

FLASH UPDATE

UNHCR's Emergency Response to South Asia Earthquake

Priority Humanitarian Action

More than 5 weeks have passed since the 7.6 magnitude earthquake that struck South Asia on 8 October. The official death toll now stands at over 73,000 with 128,000 injured. Figures can only be partial as many areas have not yet been reached.

Following the Ministerial Meeting chaired by the Secretary-General on 26 October, the UN Country Team has prepared 'Priority Humanitarian Actions in November 2005' operating with an initial working budget. UNHCR's requirement within this approach is USD17.9 million to cover some 30 planned camps for up to 150,000 people based on the following strategy. Spontaneous camps will be assisted as the joint mapping exercise with the Government of Pakistan continues.

1. Overall Camp Management Coordination

To date, UNHCR is deploying mobile technical quick impact teams to Muzaffarabad, Bagh, Mansehra and Batagram to increase the rapid response capacity. UNHCR is also shortly to deploy mobile Camp Management Support teams to provide assistance to both planned and spontaneous camps in these locations.

A total of 20 Quick Impact Technical Teams will provide technical intervention in site planning and development of water and sanitation systems. In coordination with other Cluster agencies, in particular, of Shelter (Cluster Lead IOM), Water and Sanitation (Cluster Lead UNICEF) and Health (Cluster Lead WHO), the teams will ensure that shelter, fencing, lighting, community spaces etc are properly in place and that water and sanitation systems as well as waste management disposal mechanisms are set up in planned camps.



Gari Habibullah camp near Balakot in North West Frontier Province / UNHCR / B.Baloch / November 2005

The Camp Management Support Mobile Teams complement the rapid technical intervention of the Quick Impact Teams. Their main tasks are to support, advise and/or train local NGOs and community leaders in mobilizing community support within camps. A total of 12 Teams will be deployed covering the same five locations. Raising awareness of hygiene and health precautions as well as of protection and security related matters is one of the key interventions. They also support the coordination of in-camp activities and establish community based management committees for assistance distribution, health, water and sanitation.



UNHCR site planner Melesse Tegagne giving pointers on site planning to Pakistani officials in Muzaffarabad, who will in turn train others. / UNHCR / B.Baloch / November 2005

Financial Requirements

UNHCR's requirements are set out in the UNCT 'Priority Humanitarian Actions in November 2005' as below.

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| Quick Impact Technical Teams | 2,020,000 |
| Camp Management Support Mobile Teams | 430,000 |
| Camp Management of c.a. 30 planned camps | 2,800,000 |
| Development of internal supply chain | 1,800,000 |
| Non Food Items (NFIs) | 2,625,031 |
| Shelter (tents, plastic sheets, etc.) | 2,990,995 |
| Transport/Logistics | 2,600,000 |
| Legal assistance | 100,000 |
| Administrative costs | 1,442,737 |
| HQ Overhead costs | 1,176,613 |
| TOTAL REQUIREMENTS | 17,985,376 |

2. Internal Supply Chain

To expedite delivery of assistance items, UNHCR is opening logistics hubs in Abbottabad, Batagram and Bagh from where items are forwarded by NGOs and the local authorities to newly established camps. At Islamabad airport, logistics coordination for incoming flights and onward domestic distribution is crucial amidst the non-stop arrival of relief items. UNHCR is closely working with UNJLC as well as NGO partners. The replenishment of relief items which UNHCR released from stockpiles for the earthquake response is urgently needed so that UNHCR can respond to refugee emergencies as they occur.

3. Cooperation with the Protection Cluster

Protection of vulnerable persons, unaccompanied children and female heads of household is a priority in established camps. UNHCR is providing support to the Government and UNICEF (Protection Cluster Lead) in defining the protection needs of the internally displaced persons and the affected population in a natural disaster situation and devising the adequate measures to address the needs of those hosted in camps, including support for the registration of camp populations. UNHCR plans to deploy five experts in Sexual and Gender Based Violence, community services and protection.



A convoy of UNHCR relief supplies crawls up a precipitous mountain road in Pakistan-Administered Kashmir / UNHCR / T. Irwin / October 2005

UNHCR Response Update

Racing against the imminent harsh winter, UNHCR is accelerating NFI delivery with particular emphasis on winterization of tents. In total, UNHCR has distributed through NGOs and Pakistan authorities more than 20,000 tents and 270,000 blankets. An urgent priority in camp management is water and sanitation – with acute risk of diarrhea, due to insufficient latrines and water supply. While ensuring proper site planning for this, UNHCR is also involved in training of the local authorities to address the issues along with UNICEF (Water and Sanitation Cluster Lead) and WHO (Health Cluster Lead). The figures for camp residents below are constantly updated by NGO partners but more accurate figures will be available once registration of camp populations recently started by National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) is complete.

