



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

South Asia Earthquake

December 30, 2005 - Update



Photo: Greg Allgood

Two young girls in Balakot wash their hands.

CLEAN DRINKING WATER PROVIDED TO ADDITIONAL EARTHQUAKE SURVIVORS

USAID is distributing PUR, a point-of-use water purification product, to people in refugee camps near Balakot, Muzaffarabad and Mansehra. Plans to distribute five million additional sachets in more remote areas are underway.

PUR sachets contain powder that remove pathogens and cause particles to settle to the bottom of the container when mixed with water. Treatment approaches like PUR have shown reductions of 30-50% in diarrhea disease, with even higher reductions during water-borne epidemics. Local government staff will be trained in the proper use of the PUR sachets, so they can assist in the distribution and teach earthquake survivors how to use the product.

This safe drinking water is provided through a public-private partnership between Proctor & Gamble and USAID. Proctor & Gamble donated the PUR sachets, while USAID has matched their contributions with the buckets and cloths that are needed to prepare the solution.

U.S. Agency for International Development
www.usaid.gov

DISTRIBUTING QUILTS PROVES CHALLENGING

“For 20 agonizing days we stayed in a hut made of maize sticks..., but it was ruined the first time it rained after the earthquake,” said Zahir Shah, a 36-year-old father who lost his home in Battagram Tehsil in Village Kandar. “We were literally dying when [USAID] approached us and distributed the tent and quilts. My children were suffering from breathing problems, cough, cold and fever all stemming from exposure to winter in the days after the earthquake. Words fail me in expressing my gratitude...for protecting my children against the harsh climate and helping our family to survive.”

Where possible, USAID distributes quilts instead of blankets because quilts are warmer. However transporting quilts can be challenging. Helicopter pilots said the quilts were too light for their size, requiring excessive fuel for transport, and fell out when tightly packed. To get quilts to those who need them, families coming for supplies are organized into groups with one representative responsible for the quilts. Almost 69,000 quilts have been distributed. The goal is to provide enough materials for families to prepare one warm room to escape the cold.



This cartoon by Akhtar Shah, appeared in the November 29, 2005 edition of The International News, a Pakistani newspaper.



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Earthquake Update Continued

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Photo: USAID

USAID provides plastic sheeting for the latrines in the Mehra camp in Pakistan.

NEW LATRINES HELP FAMILIES MAINTAIN SANITARY CONDITIONS

In the Siran and Konch valleys, in the Mansehra district of the Northwest Frontier Province, USAID constructs latrines for those living in tent communities. For those who remain in or near their damaged homes, USAID provides assistance in rebuilding household latrines. Latrines are an important step towards improving sanitation and combating the potential spread of diseases.

The concrete slabs that form the base of the latrine are cast in three pieces, a new design that ensures they are light enough to be carried into remote villages. The pieces are fitted together on site and are built to standards that ensure water sources are not contaminated. Cash-for-work programs pay for the digging of the latrine pits, which pumps money into the economy while improving sanitation.

Forty-seven out of the 100 latrines planned for Konch Valley have been built in Hillkot, Saeedabad and Malukra.

FAST FACTS:

Government of Pakistan estimates:

Death toll: 73,338
Injured: 69,412
Homeless: 2.8 million

Government of India estimates :

Death toll: 1,309
Injured: 6,622
Homeless: 150,000

U.S. Assistance as of December 30, 2005:

Total U.S. Government Humanitarian and Reconstruction Assistance Pledged: \$510,000,000

- \$300 million in economic assistance
- \$110 million in U.S. military in-kind support for relief operations
- at least \$100 million anticipated from U.S. private contributions

USAID has provided more than \$66.5 million in humanitarian assistance, including 24 flights carrying relief supplies to Pakistan and more than \$600,000 in assistance to India.

USAID provided funds to the UN, other international organizations, and supports 12 international NGOs in Pakistan and India. This includes \$22.6 million in response to the UN Flash Appeal. Specifically, this includes:

- \$3 million in shelter relief
- \$2 million in water and sanitation
- \$2 million in health programs
- \$15.6 million for humanitarian relief operations (airlifts, food, logistics, administration)

For more information on the earthquake and USAID's work, please see "South Asia Earthquake" at www.usaid.gov.

**For information on giving visit:
www.southasiaearthquakerelief.org**