



**U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

Algeria – Earthquake

Fact Sheet #1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2003

June 9, 2003

Background

- On May 21, 2003, at 17:44 local time, a 6.8 magnitude earthquake with a depth of six miles struck northern Algeria. According to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), the epicenter of the earthquake was 45 miles east of the capital Algiers, near the town of Thenia in the Zemmouri Region. As of June 1, significant aftershocks continued in heavily populated areas, including 5 with magnitudes greater than 5.0 and at least 19 with magnitudes from 4.0 to 4.9. The initial 6.8 magnitude earthquake was the biggest earthquake to hit Algeria since 1980.
- On June 1, 2003, the Government of Algeria (GOA) reported that the earthquake killed 2,268, wounded 10,147, and left approximately 200,000 people homeless. The worst-affected cities include Bourmedes, Zemmouri, Thenia, Belouizdad, Rouiba, and Reghaia. The earthquake disrupted health services, water supply lines, electricity, and telecommunications in the region.

Numbers at a Glance

Total Population Killed	2,268	Source: GOA, June 1, 2003
Total Population Injured	10,147	Source: GOA, May 30, 2003
Total Estimated Population Homeless	200,000	Source: GOA, May 30, 2003

Current Situation

- On May 24, 2003, the U. N. Disaster Assessment and Coordination Team (UNDAC) conducted a field assessment to the towns of Borj Menaiel, Sidi Daoud, Zemori El Boril, Dellys, and Thenia. UNDAC identified sanitation facilities, family-sized tents, and blankets as priorities.
- On May 24, 2003, search and rescue teams pulled the last living survivor out of wreckage, and UNDAC determined that no additional search and rescue teams were needed. Most of the international search and rescue teams left Algeria on May 25, 2003, including teams from Germany, Italy, Spain, Austria, Sweden, Luxemburg, Switzerland, Belgium, and the United Kingdom.
- On May 25, 2003, UNDAC estimated that 85 international flights from 27 different countries landed in Algiers to support the emergency response effort.
- The U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) issued a flash appeal on May 26, 2003, for an additional \$240,000 to procure family and infant hygiene kits, oral rehydration salts, first aid kits, and water purification units. On May 30, a UNICEF emergency flight arrived in Algeria with \$125,000 of emergency supplies, including cooking kits, tents, and vaccines.
- The GOA adopted a plan for the reconstruction of the earthquake-affected region on May 27, 2003. The GOA estimated that more than 30,000 government workers and 10,000 military personnel were involved in relief activities.
- The International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is establishing water treatment centers in Algiers and Bourmedes. The centers will deliver nearly 600,000 liters of potable water per day for approximately 40,000 beneficiaries. On May 28, 2003, the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) reported that there is no need for additional water purification systems.
- According to the GOA, 20,000 tents are required to shelter an estimated 200,000 people. Local and national authorities are working with UNDAC to help residents obtain temporary shelter. The Algeria Red Crescent Society (ARCS) is erecting 600 tents to accommodate 6,000 people in 11 different sites. The tent camps are expected to be operational for a six-month transitional period, while new homes are constructed. The ARCS appointed intervention teams and local committees to coordinate and organize the operation in five of the most affected sites: Algiers, Rouiba, Bourmedes, Thenia, and Bourdznaïl. On May 30, 2003, the IFRC reported that the ARCS is now the primary operational humanitarian agency.
- The U.N. is holding meetings with the ARCS, IFRC, and Algerian authorities in order to assess the current needs of the population in the Zemmouri Region.

U.S. Government Response

- On May 22, 2003, Chargé d’Affaires Marc J. Sievers declared a disaster due to the damage caused by the earthquake. In response, the U.S. Agency for International Development’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) immediately provided \$50,000 in assistance through the Algerian Red Crescent Society (ARCS) for the local procurement of emergency non-food items and services.
- In addition, on May 23, USAID/OFDA airlifted 6,000 blankets, 3 emergency medical supply kits, each of which provides for the medical care of 10,000 people for 3 months, and 600 tents to the earthquake-affected population, valued at \$325,506 including transportation, from its stockpile warehouse in Pisa, Italy.
- On May 31, USAID/OFDA airlifted a second tranche of emergency relief supplies, including 3 water purification units, 5 medical supply kits, 10,000 blankets and other humanitarian supplies, valued at \$214,650 including transportation.
- USAID/OFDA’s Regional Advisor visited Algeria from May 29 to June 2 in order to assess the humanitarian situation in the country and meet with U.S. Ambassador Janet A. Sanderson, U.S. Embassy staff, GOA and U.N. officials, and representatives of local and international non-governmental organizations, including the ARCS.
- In response to the need for shelter materials, on June 2, USAID/OFDA airlifted a third tranche of emergency supplies. USAID/OFDA provided 1,000 tents to the earthquake-affected population, valued at \$236,951 including transportation.
- On May 29, an airlift of 160 tents, valued at \$424,000 including transportation, arrived in Algeria. The Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) of the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) used Overseas Humanitarian, Disaster, and Civic Aid Appropriation (OHDACA) funds for the airlift.
- On May 30, an airlift containing medical supply kits, blankets, and tents arrived in Algeria from the DOD’s U.S. European Command (USEUCOM). USEUCOM provided the commodities and the transportation costs, for a combined value of \$90,000.
- On June 5, USEUCOM airlifted additional emergency supplies, including 4 large kitchen tents, 6 field stoves, 6 boxes of kitchen supplies, 5 generators, 1 water pump, 500 blankets, 200 cots, and 360 sleeping bags, valued at \$278,000 including transportation. USEUCOM provided the commodities and utilized OHDACA funding for the airlift costs.
- USAID/OFDA is continuing to monitor casualty and damage reports and is coordinating with the U.S. Embassy in Algiers to ensure that humanitarian needs are being met.

U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ALGERIA

<i>Agency</i>	<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Sector</i>	<i>Regions</i>	<i>Amount</i>
FY 2003 (TO DATE)				
USAID/OFDA				\$827,107
	ARCS	Non-food items, coordination	Earthquake-affected regions	\$50,000
	Emergency Relief Supplies	Medical supply kits, blankets, tents, water purification units	Earthquake-affected regions	\$777,107
DOD/Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA)				\$424,000
		Tents	Earthquake-affected regions	\$424,000
DOD/U.S. European Command (USEUCOM).....				\$368,000
		Medical supply kits, tents, cots, blankets, sleeping bags, field stoves, kitchen supplies, generators, a water pump	Earthquake-affected regions	\$368,000
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN FY 2003 (TO DATE).....				\$827,107
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN FY 2003 (TO DATE).....				\$1,619,107

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. 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 services can be found at:

- USAID: www.usaid.gov -> “Disaster Assistance” -> “How Can I Help?”
- The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or 703-276-1914
- InterAction: www.interaction.org -> “Guide to Appropriate Giving”
- Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.org.
- USAID/OFDA bulletins can be obtained from the USAID web site at http://www.usaid.gov/hum_response/ofda/situation.htm.