



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

South Asia Earthquake

February 10, 2006 - Update

FROM RELIEF TO RECONSTRUCTION

With Pakistan's relief-to-reconstruction transition underway, the U.S. Disaster Assistance Center announced that U.S. forces will provide Pakistan over \$6 million in military medical and construction equipment as part of the turnover of equipment and phased withdrawal between mid-February and March 31.

"Helping Pakistan following the earthquake was both an honor and a privilege," said Rear Admiral LeFever. "The government of Pakistan and Pakistani military led this historic humanitarian relief effort and is now ready to rebuild Pakistan better than before. While the U.S. Military will be departing, U.S. support will continue through USAID."

USAID Mission Director, Lisa Chiles, added that USAID will support Pakistani reconstruction programs by focusing on health and education, constructing new schools and clinics in earthquake-affected areas, and ensuring that they are fully equipped and furnished. USAID will also provide professional training for new and existing health and education personnel and re-establish systems to sustain these facilities.



Photo: U.S. Embassy Pakistan
Commander of Disaster Assistance Center Rear Admiral Michael A. LeFever with Bill Berger, USAID Team Leader, and Lisa Chiles, USAID Mission Director, addressing the press at Chaklala Air Base in Pakistan.



Photo: Disaster Assistance Center, Pakistan

A cow stays warm in front of a shelter that has been winterized with a plastic tarp provided by USAID.

LIVESTOCK PRESERVATION SUSTAINS LIVELIHOODS

For the Allai Valley farming families who lost much of their livestock due to the earthquake, life without their animals is as devastating as life without a home. For those whose livestock did survive, housing and feeding the animals presented a big challenge since much of the feed rotted from moisture or was buried under rubble.

USAID works with those families living in the Mehra Camp who brought their remaining livestock with them to protect the livestock, replenish feed and rebuild the destroyed barns on their farms. A USAID-funded cash-for-work project at the camp built a barn for 200 animals and paid men living in the camp to maintain, feed and guard the animals in the barn.

This cash-for-work program helps earthquake survivors generate income, safeguard families' largest investments and supplement family nutrition with milk from the animals.



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Earthquake Update Continued

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USAID WORKS WITH VILLAGE ELDERS

Getting kids to school is not easy when your home is perched on a precipice 5,000 vertical feet above a valley. In this dramatic landscape, having a school was not an option. As Safraz, the spokesperson of the community elder board at the Mehra Camp in North West Frontier Province, explains, "We want our children to go to school, there simply aren't any."

USAID responded to this dilemma with the help of community leaders, like Safraz, who facilitate community involvement in decisions. USAID now supports the education of 2,100 children with boys and girls attending elementary school together; while middle school-aged children are segregated by gender. The demand at the camp is so great that USAID now funds a third school serving an additional 600 children.

In addition to supporting schools in temporary relief camps, USAID plans to focus on training teachers over the longer term, so when USAID builds schools, children will be able to continue their educations upon their return home.



Photo: USAID/Suzanne Ross

Community Elder Board promotes education for all children

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 10, 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 \$67.4 million in humanitarian assistance, including nearly \$6.4 million in emergency relief commodities and associated transport costs, for earthquake-affected populations in Pakistan.

As part of our overall response, USAID has provided more than \$22.6 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