

UNICEF Pakistan Update No.1

Earthquake October 2015: Needs and Response

26 to 28 October 2015



Rehana, 10, has been brought to the Lady Reading Hospital for treatment after she suffered injuries due to the recent earthquake. Her mother is scared if her daughter will recover from the injuries. "We had come to attend a wedding at our relative's home, but the house collapsed in the earthquake during the celebrations." © UNICEF Pakistan/2015

Situation Overview

The 7.5 magnitude earthquake struck Badakhshan province of Afghanistan on 26 October and severely affected the northern part of Pakistan. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province, the adjoining tribal belt of FATA, the northern region of Gilgit Baltistan (GB) and some parts of Punjab were affected. KP was the worst hit with nine districts affected including Peshawar, Buner, Swat, Chitral, Shangla, Dir Upper, Dir Lower, Malakand and Mardan. In the Federally Administered Tribal Area (FATA) Bajaur, Mohmand, Kurram and Orakzai agencies were affected. Initial reports from GB indicate that five districts are affected, including Diamer, Ghizer, Hunza, Gilgit and Nagar. Reported damage to life and social infrastructure is expected to rise once data from inaccessible districts/areas of FATA and GB is received.

The timely collection and dissemination of accurate information on the extent of the impact of the earthquake, and critical needs assessment of the total number of people and their locations, remains challenging due to the extreme weather conditions including heavy snowfall and rains, difficult mountainous terrain, insecurity and damages to road infrastructure. Many affected communities remain cut-off, placing them at extreme risk, especially children, women and the elderly. According to

28 October 2015 OVERVIEW

Families, especially children, in earthquake affected areas of Pakistan and Afghanistan are facing deadly threats as extreme weather conditions and insecurity have made the areas difficult to access for aid agencies.

Initial official figures report 268 deaths, 1,844 injuries, nearly half are estimated to be children, and significant infrastructure damages to roads, bridges and schools. These figures are expected to rise as information from remote cut-off areas especially FATA and Gilgit Baltistan become available (source NDMA/PDMA as of 28 October, 2015)

The Government of Pakistan is leading the humanitarian/relief response in earthquake affected areas and has not requested support from international and national humanitarian partners including the UN.

Humanitarian partners including UNICEF are ready to support the Government-led response based on official requests, focusing mainly on provision of essential life-saving supplies.

UNICEF PLANNED SUPPORT

UNICEF initial support, if requested, will focus on distribution of critical WASH, health, nutrition and education supplies in the worst affected areas in KP, FATA and GB.

UNICEF WASH and health supplies are ready for transportation and distribution to the earthquake affected districts of Chitral, Dir Upper & Shangla in KP and Bajaur Agency in FATA. This includes 5,500 hygiene kits, 11,000 jerry cans, 400 latrine slabs, 20 water storage tanks and 40 tarpaulin sheets and 984 newborn kits.

initial assessments by the Government and its partners on the ground, the immediate needs include emergency shelter, winterization supplies, health (including trauma/emergency health kits, maternal and neo-natal supplies) and water and sanitation support.

Currently the Government is leading the response efforts with overall coordination by the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA). Although there has been no formal request for assistance from the Government to the national and international humanitarian community, UN agencies and NGOs are ready to respond to any requests for humanitarian assistance.

UNICEF Response

UNICEF and other humanitarian partners including sister UN agencies are ready to support the Government-led humanitarian efforts in affected areas. UNICEF's initial response is to address critical humanitarian needs in areas of water and sanitation, health and nutrition, education and child protection, and focus on the provision of life-saving supplies to support health and nutrition, and water and sanitation services.

WASH: UNICEF WASH supplies are ready for transportation to affected areas. These include 5,500 hygiene kits, 11,000 jerry cans, 400 latrine slabs, 20 water storage tanks and 40 tarpaulin sheets. UNICEF partner, Islamic Relief, is on the ground for an initial assessment to identify the damages and WASH needs in Chitral and Shangla.

Health and Nutrition: 984 new-born baby kits are ready for distribution through partners. Mapping of the available priority health resources is currently underway and a plan of action for the distribution of supplies has been prepared with focus on the five most affected districts and one agency of FATA including Chitral, Shangla, Swat, Upper and Lower Dir and Bajaur Agency. Health supplies include two million sachets of ORS, Zinc Tablets, 11,276 clean delivery kits, 1,476 new-born kits, 10,000 sachets of micronutrients, 1,000 cartons of ready to use therapeutic food. UNICEF, in addition to providing micronutrients and therapeutic food

will also support screening of children and pregnant and lactating women.

Education: Approximately 235 schools are damaged according to initial assessment reports from the Government and its NGO partners on the ground. There is an immediate need for the provision of shelter materials, specifically, winterized tents for the 150 fully damaged schools in KP. UNICEF can immediately mobilise its contingency stock including 42,750 Student learning kits, 3 school tents, 3,550 plastic mats, 530 blackboards, and 519 water coolers to support the Government to address the educational needs of around 42,000 children.

Child Protection: An emergency meeting of the sub-Cluster has been scheduled today to discuss the overall situation, data collection and the need for a Child Protection Rapid Assessment (CPRA) tool.

Funding Requirement

Funding needs will be determined based on needs assessment. For immediate response UNICEF can re-allocate available regular resources until additional funds are mobilized. Currently, emergency/contingency supplies for 100,000 individuals are available and ready for transportation at the UNICEF warehouses in Pakistan.

Who to contact for further information:

Angela Kearney
Representative
Pakistan Country
Office
akearney@unicef.org

Abdul Sami Malik
Communication Specialist
Pakistan Country Office
asmalik@unicef.org