



# News Release



**Office of Public Affairs**

**U.S. Embassy**

## **Workshop Sets Health Service Standards for Earthquake-Affected Districts**

**Islamabad, March 14, 2007--** A USAID-funded workshop to develop performance improvement standards for health services in the earthquake-hit districts of Bagh and Mansehra was inaugurated here Monday by the Primary Health Care Revitalization, Integration and Decentralization in Earthquake-affected areas (PRIDE) project.

The five-day workshop, inaugurated by the Health Secretary, AJK, General Abdul Malik, was attended by more than sixty health professionals from both the districts.

“Much of the focus and public attention in the earthquake-affected areas had about new schools and health facilities but what happens in those schools and health facilities is also vital. PRIDE is playing a key role in providing the training and management tools needed to improve the quality and efficiency of health care services,” USAID Mission Director, Jonathan Addleton said.

The rapid survey of the health system conducted by PRIDE in the two project districts in December found that although nearly all Primary Health Care Facilities (Basic Health Units and Rural Health Centers) are functioning, only one out of twelve facilities is adequately staffed and many are still short of medicines.

“There has been a remarkably effective emergency response to the earthquake, particularly in the health sector,” said PRIDE Project Director, Bruce Rasmussen.

As part of USAID’s \$200 million Earthquake Reconstruction Program over four years, the PRIDE project will support the district health systems’ financial and human resource management; create better access to quality Primary Health Care services; and increase community participation in the health system.

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