
UNHCR RESPONSE TO PAKISTAN EARTHQUAKE

6 January 2006

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.

Current priorities

Winterisation: Distribution of 3 blankets per person, 4 mattresses and 2 plastic sheets for each tent – to insulate roof and ground is now complete.

Distribution of stoves: the Government has now agreed to the distribution of stoves for communal heating in NWFP and individual heating in AJK. This is now in progress.

Fire safety: Minimising risk of tent fires by exploring safe heating options and educating camp residents on fire safety, prevention and response. Information, fire extinguishers and pails filled with sand to be provided to camps.

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.

Presence in affected areas

124 emergency staff (44 international + 80 national) in Islamabad and four hubs: Mansehra (covers Abbotabad, Haripur, Balakot), Batagram (covers Shangla), Muzaffarabad and Bagh.

Number of camps

UNHCR is currently supporting the local authorities and NGOs in 26 planned camps with 53,588 people in NWFP and AJK. Another 113 spontaneous/self-settled camps shelter 137,008 people in the affected areas. These figures change daily due to fluid population movements.

What's been distributed so far

19,439 tents, 431,184 blankets, 60,413 plastic sheets, 1,531 plastic rolls, 15,886 mattresses, 24,908 jerry cans, 20,008 kitchen sets, 1,359 sleeping bags and 31,628 bars of soap.

What we need

US\$30 million to assist 250,000 people. So far we've received \$29.8 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
Massoumeh Farman-Farmaian, Snr. External Relations Officer, pakisext@unhcr.org at 0300-856-9038
Office: ++92-300-2829502 – 6/2424, 2426 & 2421