



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

# South Asia Earthquake

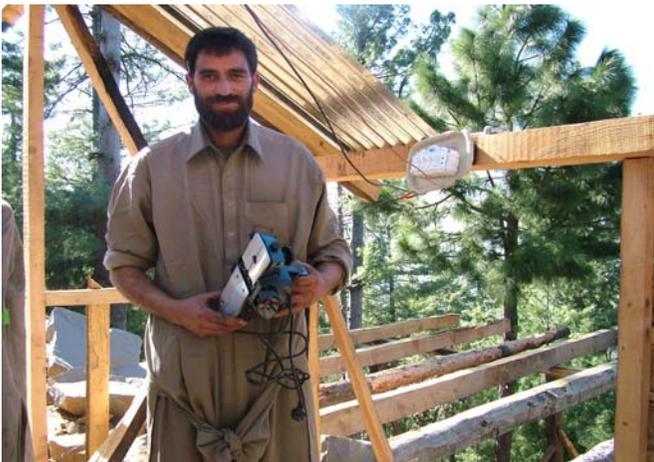
February 17, 2006 - Update

## CARPENTERS BUILD FOR THOSE WHO CAN'T

Among the many families in Bagh District receiving USAID building materials, many do not have a healthy adult male who can build their shelters. These include families headed by widows, the disabled or the elderly. USAID meets their needs with a program that provides replacement tools to carpenters who lost theirs in the quake if they will agree to assist these needy families first.

For those carpenters who lost their tools, the \$1,000 in replacements is critical. Many faced the loss of their businesses as they did not have the means to restock equipment buried in the earthquake. USAID provided durable equipment to 100 carpenters. In exchange, each promised to construct earthquake-safe shelters for 12 needy families in their area.

Carpenters also receive 2,000 rupees for each shelter they build, which stimulates local markets when they spend their wages. "This is very good for us," says Mohammed Ayaz, a Malot carpenter who lost all of his equipment in the quake.



Mohammed Ayaz constructs a shelter for a widow who cannot build her own in the village of Malot.



Photo: Suzanne Ross/ USAID

A young girl receives her new school uniform in front of the Mehra Relief Camp.

## CHILDREN START SCHOOL IN CAMPS

Around 16,000 people from the Allai Valley relocated to the Mehra Relief Camp and are now receiving shelter, blankets, and emergency food rations from USAID.

Less than 10 percent of the parents residing in the camp have ever attended school. The same is true for many of their children. Despite their own lack of education and 10-20 percent literacy rates, parents enthusiastically support sending their children to school.

Responding to the parents' enthusiasm for schooling, USAID distributed 2,000 school uniforms, as well as books and supplies, to school-age children in Mehra Camp while Caltex, a ChevronTexaco company, gave an additional 2,000 backpacks. USAID supports two tent schools in the camp and plans to open another school in the near future in response to community demand.

"Few of the children in these villages have ever attended school. Having a uniform validates the community's commitment to education," said Rod Snider, a USAID team leader.



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

## Earthquake Update Continued

February 17, 2006



Photo: USAID

Local community health outreach teams receive training from USAID-sponsored master trainers.

### STRENGTHENING HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS

USAID helps Pakistan strengthen its healthcare systems by training male and female master trainers in community health. 71 master trainers will expand the numbers of those trained in basic health care by conducting further training with public health volunteers in small villages.

New communication techniques in the training include story boards that use pictures to identify good and bad hygiene procedures and the causes of illness. Photographs also teach techniques for managing wounds, broken bones, respiratory infections and other ailments.

As thousands of hygiene kits are distributed to those affected by the earthquake, health educators will promote better hygiene practices by demonstrating to villagers how to use their kits and increasing awareness of health services in the communities.

A team of female health promoters will also conduct awareness sessions for groups of women and children about water use and sanitation.

#### 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 February 17, 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 anticipated from U.S. private contributions

To date, USAID has provided nearly \$70 million in humanitarian assistance, including nearly \$6.4 million in emergency relief commodities and associated transport costs, for earthquake-affected populations in Pakistan.

As part of our overall response, USAID has provided more than \$22.6 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)**