



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

# South Asia Earthquake

March 24, 2006 - Update

## RETURNING HOME TO REBUILD

More than 4,000 of the over 16,000 residents of Mehra camp in the North West Frontier Province have returned home to their villages since March 10. To assist their return, USAID provided shelter and household kits worth over \$200 each.

Household kits include kitchenware, a stove, a lantern, shoes and cloth. Each shelter kit includes a pickaxe, spade, hammer, handsaw and plastic sheets to build a transitional shelter.

“It was too cold to stay up in the mountains before,” said Bakhmareen, a resident of Gudlai village. “Now it’s warmer, so we can put up a tent while we try to restart our lives.” Standing in front of a truck loaded with his USAID-supplied shelter and household kits, Bakhmareen said, “These tools and blankets will be very useful.”

USAID kits supplement the one-month food supply provided by the Government of Pakistan, which includes flour, lentils, oil and rice. Local governments are arranging free transportation to return the displaced to their villages.



*A truck piled high with household and shelter kits for 10 families prepares to leave Mehra Camp in Pakistan.*

Photo: Kaukab Jhumra Smith/USAID



Photo: Kaukab Jhumra Smith/USAID

*Second-grade students at Pak Gali Boys High School in Poonch District attend class in a tent provided by USAID.*

## STRENGTHENING CONFIDENCE IN SCHOOLS

Many students had no schools to return to after the earthquake; others studied in rooms with cracked walls; still others crowded into a few remaining rooms or attended classes in the open air. Often, they sat on the floor because their desks, chairs and even books were buried under rubble.

USAID paid local villagers to clear rubble from school sites, provided tents as temporary classroom space for 228 schools, and funded new books, bags, desks and chairs for nearly 36,500 students.

Until they moved into the school tents, many students were scared of sitting in damaged classrooms and had trouble focusing on studies.

Musaffar Husain, headmaster of the Pak Gali Boys High School in Poonch District, said that children “now see safe structures, desks and furniture. They have begun to complete their homework again and to come to school on time.”



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## Earthquake Update Continued

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Photo: Suzanne Ross/USAID

*USAID water systems repairs make spring water available to residents of the Siran Valley in Pakistan.*

### CLEAN DRINKING WATER RESTORED

USAID provides funding and technical assistance to reestablish water and sanitation systems where the earthquake shifted streams, broke water pipes and damaged water reservoirs.

USAID cash-for-work programs are assisting villages to clear debris and rebuild water systems in the Siran Valley in Pakistan. Previously, most residents in Jambori and Hilcot villages relied on river water for drinking and hygiene, and almost 60 percent of the population complained of gastrointestinal disorders. Now, doctors document fewer than 8 percent of incoming patients with diarrheal diseases linked to unsafe drinking water.

USAID also set up latrines using cash-for-work programs in these affected areas to mitigate contamination of existing water sources.

#### 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 24, 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 \$6.5 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](http://www.usaid.gov).**

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