Mansehra Hub

Mobile teams are covering a total of 19 camps with capacity for more than 24,000 families in Batagram, Balakot, and Mansehra in North West Frontier Province (NWFP). The largest camps are Gari Habibullah, Hassa and Basian camps in Balakot with capacity for more than 13,000 families. There is a continuous flow of people from the upper valley in Mansehra since the reopening of the Khagan road. Particularly Band



Fetching water in Gari Habibullah camp near Balakot, NWFP. / UNHCR / B.Baloch / November 2005

Shahib Khan camp in Abbottabad and Jaba camp in Mansehra are growing by the day and most of the new arrivals seem to be more impoverished and vulnerable than previous arrivals.

Assessment of spontaneous settlements is underway in the area for possible camp consolidation where necessary. To better identify groups with special needs, UNHCR is in contact with NADRA who started a second phase registration in the earthquake affected areas, including Mansehra and Balakot. While the first phase registration of earthquake victims was carried out in hospitals, the second phase registration includes registration of camp populations.

Between 20-40 trucks of relief items have been received daily in the past week in this region. More than 3,500 tents, 3,000 plastic sheets, 4,000 blankets, 1,000 kitchen sets, 1,000 jerry cans are distributed by early this week. Winterization of the camps are underway, covering tents with plastic sheets and providing additional blankets.



Destroyed houses at Gari Habibullah village near Balakot, NWFP. / UNHCR / B.Baloch / October 2005

Muzaffarabad Hub

As snow and rain have started in areas above 2,600 meters, families continue to arrive in the lower valleys. At the moment there are 25 camps with capacity for more than 2,500 families.

Construction of sanitation facilities is a priority for many of the camps. More cases of diarrhea are being observed in spontaneous camps. A task force has been formed to monitor and improve water and sanitation conditions.

To better maintain camp standards, the consolidation of non-viable spontaneous camps is planned. A comprehensive survey of all spontaneous camps by UNHCR and the local authorities is underway, which so far recommends the closure of five camps to be merged with planned camps (Thori Park or Mera Tanoliya). In the meantime, two new sites have been identified in the Tandali and Sungra area for additional planned camps.

Another issue of concern is lack of schools for traumatized children. It has now been raised with concerned NGOs who are active in the camps as well as the local authorities. UNHCR, UNICEF and the government authorities are distributing questionnaires in 16 camps to collect data to assess the scope and needs of the vulnerable groups. UNHCR and UNICEF provide guidance on methodology and identification of vulnerable categories to the camp managers as well as to the community groups who are directly involved in the data collection.

NFIs transported by trucks are being distributed through NGOs in coordination with the local authorities to the most vulnerable families. On 16 November, British helicopters began airlifting UNHCR's NFIs including 2,089 tents, 36,000 blankets, 3,490 plastic sheets, 2,259 jerry cans and 4,700 kitchen to Leepa Valley. In addition, UNHCR contributed 50,000 blankets, 20,000 plastics sheets, 2,000 kitchen sets, 4,000 jerry cans and 400 burial cloths to IOM. UNHCR has committed, as part of OCHA coordinated interagency effort, to provide a winterization package for 500 families in high altitude villages.

Funding Overview

A total of USD 7.9 million are confirmed by the Government donors and USD 903,000 are the firm projection for the Private donors. UNHCR is grateful to the following donors.

| UNHCR's Supplementary Programme Budget 8 October 2005 - 7 April 2006 | |
|---|------------------|
| Donors | Contributions |
| Governmental/Inter-governmental (Cash) | (USD) |
| Canada | 854,701 |
| Czech Republic | 300,000 |
| Italy | 323,415 |
| Japan | 1,000,000 |
| Norway | 1,085,271 |
| Sweden | 3,811,944 |
| Turkey | 500,000 |
| Sub-total | 7,875,332 |
| Governmental/Inter-governmental (In-kind) | |
| Airlifts by NATO member states: Denmark, France, Greece, Italy, Turkey, UK | Cash value tbd |
| Land transportation by Turkey | Cash value tbd |
| Sub-total | - |
| Private Donors* | |
| Australia for UNHCR | 135,300 |
| Germany UNO-Flüchtlingshilfe | 10,291 |
| Japan for UNHCR | 8,696 |
| Online Activities at Headquarters | 30,000 |
| PricewaterhouseCoopers | 7,752 |
| Private Donors in Canada | 45,886 |
| Private Donors in France | 12,107 |
| Private Donors in Greece | 13,493 |
| Shinnyo-en | 100,000 |
| Stichting Vluchteling | 363,196 |
| USA for UNHCR | 176,680 |
| Sub-total | 903,400 |
| Grand Total | 8,778,732 |

* These are firm projections. In the pipeline are USD 5,901 from Private Donors in Canada and USD 117,699 from Japan for UNHCR.



A British Chinook helicopter taking UNHCR's relief items to the Leepa Valley in Pakistan-Administered Kashmir. UNHCR / T.Irwin / November 2005