



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

# South Asia Earthquake

April 21, 2006 - Update

## LEVELING GROUND, RAISING CONFIDENCE

To help earthquake survivors in Muzaffarabad earn an income while preparing neighborhoods for rebuilding, USAID funded 150 groups of 20 villagers each to demolish damaged structures, salvage reusable materials, clear rubble and level ground at building sites. Paid the prevailing daily wage of 200 rupees (~3.50 USD) per person, a group rotates between 20 household sites a day.

At least 3,000 households in 40 villages have benefited from this program, with many villages seeing more than 80,000 rupees (1,334 USD) injected into their local economies. "We are helping those who are most in need first," said Mohammed Asghar Khan, chairman of the Potha Community Organization in Katcheli union council. Haji Gul Akbar Khan, taking a break from clearing a site in Potha, said he appreciated the chance to earn cash while removing the rubble of destroyed homes. "What could be better than this?"



*These men are working to clear away rubble from a collapsed home in Potha village in Muzaffarabad District.*

Photo: Kaukab Jhumra Smith/USAID



Photo: Kaukab Jhumra Smith/USAID

*Farhan Idrees, 11, plays ball during his lunch break at the child protection center in Malkan village in Mansehra District.*

## HELPING CHILDREN RECOVER THEIR LIVES

For children affected by the earthquake, the trauma of losing their homes and schools was compounded by the loss of a daily routine of attending classes and playing with friends.

To provide traumatized children with a safe place to interact with their peers, USAID established 40 "child-friendly spaces," or child protection centers, across three districts in North-West Frontier Province and Kashmir. Most children attend activities for more than three hours a day at the centers, supervised by an adult monitor and two volunteers from within their community.

When the centers first started, children hesitated to speak or participate in group activities. "In the beginning, the children wouldn't talk. They were totally quiet," said Azra Iqbal, a community member who supervises two shifts at the 170-member child center in Malkan. "In the last six months, there has been tremendous improvement in their participation. Without this child-friendly space, these children would be roaming the streets."



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## Earthquake Update Continued

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Photo: USAID

*Lt. Col. Rafique, ERRA Technical Director, begins to make use of USAID-donated computer equipment.*

### USAID DONATES COMPUTER EQUIPMENT

USAID has donated \$45,000 in computer and office equipment to Pakistan's Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority (ERRA). The equipment fills a gap that will help link newly-hired employees to the growing ERRA computer network, essential for planning and implementing earthquake reconstruction programs.

This donation includes 15 IBM computers with monitors, printers, fax machines, a scanner and a digital copier. USAID Mission Director in Pakistan Jonathan Addleton said, "The Federal Relief Commission ably led relief activities. Now ERRA, merged with the Commission, has the expertise to lead the rehabilitation and reconstruction plan. Their job will be facilitated by this donation of computer equipment."

Colonel Arshad Mahboob, who accepted the donation on behalf of ERRA, added, "Right now, ERRA needs computer and office equipment for all of its new employees badly. These computers will help us fulfill an immediate need."

### FAST FACTS:

#### Government of Pakistan estimates:

Death toll: 73,338  
Injured: 69,412  
Homeless: 2.8 million

#### Government of India estimates :

Death toll: 1,309  
Injured: 6,622  
Homeless: 150,000

#### U.S. Assistance as of April 21, 2006:

#### Total U.S. Government Humanitarian and Reconstruction Assistance Pledged: \$510,000,000

- \$300 million in economic assistance
- \$110 million in U.S. military in-kind support for relief operations
- at least \$100\* million from U.S. private contributions

To date, USAID has provided more than \$80.5 million in humanitarian assistance, including nearly \$6.5 million in emergency relief commodities and associated transport costs, for earthquake-affected populations in Pakistan.

As part of its overall response, USAID has provided nearly \$29.5 million in funding to the U.N. South Asia Earthquake Flash Appeal, to support transitional shelter programs, food, health, water and sanitation, humanitarian air service, logistical coordination, and the transport of supplies to affected populations and movement of those populations to safe areas.

**For more information on the earthquake and USAID's work, please see "South Asia Earthquake" at [www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov).**

**For information on giving visit:  
[www.safewinter.org](http://www.safewinter.org)**

\*Actual amount of donations to date is \$151 million (Center on Philanthropy, Indiana University)