



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

South Asia Earthquake

March 10, 2006 - Update

PRESIDENT BUSH VISITS PAKISTAN

President George W. Bush met with President Pervez Musharraf during his visit to Islamabad on March 4. Their dialogue underscored the cooperation and partnership between the two countries and highlighted successful earthquake relief efforts to date.

They cited earthquake relief and reconstruction as a visible component of the special relationship between the U.S. and Pakistan. "We're proud to help our Pakistani friends recover from the devastation of the earthquake," said President Bush. "We're proud to stand with the NGOs and those who deliver compassion as this country rebuilds."

President Bush presented the State Department Group Superior Honor Award to the U.S. Mission staff in Pakistan for their individual and collective achievements in the immediate humanitarian relief response to the earthquake. This included the permanently-assigned, temporary duty personnel from the U.S. military, and the USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team.



Photo: Shealah Craighead/White House

President George W. Bush and Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf walk together to their joint news conference at Aiwan-e-Sadr in Islamabad, Pakistan.



Photo: Kaukab Jhumra Smith/USAID

Mandan Khan, who lives in Koray village in Battagram District, cut his travel time to the local market from two days to just one hour after USAID repaired the trail.

BUILDING PATHS TO BETTER LIVES

In Battagram District in Pakistan's North West Frontier Province, mountain paths that villagers used daily were treacherous even before the 7.6-magnitude earthquake struck on Oct. 8. Parents hesitated to send children to school on paths slick with rainfall; carrying a sick person to the hospital proved risky for all involved; and grazing cattle sometimes slipped to their deaths.

The earthquake exacerbated problems. USAID stepped in to rebuild and widen mountain trails in Battagram District with a cash-for-work program. The program employs nearly 400 local men to build new six-foot-wide mountain trails, widen existing trails, clear paths, imbed large flat stones as steps on inclines, and break rocks blocking the path. Steps measure 12 inches high, making it easier for children and the elderly to climb them.

Three trails, totaling almost 5.5 miles, are nearly complete with more trails planned.



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Earthquake Update Continued

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Photo: Kaukab, Jhumra Smith/USAID

Farmers receive cash-for-work payments for clearing the 2 mile-long irrigation canal near the village of Sir Ajmaira in north Pakistan.

PLANNING AHEAD FOR PLANTING

Blocked irrigation canals in Battagram District in Pakistan could have been a major problem for the spring planting season. Rubble fell into irrigation canals during the earthquake, and many canals were filled with silt.

To clear the irrigation system in time for planting rice and wheat and provide much-needed wages to local residents, USAID funded a pilot program to clear water canals around Battagram District. Laborers have cleared two canals, and a third is in process, providing water to more than 810 acres of cultivable land and benefiting 750 farmers and their families.

"We're earning money, my fields are getting water and other people's fields are getting water," said Abdul Ghafoor, a farmer in Sir Ajmaira village. Men earn 200 rupees (about \$3.33) per day clearing rubble, removing trash, cutting out roots and digging out silt from the canals in the cash-for-work program.

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 March 10, 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 more than \$70.4 million in humanitarian assistance, including nearly \$7 million in emergency relief commodities and associated transport costs, for earthquake-affected populations in Pakistan.

As part of our overall response, USAID has provided nearly \$24.9 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.

**For information on giving visit:
www.safewinter.org**