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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 #6, Fiscal Year (FY) 2006

October 13, 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 <sup>1</sup> |  | SOURCE   |
|----------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>Pakistan</b>                  | 25,000 dead* / 60,000 injured                                  | Government of Pakistan – October 13  |
| <b>India</b>                     | 1,300 dead / 4,500 injured                                     | Government of India – October 13   |
| <b>Total Affected Population</b> | 4 million affected / 1 million in need of immediate assistance | U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) – October 13 |

\*This is the official number of casualties, which may increase as search and recovery efforts continue.

**U.S. Government (USG) Humanitarian Assistance Pledged .....up to \$50,000,000**  
**USAID/OFDA Humanitarian Assistance Committed to Pakistan ..... \$13,942,741**  
**USAID/OFDA Humanitarian Assistance Committed to India..... \$100,000**  
**Total USG Humanitarian Assistance Committed to South Asia ..... \$14,042,741**

### CURRENT SITUATION

#### *Pakistan*

- According to the USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (USAID/DART), the areas north of Balakot, Kohistan, and Kala Dhaka are the only affected locations that have not yet been reached by rescue operations. Between Balakot and Besham, almost half of the houses are totally destroyed. The Karakoran Highway, which had been blocked due to a landslide 10 km north of Balakot for five days, was cleared on October 12.
- Populations from destroyed mountain villages are beginning to arrive in Balakot, NWFP. Internal reports indicate that hundreds of thousands of villagers have arrived in Balakot, which had a pre-earthquake population of 40,000. According to international media sources, the villagers report having to leave the dead and injured behind in the destroyed villages, which have not been reached by rescue teams.
- During an October 13 visit to Muzaffarabad, the U.N. Emergency Relief Coordinator Jan Egeland stated that reaching people in remote areas is the greatest challenge at present. As a result, the U.N. has issued an urgent appeal for additional helicopters to aid relief efforts. The U.N. Humanitarian Coordinator also stated that a 60-bed medical facility would be established in Muzaffarabad in the coming days.
- On October 13, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) began distributions of high-energy biscuits to 12,000 people in Muzaffarabad. Additional convoys of food assistance are ongoing. WFP plans to supplement these emergency rations with dates, flour, pulses, and oil. WFP flew 80 metric tons (MT) of biscuits into Pakistan on October 11, and two more airlifts of biscuits are planned for the coming days. WFP is appealing for support for an emergency operation to provide food assistance to 1 million people in Pakistan for the next six months.

#### *India*

- According to damage assessments reported by the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO), 32,723 homes and buildings have collapsed in the districts of Srinagar and Jammu. The Government of India (GOI) has requested 20,000 tents to meet immediate needs.
- According to NGOs working in India, 141 villages are severely damaged. The two most affected districts are Baramula and Kapuwara, and the latter remains inaccessible.
- The GOI 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.

<sup>1</sup> These figures are preliminary estimates.

## 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. On October 13, three members of the USAID/DART arrived in Muzaffarabad, which will serve as the logistical hub for relief efforts.
- In response to the U.N. Flash Appeal, USAID/OFDA immediately provided \$9.3 million in funding to support 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 an additional \$1.5 million to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), under the Flash Appeal, to support transitional shelter programs, bringing the total USAID/OFDA contributions to the U.N. to \$10.8 million.
- On October 13, USAID/OFDA provided \$500,000 to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to support the distribution of emergency relief supplies to affected populations.
- A USAID airlift of 10 WHO emergency health kits is scheduled to arrive in Islamabad on October 15. The 10 kits contain sufficient medical supplies to treat 100,000 people for 3 months.
- 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. To date, four U.S. Air Force C-17 aircraft and two C-130 Hercules aircraft have transported more than 408,000 pounds of emergency relief supplies, including tents, cots, and meals-ready-to-eat.
- 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 is currently in Srinagar to assess the affected areas.
- 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>       |
|---|--|-----------------|---------------------|
| <b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>1</sup></b>                    |  |                 |                     |
| 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           |
|   | Airlifts of emergency relief supplies  |                 | \$169,480           |
|   | Administrative support   |                 | \$209,000           |
| <b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO PAKISTAN</b> |  |                 | <b>\$13,942,741</b> |

<sup>1</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents amounts committed or already provided as of October 13, 2005.

## U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO INDIA

| <i>Implementing Partner</i>                              | <i>Activity</i>             | <i>Location</i> | <i>Amount</i>    |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| <b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>2</sup></b>                 |                             |                 |                  |
| Prime Minister's Relief Fund                             | Emergency relief activities | Affected Areas  | \$50,000         |
| USAID/India  | Emergency relief activities | Affected Areas  | \$50,000         |
| <b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO INDIA</b> |                             |                 | <b>\$100,000</b> |

<sup>2</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents amounts committed or already provided as of October 13, 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](http://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 on making donations and volunteering can be found at:
  - USAID: [www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov) – Keyword: Donations