



South Asia Earthquake Health Situation Report # 27

11-19 December 2005

Health Cluster partners who wish to include information here should write to health@eqpak.emro.who.int copied to southasiaearthquake@who.int

Highlights

- WHO Director-General, Dr Lee Jong-Wook, and Regional Director, Dr Hussein A. Gezairy, visited Balakot and Muzaffarabad with WHO Representative, the Federal Minister of Health, the Chief Secretary of Health in NWFP and his deputy. On 11 December they visited Kashtara Camp in Balakot and viewed the compound where prefabricated basic health units are produced. In Muzaffarabad they visited Thury Camp and Abbas Medical Institute of Science (AIMS).
- Acute respiratory infections (ARI) continues to be most frequent causes for consultation and there is an increased number of weekly cases compared to figures last week.
- A third round of vaccination campaigns, to ensure maximum coverage in the affected areas, was launched by WHO and UNICEF with District Health Officers and health partners.
- WHO, UNHCR and Islamic Relief have jointly assessed camps to explore possibilities of integrating primary health care (PHC) into existing health services.



Federal Minister for Health, WHO RD, WR and WHO DG visiting a camp in Balakot.

Source: Omid Mohit

WHO response

Project 1: Revitalize the system for delivery of primary health care services including immunization, vitamin A supplementation, maternal, child and neonatal health services, as well as prevention and treatment of disabilities for earthquake affected populations in northern Pakistan.

Objectives: To assist the Government of Pakistan to revitalize / establish primary health care facilities and services in the affected areas to mitigate the impact on health of the earthquake and to ensure continuity of pre-existing program / services.

Bagh

- A third round of vaccinations was launched on 19 December by WHO and UNICEF in collaboration with district health officers and other health partners. Diphtheria, measles, meningitis and polio vaccinations will be carried out.
- A total of 18,492 consultations were reported carried out at the MOH health facilities.

Batagram

- WHO will assist the EPI team and UNICEF in the immunization campaign starting on 19 December. About 135 camps throughout the district will be covered: 103 camps in Tehsil Allai and 32 in Tehsil Batagram.
- WHO has provided tents to 50 lady health workers in Kuza Banda. An additional 40 will be distributed within the next days.
- Three MOH/WHO medical teams have completed a two week assignment in three basic health units (BHU). Three additional teams will be sent to the area.

Mansehra

- The proposal to train lady health workers in health education, hygiene promotion activities is being developed in collaboration with a WHO mental health team in Mansehra. The idea is to integrate mental health services into primary health care setting and to train lady health workers not only in health education, hygiene promotion field, but also in psychological counselling and psychiatric patient identification and referral.

Project 2: Revitalize hospital care services (secondary level) in regions affected by the earthquake

Objectives: To ensure that basic comprehensive health services (system and structures) are available for affected populations include treatment of medical and surgical conditions, prevention and treatment of physical disabilities, essential and emergency obstetric care and newborn and child care. To ensure the availability of health human resources to provide medical services.

Bagh

- Save the Children-UK donated 18 incubators for the Bagh District. WHO has taken on responsibility for distribution and training of providers regarding the incubators.

Project 3: Increase access to health care for affected communities

Objectives: Re-establish through the provision of temporary or semi permanent health infrastructure and equipment, essential primary health care services in areas where health facilities are destroyed and/or to the new settlements.

Balakot

- WHO will establish BHUs in Jabri Kalish (instead of in Mhanadri), Naran, Sangar, Jared, Paras, Ganhool and Hangarai. The BHUs in Gahnool, Paras and Sangar are currently under construction. BHU water supply is being assessed together with Oxfam.

Rawalakot

- Iron sheets will be distributed by WHO to support health staff working in BHUs in Rawalakot.

Project 4: Emergency health relief operations including coordination and information management

Objectives: To establish and lead together with MOH a coordination mechanism whereby a central office and 6 field offices (Muzaffarabad, Mansehra, Bagh, Balakot, Batagram and Rawalakot) are operational to assess and monitor the evolving health situation, coordinate health response, manage, analyse and disseminate essential health information, highlighting the health priorities.

Balakot

- A survey has been undertaken by WHO as part of a health promotion campaign this week. The survey focuses on: mortality; prevalence of scabies, diarrhoea, ARI and other illnesses; and health seeking behaviour and hygiene habits, such as personal hygiene and use of latrines.
- By request, the Cuban medical team in Balakot is now attending the coordination meetings.

Mansehra

- A winter contingency planning exercise was conducted at a health cluster meeting in Mansehra. Cluster partners will share response plans at the next health cluster meeting.
- A weekly WHO-Mansehra epidemiological bulletin has been developed and is distributed at the weekly health cluster meetings.

Project 5: Disease Surveillance and Early Warning System

Objectives: To detect, investigate and respond to disease outbreaks in order to reduce morbidity and mortality due to epidemic prone diseases. Provide the operational and technical support to MOH to set up and sustain an early warning surveillance system in all the affected areas, as well the local capacity to enter, process and analyse the epidemiological data, and provide a prompt response to any outbreak.

