



News Release



Office of Public Affairs

U.S. Embassy

USAID's New Education Program in the Earthquake Area Opens Offices and Brings Partners Together

Islamabad, December 19, 2006: The new education program for the earthquake-affected areas funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has opened offices in Mansehra and Bagh and begun to work with local officials. USAID's Revitalizing, Innovating, and Strengthening Education (RISE) program brought together 50 provincial and district education officials from the Northwest Frontier Province (NWFP) and Azad Jammu-Kashmir (AJK) to discuss the core issues involved in building back education better in the earthquake affected areas.

Working with district education officials, teachers, and parents, the RISE program will help communities in the earthquake-affected areas to improve the quality of classroom instruction. Operating in the Mansehra District of NWFP and the Bagh District of AJK, this four-year, \$13 million program is helping build education back better. Some 5,000 elementary, middle, and high school teachers will receive training in student-centered instruction, math, and science. USAID will also mobilize community participation by building effective parent associations that will act and advocate for their children. Support to Ministries will help officials acquire and distribute resources more effectively.

The RISE program is part of USAID's new four-year, \$200 million Earthquake Reconstruction program. Building on emergency relief efforts following the earthquake and rehabilitation programs over the past year, this new four-year program will rebuild schools and health care facilities, improve education and health services, and improve economic well being in the earthquake-affected areas.

"The reconstruction stage of our earthquake assistance is designed to create a better future for Pakistanis whose lives were so dramatically affected by the earthquake," explained U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Peter Bodde at the beginning of USAID's new Reconstruction Program. "In line with the Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority's (ERRA's) overall plan, these efforts will expand and improve the public's access to health and education services, and help people in the region improve their well-being through expanded economic opportunities."

The United States, through USAID, is providing more than \$1.5 billion in development assistance to Pakistan over the next five years to improve education, health, governance and economic growth. In addition, the United States has pledged a total of \$510 million in earthquake relief and reconstruction efforts to assist the people of Pakistan and to support Pakistani government efforts.

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