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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 #2, Fiscal Year (FY) 2006

October 9, 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.
- The USGS reports that following the initial earthquake, 27 aftershocks with magnitudes higher than 5.0 occurred. 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                                |                                    |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Affected Population – Pakistan    | 19,136 confirmed dead; 42,397 injured | Government of Pakistan – October 9 |
| Affected Population – India       | 689 dead                              | Government of India – October 9    |
| Affected Population – Afghanistan | 3 dead                                | IFRC <sup>2</sup> – October 9      |

**Total FY 2006 USAID Assistance to Pakistan.....\$1,295,000**

### CURRENT SITUATION

#### Pakistan

- According to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (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 ongoing.
- The Government of Pakistan (GOP) reports that priority sectors include search and rescue, shelter, health, and water, and that approximately 4 million people are displaced as a result of the earthquake. Many hospitals and clinics have been destroyed, impacting health care services at all levels. According to OCHA, preliminary reports indicate that tents, blankets, stoves, field hospitals, and water purification equipment are required.
- According to IFRC, Muzaffarabad has experienced severe damage, with an estimated 50 percent of the buildings destroyed. Muzaffarabad is reportedly isolated, as the main road to the town is blocked by landslides.
- 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.
- On October 9, the U.N. hosted a humanitarian relief coordination meeting that included representatives from international organizations, the donor community, embassies, and the local and international non-governmental organization (NGO) community. U.N. assessment teams are scheduled to begin travel to towns and villages on October 10.

#### 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.
- The Government of India reports that the earthquake caused 689 deaths in India, primarily in the Uri sector of Baramulla in Indian Kashmir. According to OCHA, in Paraypora, Poonch, Baramulla, Srinagar, and Anantnag districts, the earthquake injured 385 people.
- 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

- 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. IFRC reports that three deaths have resulted from the earthquake in Nangarhar Province, and that injuries and structural damage have occurred in the provinces nearest to Pakistan.

<sup>1</sup> These figures are preliminary and expected to increase.

<sup>2</sup> International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

**U.S. GOVERNMENT (USG) HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE**

- On October 9, the IFRC issued a Preliminary Emergency Appeal for \$8.4 million. USAID/OFDA is providing \$1million through the American Red Cross to support relief efforts identified in the IFRC appeal.
- On October 9, USAID dispatched an airlift of relief commodities to Pakistan including 250 rolls of plastic sheeting—sufficient for approximately 2,500 families— 5,000 blankets, and 5,000 water containers. The value of this assistance including transport is \$170,000. The commodities are scheduled to arrive on October 10 and are consigned through USAID/Pakistan to Save the Children for distribution to affected populations in Mansehra and Batagram Districts, NWFP.
- The U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) is dispatching eight military helicopters to assist in reaching and provide relief to isolated areas in northern Pakistan and Pakistani Kashmir.
- A nine-person Disaster Assistance Response Team (USAID/DART) is en route to Pakistan. The team leader is due to arrive on October 10, and the other members, including two operations specialists, two medical experts, a military liaison officer, an information officer, an administrative officer, and a communications officer, will arrive on October 11. 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.
- A USAID/OFDA Regional Advisor is en route to New Delhi, India, to assist USAID/India to identify needs and coordinate the USG response to the earthquake.
- 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.

**OTHER DONOR AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION ASSISTANCE**

- In response to a request by the GOP, an eight-member U.N. Disaster and Coordination Team (UNDAC) arrived in Islamabad on October 9 to assist in assessing the damage and to help coordinate the relief response in Pakistan.
- On October 9, the U.N. Disaster Management Team (UNDMT) deployed three U.N. interagency rapid assessment teams. The first team, led by the U.N. Children’s Fund (UNICEF), is traveling to NWFP, the second team led by the U.N. Population Fund (UNFPA) to Pakistani Kashmir, and the third team comprised of international and national NGOs to the Northern Areas.
- The Pakistan Red Crescent Society has dispatched three assessment teams, two to NWFP and one to the Pakistani Kashmir. A team from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is en route to Muzaffarabad. An emergency consignment of 10,000 blankets and 3,000 tarpaulins, sufficient to assist approximately 3,000 families, is being dispatched to Islamabad from an ICRC stockpile in Kabul.
- The Afghanistan Red Crescent Society and the Afghanistan IFRC delegation are monitoring the situation and have deployed assessment teams to the affected areas.
- Joint ICRC and Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) teams are en route to Poonch and Uri to assess the destruction and needs in the area, carrying an initial supply of emergency medical items.
- Other donors have pledged the following: \$20 million from the World Bank; \$10 million from the Asian Development Bank; \$6.2 million and a team of 49 people, rescue dogs, and equipment from China; \$4.4 million from by the European Union; \$1.2 million and a 60-member search and rescue team from the Netherlands; \$1.2 million from Ireland; \$1million from the Czech Republic; \$380,000 from Australia; \$300,00 from Belgium; \$200,000 from Canada; \$177,000 and an 82-person team from the United Kingdom; a 50-person team from Japan; a 30-person team, rescue dogs, and equipment from Russia; \$60,000 and a search and rescue team from Germany; and search and rescue teams from Greece, France, Spain, Switzerland, and Turkey.

**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  | \$1,000,000        |
| Save the Children  | Emergency relief supplies         | Affected Areas  | \$113,000          |
| USAID/Pakistan   | Emergency relief supplies         | Affected Areas  | \$100,000          |
|  | Airlift of emergency relief       |                 | \$57,000           |
|  | Administrative support            |                 | \$25,000           |
| <b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO PAKISTAN IN FY 2006</b> |                                   |                 | <b>\$1,295,000</b> |

<sup>1</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents amounts committed or already provided as of October 9, 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 organizations responding to the humanitarian situation in South Asia may be available at [www.reliefweb.org](http://www.reliefweb.org).
- 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
  - The Center for International Disaster Information: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org) or (703) 276-1914