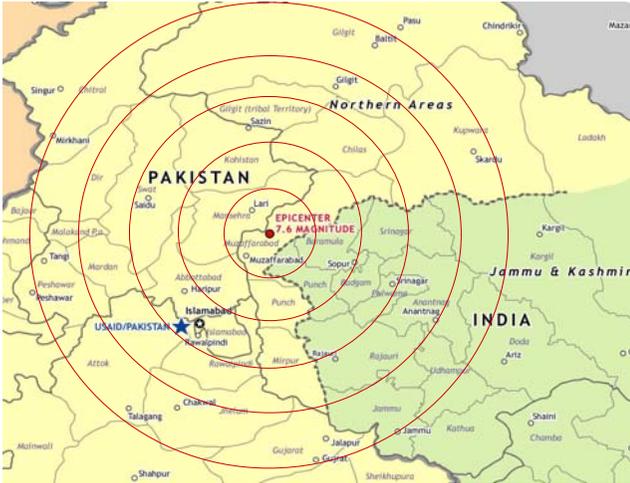




USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

South Asia Earthquake

October 28, 2005 - Update



BACKGROUND

On October 8, 2005 at 8:50 a.m. local time, a magnitude 7.6 earthquake struck Pakistan, India, and Afghanistan. The epicenter of the earthquake was located near Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistan-administered Kashmir, and approximately 60 miles north-northeast of Islamabad, Pakistan's capital.

Current Situation

Aftershocks continue in the affected areas. The delivery of humanitarian assistance is constricted by the mountainous terrain, inclement weather, and damaged or collapsed infrastructure. The death toll estimated from the Government of Pakistan is 54,197 deaths and the Government of India indicates 1,309 deaths have occurred.

Areas Affected

The most affected areas are the North West Frontier Province (NWFP), Northern Punjab, and Pakistan-administered Kashmir in Pakistan, and Indian-administered Kashmir in India.

USAID RESPONDS

A USAID Disaster Assistance and Response Team (USAID/DART) has been on the ground in Pakistan since October 10. The mission of the USAID/DART is to assess humanitarian needs, assist with targeting and coordination of U.S. Government assistance in conjunction with the USAID Mission in Pakistan, and provide technical assistance as required. Headquartered in Islamabad, the USAID/DART has also established bases of operations in Muzaffarabad and Mansehra.

To date, USAID has provided more than \$41 million in humanitarian assistance to earthquake-affected communities in Pakistan. USAID identified shelter, relief supplies, health, water and sanitation, and logistics as priority sectors for immediate relief operations.

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USAID volunteers in Pakistan load supplies on to trucks to reach earthquake victims in remote and often inaccessible areas.



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USAID RESPONDS Cont...

The total value of the completed airlifts, including transport, is approximately \$1.4 million. In addition, USAID is in the process of completing a five-flight airlift of 5,000 additional rolls of plastic sheeting to Pakistan totaling approximately \$2.3 million. From October 10 to 27, USAID completed six airlifts of emergency relief commodities to Pakistan. The airlifts delivered a total of:

15,000	Blankets
1,570	Winterized Tents
1,150	Rolls Of Plastic Sheeting
15,000	Water Containers
8	Water Bladders
2	Water Purification Units
10	WHO Emergency Health Kits (each kit serves 10,000 people for 3 months)
20	Concrete Cutting Saws

The U.S. is also providing more than \$600,000 to assist the Indian victims of the devastating earthquake. USAID's preliminary rapid needs assessment indicates that access is the main constraint to providing critical relief and shelter is of utmost priority. Therefore, the funds will be used to contribute to providing immediate shelter and other humanitarian interventions to those affected.



USAID staff help to transport and unload WHO health kits.



Tents and plastic sheeting provided by USAID are being widely distributed to populations in the affected areas.

RECONSTRUCTION NEEDS IDENTIFIED

USAID sent a four-person team of Army Corps engineers to the Northwest Frontier Province and Pakistan-administered Kashmir to assess the damage to health care centers and schools.

The team focused on structural integrity, cost estimates and an environmental site check list. The team tried to identify buildings eligible for reconstruction or new construction based on the number of beneficiaries.

TENT SCHOOLS OFFER STABILITY

USAID delivered a tent school for children in a Pakistan community affected by the earthquake. If the school proves successful at giving children a sense of normalcy, USAID will provide tent schools to 40-50 more communities accessible by road. USAID will include school supplies and work with the provincial government to deploy teachers to the temporary schools.



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Earthquake Update Continued

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Children in the earthquake devastated village of Bandi – in the hills outside the border of Uri – reach for warm jackets provided with U.S support.

USAID SENDS DISASTER EXPERTS TO INDIA

While the damage from the earthquake in India was significantly less than in Pakistan, human suffering and damage to infrastructure are still extensive. USAID immediately deployed two disaster specialists to the affected area in order to assess the damage and coordinate the response and were the first “on the ground” among bilateral donors.

The experts returned from Jammu and Kashmir on October 17 after distributing relief supplies to the earthquake victims. Blankets and winterized jackets reached the devastated people as part of a first relief package sponsored by the U.S. Government.

These and more supplies to ease the suffering of victims will reach Indians through non-governmental organizations (NGOs) with a history of work in this remote and sensitive area. Close coordination with local officials, organizations and other donors is ongoing. The reconnaissance trip will shape recommendations for next steps in U.S. humanitarian assistance.

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

FAST FACTS:

U.S. Assistance as of October 28, 2005:

Total USG Humanitarian and Reconstruction Assistance Pledged: \$156,000,000

Total USAID Allotment : \$100,000,000

USAID has provided more than \$41 million so far in humanitarian assistance, including six completed airlifts of relief supplies, to Pakistan and more than \$600,000 in assistance to India.

USAID funds committed to the UN, other international organizations, and NGOs includes \$3.4 million in food commodities donated to the UN World Food program, and over \$3.84 million in emergency relief supplies, including transportation.

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



Bach Residents in Pakistan receiving tents distributed by USAID .