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## UNHCR RESPONSE TO PAKISTAN EARTHQUAKE

17 December 2005

### UNHCR role

Under the joint UN response to the earthquake, UNHCR is the lead agency for camp management. We are supporting the Pakistan government in the running of camps, by providing material and technical assistance and coordinating the delivery of basic services like health care, water, sanitation and education.

On 28 November 2005, the Government of Pakistan adopted a Camp Management Strategy prepared and endorsed by the camp management cluster. It is now being operationalised in the field hubs. A high priority is a new emergency task force to address the urgent needs of the spontaneous camps/settlements, incorporating an earlier task force on health/water and sanitation.

### Current priorities

Contingency planning: For possible mass movements from the mountains/valleys as winter starts. UNHCR is working closely with the Pakistan military/civil authorities and the international community to expand existing camps and to build new camps to accommodate an additional 50,000 people.

Improving camp infrastructure: Urgent need for decongestion, water and sanitation in camps as more people arrive. UNHCR/UNICEF/WHO and 37 UNHCR mobile teams working with army/civil authorities in camps to fix watsan problems and sensitise people on hygiene and protection issues.

Winterisation: Keeping people warm in camps. Personal insulation with 3 blankets per person, and 2 plastic sheets for each tent - to insulate roof and ground.

### Presence in affected areas

101 emergency staff (43 international + 58 national) in Islamabad and two hubs: Mansehra (covers Balakot, Batagram and Shangla) and Muzaffarabad (covers Bagh). A total of 110 staff will be on the ground by the end of December.

### Number of camps

UNHCR is currently supporting the local authorities and NGOs in 37 planned camps with 57,742 people in NWFP and AJK. It has counted another 285 spontaneous/self-settled camps. In all, there are 184,460 people living in camps in the affected areas. These figures change daily due to fluid population movements.

### What's been distributed so far

20,855 tents, 59,236 plastic sheets, 391,759 blankets, 27,938 jerry cans, 22,453 kitchen sets, 12,519 mattresses, 3,009 stoves, 3,862 sleeping bags and 25,224 bars of soap.

### What we need

US\$30 million to assist 250,000 people. So far we've received \$29.7 million in pledges.

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*If you need further information regarding the earthquake, please do not hesitate to contact the following persons:*

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