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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 #10, Fiscal Year (FY) 2006

October 18, 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 ¹		SOURCE
Pakistan	40,000 dead* 65,000 injured 3.3 million affected	U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) – October 18
India	1,300 dead 7,000 injured 150,000 homeless	Government of India – October 13 U.N. Development Program (UNDP) – October 15 Government of India – October 14

* Local officials in Pakistani-Kashmir estimate that more than 53,000 people have been killed as a result of the earthquake.

U.S. Government (USG) Humanitarian Assistance Pledged up to \$50,000,000
USAID/OFDA Humanitarian Assistance Committed to Pakistan \$15,029,294
USAID/OFDA Humanitarian Assistance Committed to India \$100,000
Total USG Humanitarian Assistance Committed to South Asia \$15,129,294

CURRENT SITUATION

Pakistan

- According to OCHA, the logistical challenges of the terrain in the earthquake-affected areas are believed to be unprecedented for any humanitarian operation. Additional helicopters remain an urgent priority. There are an estimated 60 helicopters operational — from the Government of Pakistan (GOP), international agencies, and donors — and another 19 in the pipeline.
- Although relief supplies are arriving in the affected areas, OCHA estimates that approximately 20 percent of the earthquake-affected areas have not yet been reached. Additionally, adequate distribution systems for relief items are not yet fully in place, according to OCHA, and there is a need to mobilize implementing partners.
- OCHA warns that if a dramatic increase in the death toll is to be avoided, tents and blankets must be provided to the injured in the next 48 to 72 hours. Alternatively, the injured must be evacuated. However, hospitals in Islamabad are reportedly full.
- Current estimates indicate that between 250,000 and 350,000 winterized tents are urgently required to shelter the 3 million people homeless in Pakistan. To date, approximately 32,000 tents have been distributed, and 150,000 are in the pipeline. Included in this pipeline amount are 10,000 tents that the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), NATO, and the Government of Turkey are working together to airlift from Incirlik airbase in southern Turkey to the earthquake-affected area.
- The GOP, in cooperation with UNHCR, has established camps in Balakot, Gari Habibullah, and Muzaffarabad. Three further camp sites are being identified.
- Shortages of food supplies and safe drinking water are increasing the vulnerability of the affected population, according to OCHA. To date, approximately 440,000 people, out of the 1 million targeted by WFP, have received food assistance.
- According to the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO), measles and Vitamin A campaigns have been launched, targeting children between 9 months and 15 years of age. Three vaccination centers and mobile teams have been established in Muzaffarabad and Mansehra.

¹ These figures are the best available estimates.

India

- As with Pakistan, access constraints and a shortage of shelter materials are the main humanitarian concerns in earthquake-affected areas of India. Shelter is a paramount priority as temperatures drop.
- Indian army forces are leading relief efforts, and the Government of India has not appealed for international assistance.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Pakistan

- USAID deployed a Disaster Assistance Response Team (USAID/DART) to Pakistan on October 10. 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. There are currently 11 USAID/DART members in Pakistan, and more staff are scheduled to arrive in the coming days.
- In response to the U.N. Flash Appeal, USAID/OFDA has provided \$10.8 million in funding to support transitional shelter programs, 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 \$500,000 to ICRC to support the distribution of emergency relief supplies to affected populations.
- To date, USAID has delivered emergency relief commodities to Pakistan in six airlifts.
 - On October 18, an airlift of 20 concrete cutting saws and accessories is scheduled to arrive in Islamabad. The total value of this airlift, including transport, is \$65,000.
 - Also on October 18, an airlift containing 5,000 blankets, 5,000 10-liter water containers, and 650 rolls of plastic sheeting is scheduled to arrive in Islamabad in two flights. The total value of this airlift, including transport, is more than \$300,000.
 - On October 16 and 17, two flights containing tents airlifted by USAID arrived in Islamabad. A third flight, containing the remainder of the 1,570 tents arrived on October 18. The tents will be provided to Mercy Corps for distribution in the Mansehra region. The total value of this airlift, including transport, is approximately \$471,000.
 - On October 15, a USAID airlift of 10 WHO emergency health kits arrived in Islamabad on October 15. The 10 kits contain sufficient medical supplies to treat 100,000 people for 3 months. On October 16, WHO transported USAID's 10 health kits to Muzaffarabad and Mansehra for distribution.
 - On October 14, a USAID airlift of relief commodities arrived in Islamabad, carrying 250 rolls of plastic sheeting—sufficient for approximately 2,500 families—5,000 blankets, 5,000 water containers, 8 water bladders. In addition, a flight containing two mobile water purification units is scheduled to arrive on October 15. The total value of these commodities, including transport, is approximately \$266,000. On October 16, the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) transported the two mobile water treatment units and three water bladders to Muzaffarabad.
 - 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.
- To date, the U.S. Military has completed 168 helicopter sorties and one airdrop, delivered 324 tons of humanitarian aid, and evacuated 2,523 people out of the affected area. The Motor Vessel (MV) Northern Lights and USS Pearl Harbor are scheduled to offload engineering equipment in Pakistan. The first increment of a U.S. Army MASH hospital is scheduled to arrive in Pakistan on October 18.

India

- From October 11 to October 17, a USAID/OFDA Regional Advisor was in India assisting USAID/India with damage and needs assessments and making recommendations regarding any additional USG assistance.
- 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>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
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 (surface transport), transport of displaced populations to safe areas, transitional shelter	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
	Emergency relief supplies	Affected Areas	\$979,842
	Airlifts of emergency relief supplies		\$415,452
	Administrative support		\$234,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO PAKISTAN			\$15,029,294

¹USAID/OFDA funding represents amounts committed or already provided as of October 18, 2005.

U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO INDIA

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE²			
Prime Minister's Relief Fund	Emergency relief activities	Affected Areas	\$50,000
USAID/India	Emergency relief activities	Affected Areas	\$50,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO INDIA			\$100,000

²USAID/OFDA funding represents amounts committed or already provided as of October 17, 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 – 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 can be found at:
 - USAID: www.usaid.gov – Keyword: Donations
 - The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or (703) 276-1914
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int