



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

# South Asia Earthquake

March 17, 2006 - Update

## UPS SURPASSES ITS \$1 MILLION GOAL

One of five corporations to found the South Asia Earthquake Relief Fund, United Parcel Service (UPS) pledged \$1M to the relief and reconstruction efforts, then exceeded its pledge by doing what it does best: shipping. In fact, UPS delivered \$1.2 million in free shipping for earthquake response items.

UPS shipments contained critical supplies to help communities survive during the harsh winter, including tents, heaters, medical equipment and winter apparel. One such recipient was the Abbas Hospital in Muzaffarabad. Creative Tent International of Lake Havasu City, Arizona donated the hospital a large, engineered tent to serve as a spinal rehabilitation clinic in Pakistan-administered Kashmir. There was just one hitch: it needed a way to get its donation delivered. So did other companies such as General Electric and Alaska Structures, and hospitals like Children's Hospital of Boston.

UPS delivered donations from all of them to India and Pakistan. This timely delivery of relief supplies saved many lives in the mountains during the winter months.



Photo: UPS

*Crates filled with tents and heaters to assist earthquake victims are loaded onto a UPS plane in El Paso, Texas.*



Photo: Kaukab Jhumra Smith/USAID

*Mohammed Bashir from Kaleri village in Bagh District builds struts to support a post in an earthquake-resistant model house.*

## ARTISANS LEARN TO BUILD BACK STRONGER

In Bagh District in northern Pakistan, more than 8,000 people died on October 8 because their homes were not built to withstand an earthquake. As families begin to rebuild, USAID is funding workshops to train masons and carpenters in safer building practices.

To date, USAID has trained nearly 300 craftsmen in earthquake-resistant design. The workshops combine seminars and hands-on exercises. "Doing it yourself is different from simply listening to a lecture," said Mohammed Saqlain Baig, a mason from Nariola. "We've learned a lot of new techniques to make stronger houses for this area."

Craftsmen learn the causes of earthquakes and how to select the right site for a home. They also learn about timber construction, masonry and reinforced concrete construction. "It's not hard," said craftsman Mohammed Bashir, "I've just never done it this way before."



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## Earthquake Update Continued

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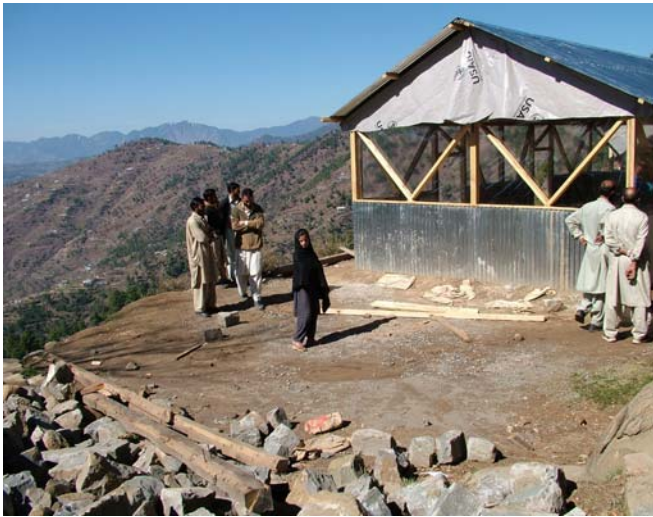


Photo: Kaukab Jhumra Smith/USAID

*This boys' middle school in Bees Bagla village will be located in a USAID-constructed temporary classroom as rubble from the collapsed school (foreground) is cleared.*

### SAFER CLASSROOMS AWAIT STUDENTS

USAID is building earthquake-resistant classrooms in northern Pakistan to replace schools that collapsed during the Oct. 8 earthquake, killing 1,460 schoolchildren.

This spring, 45 schools will move from tents to USAID-constructed wood and corrugated iron temporary classrooms in Bagh District. USAID also provides all 848 government schools in Bagh District with new desks, chairs and blackboards for 74,000 students.

Ali Akbar Khan is a village elder from Bees Bagla who lost his 12-year-old grandson in the earthquake when the child's school collapsed. He says, "these classrooms are very well constructed. Our children will be safe there."

Local residents receive tools, safety gear and 200 rupees (\$3.33) per day to tear down severely damaged schools and clear rubble from the sites.

#### 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 March 10, 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

To date, USAID has provided more than \$70.4 million in humanitarian assistance, including nearly \$6.5 million in emergency relief commodities and associated transport costs, for earthquake-affected populations in Pakistan.

As part of our overall response, USAID has provided nearly \$24.9 million in funding to the U.N. South Asia Earthquake Flash Appeal, to support transitional shelter programs, food, health, water and sanitation, humanitarian air service, logistical coordination, and the transport of supplies to affected populations and movement of those populations to safe areas.

**For more information on the earthquake and USAID's work, please see "South Asia Earthquake" at [www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov).**

**For information on giving visit:  
[www.safewinter.org](http://www.safewinter.org)**