



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

South Asia Earthquake

February 3, 2006 - Update

VOUCHERS OFFER FAMILIES FLEXIBILITY IN REBUILDING THEIR HOMES

At least 10,000 families and 174 shopkeepers in the Bagh District will benefit from \$100 vouchers provided by USAID. Families can use the vouchers to augment their shelter kits with items of their choice. The coupons can be exchanged for corrugated iron roofing, clothing, household goods, hardware, medicine and other items or use them to pay off outstanding credit.

The voucher system gives families the flexibility to address their own needs. It also stimulates the local economy. Participating shopkeepers agreed to abide by a code of ethics, which includes selling products at a fair price. In return, families patronize their shops for supplies, pumping money into the marketplace.

"We didn't have as much as a needle left in our homes," said Mohammed Aziz of Timarkot, a voucher program beneficiary. With the vouchers he received, Aziz said he would buy two cots woven from string, and a gas cylinder for cooking and heat.



Photo: Disaster Assistance Center Pakistan

Vouchers help families buy essential supplies.



Photo: USAID/Suzanne Ross

One of the first female health care workers to be trained.

GETTING HEALTH CARE CLOSE TO HOME

For the first time since reaching womanhood, Ruila, a woman in her early 30s, learned about first aid, basic health care, hygiene and nutrition. Huddled in a tent with other women, she was among the first group USAID has trained as community health care providers in the Mansera District, northern Pakistan.

Because traumatized earthquake survivors could not travel 25 miles to the nearest clinic, a tented basic care center was established in the Siran Valley within three days of the quake. It offered care 24 hours a day; however, an average of 250 patients per day overwhelmed the center's three medical staff.

To increase the number of health care workers, USAID began training men and women volunteers, such as Ruila, from each village. They each come for different reasons. One wants to learn how to take care of family members and neighbors. Another said, "I came to this course because I want to learn new skills." These attitudes reflect how communities themselves are responding to resolve their own challenges.



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Earthquake Update Continued

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FAST FACTS:

Government of Pakistan estimates:

Death toll: 73,338

Injured: 69,412

Homeless: 2.8 million

Government of India estimates :

Death toll: 1,309

Injured: 6,622

Homeless: 150,000

U.S. Assistance as of February 3, 2006:

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 anticipated from U.S. private contributions

To date, USAID has provided more than \$67.2 million in humanitarian assistance, including nearly \$6.4 million in emergency relief commodities and associated transport costs, for earthquake-affected populations in Pakistan.

In response to the U.N. South Asia Earthquake Flash Appeal, USAID has provided more than \$22.6 million in funding 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.southasiaearthquakerelief.org