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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 #8, Fiscal Year (FY) 2006

October 15, 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	38,000 dead 65,000 injured 2.5 million homeless	Government of Pakistan – October 15 U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) – October 15
India	1,300 dead 7,000 injured 150,000 homeless	Government of India – October 13 U.N. Development Program (UNDP) – October 15 Government of India – October 14

U.S. Government (USG) Humanitarian Assistance Pledged up 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

- One week after the earthquake, the focus of efforts has shifted from search and rescue to providing urgent assistance to the affected population. Relief teams are now reaching all the affected areas in Mansehra, Battagram, Abbottabad, Kohistan, and Shangla. According to the U.N., most major roads to the affected areas are passable, but are heavily congested with relief convoys.
- The U.N. Emergency Relief Coordinator has warned that additional helicopters will be needed as winter conditions cut off road access to remote mountain villages. According to the U.N., only 30 percent of the approximately 900 outlying villages are currently accessible by road. At present, there are approximately 55 helicopters (both Pakistani and from international donors) operating out of Islamabad, according to OCHA.
- Heavy rains have interrupted relief efforts, especially air operations. Some desperation-driven looting of humanitarian trucks continues, and relief supplies are being offloaded without organized distributions.
- NATO is transporting a base camp, donated by the Swedish Government, to allow the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) to establish a headquarters for food distributions in Muzaffarabad. WFP has expanded distributions of high energy biscuits to mountain villages and plans to expand its fleet to 14 helicopters to support the relief operation. Four WFP helicopters are currently in Pakistan.
- According to the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO), approximately 22 mobile hospitals and international medical teams are operational in the affected areas. More field hospitals are planned. According to the OCHA, 13,000 of the estimated 65,000 injured people have been evacuated to Islamabad for emergency treatment.
- The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) had been mandated by the Government of Pakistan to set up shelters for the displaced. Tents continue to be cited as the most urgent need, and international organizations are placing orders for large quantities of tents from manufacturers. Oxfam alone has ordered 20,000 tents. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has reportedly distributed 15,000 tents to date and has 67,000 more in the pipeline.

India

- More than 40 major aftershocks (magnitudes above 5.0) have occurred in Indian-Kashmir, according to OCHA.
- The Indian army is attempting to restore links with remote villages in the most affected areas.

¹ These figures are the best available estimates.

- To meet the immediate shelter needs of the affected population, the local administration has mobilized approximately 6,000 tents, according to UNDP.
- 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.

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.
- 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.
- To date, USAID has delivered emergency relief commodities to Pakistan in three airlifts.
 - On October 15, a USAID airlift of 10 WHO emergency health kits arrived 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 has been in India since October 11 assisting USAID/India with damage and needs assessments and making recommendations regarding any additional USG 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

<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 15, 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 15, 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