



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

South Asia Earthquake

February 2007 - Update

TEAMS MUTE WINTER THREAT

The timely intervention of 11 Rapid Response Teams established by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) have prevented disastrous effects from cold weather in the earthquake-affected areas this winter.

USAID contributed \$40,000 to the program, which has been used for hiring heavy machinery to clear roads blocked by land slides.

“Community and government appreciation of the passing on of skills through first responder training and a professional response to emergencies encourages our team to continue the work,” says Masaidullah, field assessment officer of the Patika (Neelum Valley) Rapid Response Team.



Credit: Awais Khaili/Abbasi/IOM

Rapid Response Teams have made 31 emergency interventions in their target areas, including medical evacuations, emergency screenings, road traffic accidents, landslides and fire.



Credit: Jane Thomas/CDM

Students at Choki have been attending classes in the open sky even in cold weather.

GIRLS SCHOOL REBUILDING BEGINS

Students, teachers and community members at Choki in Bagh district are celebrating the design and eagerly anticipating the groundbreaking of Choki Government Girls High School.

This school is a part of USAID’s \$120 million earthquake reconstruction program that aims to rebuild 50 schools and 15 health facilities in Bagh and Mansehra districts this year.

“When the quake first struck and our school was destroyed, the children had nothing to do but run after the relief trucks,” said 35-year-old Aziz Ahmed Khan, a science teacher. “Now they will again hold books in their hands. The whole community would like to say how much we appreciate your efforts to construct this school.”



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Earthquake Update Continued

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Credit: Colin Rasmussen/USAID

USAID-funded vouchers have allowed villagers to get the materials they need to rebuild their homes.

MATERIALS DELIVERED TO MOUNTAINTOP HOMES

A USAID sponsored project has helped people in Azad Kashmir whose homes were destroyed in the earthquake to bring building materials to their mountaintop villages.

Villagers can carry materials to the district center in the valley, but can't afford the high cost of transporting them up the mountain; for 83.5% of households, help with transporting materials was their top priority.

The Government of Pakistan has committed to pay 175,000 rupees (approximately 2,855 USD) to each household in three installments at different phases of rebuilding. The total cost of transporting materials is about 50,000 rupees (~824 USD). The USAID project has now distributed 1,600 vouchers worth an average of 7,500 rupees (~124 USD). Villagers pay shippers with vouchers and the project redeems them for cash only after delivery is confirmed.

U.S. Agency for International Development
www.usaid.gov

FAST FACTS ON SOUTH ASIA EARTHQUAKE:

Government of Pakistan estimates:

Death toll: 73,338
Injured: 69,412

Government of India estimates :

Death toll: 1,309
Injured: 6,622

U.S. Assistance as of February 23, 2007:

Total U.S. Government Humanitarian and Reconstruction Assistance Pledged:
\$510,000,000

- \$300 million in economic assistance
- \$110 million in U.S. military in-kind support for relief operations
- at least \$100* million from U.S. private contributions

To date, USAID has provided more than \$87.4 million in humanitarian assistance, including more than \$6.5 million in emergency relief commodities and associated transport costs, for earthquake-affected populations in Pakistan and India.

As part of its overall response, USAID has provided more than \$33.7 million in funding to the U.N. South Asia Earthquake Flash Appeal, to support transitional shelter programs, food, health, water and sanitation, humanitarian air service, logistical coordination, and the transport of supplies to affected populations and movement of those populations to safe areas.

For more information on the earthquake and USAID's work, please see "South Asia Earthquake" at www.usaid.gov.

For information on giving visit:
www.safewinter.org

*Actual amount of donations to date is \$151.7 million (Center on Philanthropy, Indiana University)