
UNHCR RESPONSE TO PAKISTAN EARTHQUAKE

UNHCR role

Under the joint UN response to the earthquake, UNHCR is the lead agency for camp management. Our strategy is three-pronged: To rush non-food relief items to remote villages in medium- and high-altitude areas so that affected populations can stay near their homes should they wish to do so; to monitor and maintain basic standards in spontaneous camps on lower grounds; to provide technical support to the military and NGOs on site planning and development in planned/organised camps for displaced people as UN cluster leader on camp management.

Current priorities

Winter race: This is a critical time to rush aid to affected populations in mid - high altitudes and areas where road access is not possible before they die of winter-related causes and before snow/fog make roads impassable and airlifts impossible. Important to keep supplies flowing fast.

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. A safe heating device is still under discussion.

Disease outbreak: Urgent need for decongestion, water and sanitation in camps to prevent spread of diseases. UNHCR/UNICEF workshops for army running camps + mobile teams to fix watsan problems and sensitise people on hygiene and protection issues.

Presence in affected areas

87 emergency staff (33 international + 54 national) in two hubs: Mansehra (covers Balakot, Batagram and Shangla) and Muzaffarabad (covers Bagh)

Number of camps UNHCR is involved in

20 planned/organised: 11 in Mansehra with 15,189 people; 9 in Muzaffarabad with 9,216 people.

What's been distributed so far

10,505 tents, 22,545 plastic sheets, 30,170 blankets, 6,228 jerry cans, 3,850 jerry cans, 742 stoves and 543 mattresses.

What we need

US\$18 million by end of November to set up 30 camps for up to 150,000 people. So far we've only received \$7.4 million in pledges.

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

Vivian Tan, Snr. P.I Officer, tanv@unhcr.org at 0300-500-1133

Robyn Groves, Snr. External Relations Officer, grovesr@unhcr.ch at 0300-856-4875

Office: ++92-300-2829502 – 6/2424, 2426 & 2421