169,480
	Administrative support		\$344,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO PAKISTAN			\$14,301,491

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents amounts committed or already provided as of October 14, 2005.

U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO INDIA

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE²			
Prime Minister's Relief Fund	Emergency relief activities	Affected Areas	\$50,000
USAID/India	Emergency relief activities	Affected Areas	\$50,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO INDIA			\$100,000

² USAID/OFDA funding represents amounts committed or already provided as of October 14, 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 – 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 can be found at:
 - USAID: www.usaid.gov – Keyword: Donations
 - The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or (703) 276-1914
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int