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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 #1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2006

October 8, 2005

BACKGROUND

- According to the U.S. Geological Survey, on October 8, 2005, at 08:50 a.m. local time, a magnitude 7.6 earthquake struck Pakistan, India, and Afghanistan. The epicenter of the earthquake was approximately 60 miles north-northeast of the capital, Islamabad. According to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), following the initial earthquake, more than 10 aftershocks ranging in magnitude from 5.2 to 6.3 occurred. The most affected areas are the North West Frontier Province (NWFP), Northern Punjab, and Pakistani Kashmir in Pakistan, and Indian Kashmir in India. According to international media reports, Quetta and Kunduz in Afghanistan also experienced tremors due to the earthquake.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE¹		SOURCE
Total Affected Population – Pakistan	1,080 dead	Government of Pakistan – October 2005
Total Affected Population – India	256 dead; 400 injured	OCHA – October 2005
Total Affected Population – Afghanistan	2 dead	OCHA- October 2005

¹These figures are preliminary and expected to increase

CURRENT SITUATION

Pakistan

- According to OCHA, the earthquake caused massive destruction in six northern districts of NWFP and five districts of Pakistani Kashmir. The earthquake led to the collapse of most multi-story buildings and adobe houses and caused large-scale casualties and injuries. Rescue operations are on-going.
- The Government of Pakistan (GOP) is dispatching 12 truck loads of relief supplies to NWFP and Pakistani Kashmir.
- According to OCHA, the earthquake disrupted communication services throughout much of the region, and accurate assessments of the damage caused by the earthquake have been difficult.

India

- According to the U.N. Resident Coordinator in India, the most affected districts are Poonch, Baramulla, Jammu, Udhampur, Ramban Kathus, Srinagar, Budgam, Anantnag, Pulwama, and Kupwara.
- OCHA reported that the earthquake caused 213 deaths in Indian Kashmir. In Paraypora, Poonch, Baramulla, Srinagar, and Anantnag districts, the earthquake injured 385 people. Preliminary assessments indicate that the earthquake damaged 963 buildings and houses.
- The Indian Army and Air Force are conducting search and rescue and relief operations in the affected areas, while essential services such as electricity, water, and telecommunications are being restored.

Afghanistan

- OCHA reports that tremors were felt in Afghanistan, and some residential mud-brick buildings collapsed in Nangarhar and Jalalabad provinces. The U.N. Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) is coordinating with U.N. agencies and the local government to assess the effects of the damage.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- On October 8, 2005, U.S. Ambassador Ryan C. Crocker declared a disaster due to the damage caused by the earthquake in Pakistan. On October 8, USAID/OFDA provided \$100,000 through USAID/Pakistan for emergency relief supplies to meet the immediate needs of those affected by the earthquake.
- In response to the earthquake, USAID deployed a seven person Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) that is due to arrive in Pakistan on October 10 and 11. The mission of the USAID/DART is to assess humanitarian needs, assist with targeting and coordination of U.S. government assistance, and provide technical assistance as required.
- USAID/OFDA is airlifting relief commodities to Pakistan from USAID/OFDA stockpiles, including 250 rolls of plastic sheeting, sufficient for approximately 2,500 families; 5,000 blankets; and 5,000 water containers. A relief flight carrying these items is scheduled to depart on October 9.

- On October 8, USAID/OFDA committed \$400,000, to be provided through the American Red Cross, in response to an Emergency Appeal which is expected from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) on October 10.

OTHER DONOR AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION ASSISTANCE

- In response to a request by the GOP, OCHA is dispatching a U.N. Disaster and Coordination Team (UNDAC) to assist in assessing the damage and to help coordinate the relief response in Pakistan.
- On October 8, the U.N. Disaster Management Team (UNDMT) constituted three U.N. interagency rapid assessment teams scheduled to deploy on October 9. The first team to be led by the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) will travel to NWFP; the second team led by the U.N. Population Fund (UNFPA) will go to Pakistani Kashmir; and the third team comprised of international and national non-governmental organizations will travel to the Northern Areas.
- The Afghanistan Red Crescent Society and the Afghanistan IFRC delegation are monitoring the situation and have deployed assessment teams to the affected areas.
- The Pakistan Red Crescent Society has dispatched three assessment teams, two to NWFP and one to the Pakistani Kashmiri. An Emergency Appeal from IFRC is expected on October 10.