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## UNHCR RESPONSE TO PAKISTAN EARTHQUAKE

Updated 05 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 available on the HIC website. It will now be launched and 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. Government estimates 100-200,000 new arrivals in NWFP and 30,000 in AJK. UNHCR is working closely with the Pakistan military/civil authorities and the international community to expand existing camps and to build new camps.

**Improving camp infrastructure:** Urgent need for decongestion, water and sanitation in camps as more people arrive. UNHCR/UNICEF/WHO 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. Distribution of stoves and kerosene has started in camps.

### Presence in affected areas

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

### Number of camps

Government figures indicate there are 502 camps with 187,506 people in NWFP and AJK. Of these, 30 are planned camps (with over 36,000 people) run by the local authorities or NGOs, and supported by UNHCR.

### What's been distributed so far

18,271 tents, 71,839 plastic sheets, 341,042 blankets, 26,904 jerry cans, 25,563 kitchen sets and 22,824 bars of soap.

### What we need

US\$30 million to assist 250,000 people. So far we've received \$16.3 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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