

IASC Meeting on South Asia Earthquake

10 October 2005, Room H.3, Palais des Nations



Logistics and transport

- Access is the major challenge. For example, road from Islamabad to Muzaffarabad only cleared for light vehicles. Thus, helicopters are important. WFP looking into hiring commercial helicopters. IFRC also looking into using helicopters from Iranian Red Crescent.
- Activation of UNJLC to be considered based on decision to be made by the Country Team.
- WFP is flying in logistics experts with regional experience and will take cluster lead on logistics.
- IOM is providing transport support. Not only cargo, but also for displaced people.
- Pakistani Acting Ambassador in Geneva offered to fast-track entry procedures (Visas) for incoming personal and other assistance.

Shelter

- Major concern is deteriorating weather conditions as winter sets in. Temperatures below zero degrees at night.
- Tents and material for shelter need to be appropriate for winter conditions. Heating equipment may be necessary.
- Warm Clothing and blankets are being sent in and more will be needed.

Health

- 1,000 hospitals are completely destroyed. There is a severe shortage of medical supplies.
- WHO and UNICEF are assisting ministry of health, and the surgical teams deployed to the most affected regions.
- WHO has already deployed assessment teams with 14 international experts and are deploying emergency health and trauma kits.
- WHO will call meeting of health cluster to coordinate response.
- (USD 500,000 already made available by WHO to buy medical supplies locally)
- UNFPA are procuring medical equipment for maternity care

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Civil Military Coordination

- Input from Pakistani military is important. Country team is awaiting info on requirements from military. Collaboration is crucial because affected areas are difficult to access and agencies rely on military transport capacity.
- As mentioned under logistics, agencies are looking into alternative suppliers of air transport. (see Logistics and Transport).
- US military equipment from Afghanistan?

Coordination

- UNDAC on ground with 8 people
- Coordination cell in RC office in Islamabad
- On-Site Operations Coordination Centre (OSOC) set up in Muzaffarabad
- OCHA has reception center at airport to direct and assist incoming assistance
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs is focal point for incoming contributions
- World Vision and other NGOs / ICVA asked BBC to focus on issue of coordination in their reporting
- There will be an IASC Task Force on South Asia Earthquake, meeting 3 times a week, to be chaired by OCHA (CRD) Next meeting Wed 12 October at 9.30am. Information on venue to be provided by IASC Secretariat.

Information Sharing

- OCHA issues daily situation reports. OCHA urges agencies to share info on the ground through office of resident coordinator in Islamabad.
- HIC cell (1 person) already deployed to Islamabad
- UNOSAT before / after satellite imagery will be ready today or early tomorrow to assist in needs assessment.

Tracking

- ICRC has set up website to help track family members

Food

- WFP have deployed urgent food aid by air and will use WFP food stocks available in the region

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Water, Sanitation and Nutrition

- UNICEF takes lead on these issues for coordination (cluster responsibility still work in progress)
- Water purification tablets, water tanks and jerry cans are being made available by UNICEF

Protection

- UNHCR will provide additional protection and camp management if necessary
- Important to know that already camps with 250,000 refugees in the area

Appeals

- Flash appeal launch on 11 October 2005 by SG, deadline to be provided by latest 12pm today (10 October).
- IFRC launched appeal for CHF 11 million on Sunday 9 October, will revise upwards in next 48 hours
- UNICEF has early estimate for flash appeal of USD 20 million