

## **FLASH UPDATE**

# **UNHCR's Emergency Response to South Asia Earthquake**

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### **General**

The official death toll in Pakistan is now over 38,000 while more than 65,000 people are wounded. Numbers are still climbing as relief teams reach remote areas in Pakistan's North West Frontier Province (NWFP) and Azad Kashmir (Pakistan-administered Kashmir).

Ten days after the devastating earthquake, any hope of finding survivors under the rubble is diminishing, although small teams are still venturing into inaccessible areas like the Kaghan and Jhelum valleys in the hope of rescuing survivors in isolated villages.

Rain and snow storms are hampering the relief effort, preventing airlifts from taking place last weekend. Bad weather was blamed for the crash of a Pakistan Army helicopter that killed all six soldiers on board. Winter is approaching fast – temperatures in the north have dropped below

freezing point – and this is increasing the urgency of rushing tents and blankets to affected populations, many of whom are sleeping in the open.

The UN Consolidated Flash Appeal has been updated to USD312 million, of which HCR's requirements remain USD 22 million.

### **Impact on Afghan Refugees in NWFP**

In addition to the 15 Afghan refugees reported dead and 34 reported injured in camps around Mansehra, more Afghans living outside camps have been reported dead by their relatives. Information is still trickling in and the final refugee death toll is still rising.

In the camps, some able refugees have started rebuilding their damaged houses with home-made mud bricks. UNHCR is providing them with relief aid based on their individual needs.



Makeshift settlements line the roads in Balakot. © UNHCR / V. Tan

## UNHCR's Response

UNHCR is responding to the earthquake as part of the UN country team, organized in a system of clusters like emergency shelter, health and nutrition, water and sanitation, logistics, and protection. Under this system, UNHCR is the lead agency for camp management if there is a need to house people displaced by the earthquake.

UNHCR's top priority at present is to reach affected populations in inaccessible areas, making sure they receive humanitarian aid at their own home locations lest they should wander in search of assistance. This is to prevent a situation of mass displacement that could complicate relief efforts. UNHCR has so far delivered some 2,400 tents, as well as thousands of plastic sheets, blankets, kitchen sets and other relief items towards affected populations in the Mansehra area.

Over the weekend, the first of tonnes of relief supplies arrived in Islamabad from UNHCR's warehouse in Copenhagen.

Forty-seven trucks, put at UNHCR's disposal by WFP, left Kabul and Jalalabad in Afghanistan over the weekend loaded with some 1,500 tents,



About 30 families (approximately 150 people) from Boli village now live by the river in Balakot. Settling on a river risks contaminating water for those living downstream. ©UNHCR / V.Tan

50,000 pieces of plastic sheeting, 20,000 blankets, and 10,000 jerry cans for UNHCR's warehouse in Peshawar for onward distribution.

Stocks from UNHCR's emergency stockpiles further afield are coming in: the first flight arrived over the weekend; and flights with supplies from Dubai and Amman will have arrived in the next couple of days. In all, the supply of UNHCR's aid will bring more than 15,000 tents, 500 plastic rolls, nearly 70,000 plastic sheets, 220,000 blankets, over 30,000 jerry cans, 2,000 stoves, 5,000 lanterns and 15,000 kitchen sets for the victims of the earthquake.

## Immediate Needs

There is a great demand for tents and blankets as winter closes in. UNHCR needs to continue supplementing its stocks in Pakistan to ensure prompt delivery of aid to affected areas. At the same time, the agency has to work around logistical problems such as slow airport clearance of relief supplies, the poor condition of roads and sheer inaccessibility of some affected villages.



A father and son wait to board a helicopter to Islamabad. © UNHCR / B. Baloch

## Outlook for the Coming Days

Entering the second week of relief efforts, the situation is becoming more urgent. Bad weather and continuing aftershocks are complicating the delivery of assistance.

UNHCR is represented in every cluster meeting to ensure multi-sectoral coordination. The camp management cluster lead by UNHCR meets every day, in which over a dozen NGOs and three donors participate. Coordination of the relief efforts among the government, military and aid agencies is crucial at this point on in order to avoid a second man-made disaster.

The initial assessment reported that people prefer to go back to their home once the situation stabilizes. UNHCR has staff in five affected areas – Mansehra, Balakot, Batagram, Shangla and Muzaffarabad – to identify places where people have gathered spontaneously in makeshift shelters near their destroyed houses and villages. This allows UNHCR to target assistance more accurately and ensure that affected people can receive at least the bare essentials, like shelter, water and sanitation.

The Pakistan Government has requested UNHCR and its partners to assist them in setting up temporary camps in the affected areas. UNHCR staff are currently working with the military to identify suitable camp sites in Balakot, Batagram and Muzaffarabad that meet Sphere standards with regards to road accessibility, water, sanitation and security.

There will be a senior-level mission from the Headquarters on Thursday to appraise UNHCR's response on the ground so far and to advise the Field on the way forward including recommendations on the operational structures and funding situation.

For the overview on UN's common response efforts for the earthquake on the ground, please go

## Funding Overview

UNHCR would like to thank the following donors for the generous contributions.

Donors	Amount in USD
<b>Government donors</b>	
Government of Italy	300,481
Government of Japan	1,000,000
Government of Sweden	2,570,694
<b>Government donors sub-total</b>	<b>3,871,175</b>
<b>Private donors*</b>	
Online Activities at Headquarters	7,619
Price Water House Coopers	7,752
Australia for UNHCR	62,310
Private Donors in Canada	92,659
Private Donors in Greece	18,750
<b>Private donors sub-total</b>	<b>189,090</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>4,060,265</b>

\* There is USD 600,962 in the pipeline from Stichting Vluchteling. Please note that Private Sector Fund Raising is still in the process of confirming contributions received with our various National Associations and/or Fund Raising Offices, as well as with Staff Council.

## UNHCR's Budget Breakdown

The UNHCR's requirement as part of UN Flash Appeal is USD 22 million. The breakdown is as follows:

Subject to ORB approval

Sector	Requirements
Logistics	1,919,000
Domestic Items	1,801,000
Water	400,000
Sanitation	250,000
Heath	80,000
Shelter	14,537,000
Community Service	250,000
Protection	75,000
Agency Support Cost	500,000
Admin/Staff	648,000
HQ Overhead Costs	1,540,000
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>22,000,000</b>