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## UNHCR RESPONSE TO PAKISTAN EARTHQUAKE

01 March 2006

### UNHCR role

Under the joint UN response to the earthquake, UNHCR is the lead agency for camp management, supporting the Pakistan government in the running of camps. As the focus shifts from relief to recovery and rehabilitation, UNHCR is working closely with the authorities and other agencies on issues of return and eventually, camp closure.

### Current priorities

**Relocation:** Moving people from congested camps with poor facilities or camps at risk of flooding/landslides to planned camps with better services.

**Information campaign:** Providing accurate and updated information to camp population on health, hygiene, land & civil rights, disability assistance, compensation, etc. in preparation for return after winter.

**Voluntary return:** Working with the Sustainable Return Task Force (OCHA, UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF, WFP, OXFAM, NRC) to ensure that returns from camps are informed and voluntary.

**Capacity building:** Providing resources and training to Pakistan authorities and NGOs in camp management to help them manage camp populations who can't go home in the short term.

### Presence in affected areas

137 emergency staff in Islamabad and four hubs – Mansehra (covers Haripur, Siran Valley), Batagram, Muzaffarabad and Bagh – and three field offices (Abbotabad, Balakot and Bisham).

### Number of camps

UNHCR is currently supporting the local authorities and NGOs in 26 planned camps with 62,101 people in NWFP and AJK. We are also assisting 131 spontaneous/self-settled camps with 92,394 people. In all, we have counted 154,495 people living in 157 camps with 50 or more tents in the affected areas. These figures change daily due to fluid population movements.

### What's been distributed so far

20,792 tents, 766,804 blankets, 99,572 plastic sheets, 38,130 mattresses, 18,593 jerry cans for kerosene, 19,203 jerry cans for water, 24,199 kitchen sets, 17,721 stoves/heaters and 219,579 bars of soap.

### What we need

We've received the initial amount of US\$30 million requested but will be seeking more funds as we focus on building the capacity of Pakistani authorities and NGOs.

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

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