



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

South Asia Earthquake

January 6, 2006 - Update



Photo courtesy of U.S. Army

CH-47 lands at high elevation to deliver relief supplies.

ONE DAY AFTER MAJOR STORM, UNITED STATES DELIVERS RECORD AMOUNT OF FOOD

On January 4th, immediately after the first major winter storm dropped one to three feet of snow in the higher elevations, U.S. Chinooks resumed helicopter flights out of Muzaffarabad to remote areas with sling loads of supplies.

“As soon as the weather improved we were able to begin flying, and we delivered 25 tons of humanitarian assistance...,” said Rear Admiral Michael Lefever, Commander of the U.S. Disaster Assistance Center in Pakistan.

Since helicopter flights began on October 10th, there have only been seven days when inclement weather has prevented flights. The United States and the international community have been preparing for winter conditions from the beginning and are now implementing contingency plans. Supplies continue to be moved by truck as far into the affected areas as possible. During the past 86 days, U.S. helicopters have delivered almost 15 million pounds of aid.

UNDER SEVERE WEATHER CONDITIONS, SCHOOLS HOLD UP

After the earthquake, USAID and the U.S. military worked together to replace Narrol High School for Girls in Muzaffarabad. More than 80 students, four teachers and the headmistress of the high school died in the quake. All the school buildings were damaged or destroyed.

The U.S. military provided two large classroom-sized tents, and USAID paid local residents to clear the grounds of debris. The U.S. Navy Seabees helped erect the tents, and USAID provided books, furniture and other supplies.

Despite the heavy rain and snow of earlier this week, the tents have survived, and students are in school. The tent schools ensure continuity in the students' lives, helping combat the trauma they have been through.



Photo courtesy of U.S. Navy

Children from Muzaffarabad, Pakistan and surrounding mountains attend school at the Government Girls High School located at the Dewan Tent Village in Muzaffarabad.



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Earthquake Update Continued

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Photo: CARE India

An elderly earthquake survivor receives a blanket from Indian Army personnel.

PARTNERSHIP WITH INDIAN MILITARY HASTENS DISTRIBUTION OF RELIEF SUPPLIES

In some earthquake-affected areas of Jammu and Kashmir, working with the Indian military proved to be the best strategy for distribution of relief supplies. NGO teams accompanied the military to their distribution points to ensure the proper distribution and handling of materials.

The teams were able to reach 7,500 of the neediest households in those areas, providing tents, phirons (long coats), blankets, floor mats and kangrees (traditional heating devices) for shelter and warmth.

Water containers were distributed to improve the availability of safe drinking water. In addition, hygiene kits were given to the families to help contain the spread of disease.

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 January 6, 2006:

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 to Pakistan (including 24 flights carrying relief supplies) 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 \$19.3 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
- \$12.3 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.southasiaearthquake.org**