Muzaffarabad

- A suspected outbreak of acute diarrhoea in a spontaneous settlement at the Old University grounds in Muzaffarabad has been adequately prevented by the Ministry of Health; the MOH erected a rehydration treatment centre and WHO provided appropriate medical supplies.
- From 3 to 9 December, 112 of the 154 reporting units (73%) reported a total of 65,486 consultations, including five deaths.

Bagh

- Since WHO reported an increase of Acute Jaundice Syndrome cases, OCHA organized a joint assessment mission in Lariyan and Hansalah near Kharal Abassian area in Bagh Tehsil. The joint mission team comprised representatives from the health and watsan cluster as well as OCHA, WHO, District Health Office (DHO), Pakistan Army and UNICEF.
- The assessment and further investigation found seven out of 18 cases were clinically diagnosed as probable hepatitis. The likely cause is associated with unsafe drinking water and poor environmental sanitation. Samples were provided to the National Institute of Health laboratory in Islamabad for confirmation.
- An increasing number of dysentery cases and suspected hepatitis cases has been reported from Hawelli Kahuta Tehsil.
- MSF Belgium has reported three cases of measles of which two are in Bagh and one in Mallot.
- A decrease in the number of ARIs, watery diarrhoeal and unexplained fever cases among under five-year-olds is reported during Week 49. ARI is still the most common disease.
- One death and severe burn injuries in four tent fires has been reported by the US Army in Shinkhari, Mansehra Tehsil. With increasingly colder temperatures and slow improvement in the shelter situation more injuries and deaths from tent fires are expected. Agencies are jointly preparing public service announcements.
- The number of reporting sites has increased in Week 49 from 18 to 21. Three new reporting sites have been registered in the Disease Surveillance and Early Warning System (DEWS).

Balakot

- Of the total 5,016 morbidity cases reported between 10 to 16 December, 28% were of children under five years of age.
- The most common communicable diseases reported are ARIs (14%), acute diarrhoea (8%), undifferentiated fever (4%) and bloody diarrhoea (2%).

Batagram

- Seven cases of measles were reported between 7 to 17 December. One in Maidan Camp, two in Meira Camp. These cases indicate there are gaps in immunization coverage following the district-wide measles vaccination campaign.

Mansehra

- WHO/UNICEF/Executive District Office (EDO) investigation cell follow up of eleven suspected measles cases reported from Shinkhari area this week has clinically confirmed these are measles cases.
- The cause for morbidity continues to be ARI, watery diarrhoea and scabies. Other main health concerns are post-trauma injuries and rehabilitative services, access to basic reproductive health care and emergency obstetric care.

Balakot

- WHO implemented a health promotion campaign from 13 to 15 December targeting over 10,400 people. About 2,500 bottles of benzyl benzoate lotion (60ml) and 3,500 bars of soap were distributed among internally displaced persons with scabies. Messages on the dangerous signs

of lower acute respiratory infections and the need for early referral to health facilities were also disseminated. The impact of the campaign strategy will be evaluated next week through a randomised cluster survey on the target population.

Batagram

- The WHO environmental health team has evaluated the water and sanitation situation in Thakot Hospital and plans rehabilitation of toilets and water supply. Thakot Hospital sees approximately 900 patients a month and covers a population of 17,000.

Mansehra

- By request of the EDO in Mansehra, WHO and the Tehsil Municipal are identifying the site where the incinerator for solid waste management will be constructed.

Rawalakot

- WHO will install a water supply pipeline for the Cuban Hospital in Hajira.

Project 7: Coordination, policy formulation and provision of mental health and psychosocial actions

Objective: To provide access to emergency related mental health care all levels of care. To ensure interagency coordination and quality assurance in the area of mental health and psychological support.

Batagram

- Following an assessment conducted by a WHO four member team of psychiatrists and psychologists, awareness of mental health issues was found to be minimal among the general public and many health professionals. There is a need to ensure mental health services are integrated into PHC services to enable recognition, management and referral of patients in need. As well, regular and sustained provision of psychotropic medication for inpatients is required.
- Of 102 patients seen in Maidan Camp (82 male:20 female). The most common diagnoses were depression (45%), post traumatic stress disorder (37%) and anxiety (13%).
- The mental health team will be working closely with the lady health workers and female community leaders to ensure the mental health support is accessible to women and at the community level.

Mansehra

- The health cluster in Mansehra is forming mental health sub cluster. The objective is to bring the agencies involved in mental health closer to the protection cluster team of psychologists for better coordination and collaboration. The protection cluster team of psychologists are mainly working with children on psychological rehabilitation issues.

Rawalakot

- WHO looking into possibly providing another psychiatrist to work with the mental health team that currently operates in Rawalakot.

Donations to WHO

Reported donations as at 20 December 2005 against the WHO total requirement of US\$ 27,750,000. Donations to date currently meet 52.28% of WHO total requirements.

Donor	Funding intentions (in USD)	In-kind contributions (USD equiv.)	Purpose
Australia	1,881,061		
Australia	376,196		emergency health kits, their transportation & coordination of delivery
Australia	740,740		child, maternal and neonatal health care
Canada	1,495,727		
Canada	427,350		

Denmark	487,013		
Ireland	121,065		
Italy	300,481		
Italy		351,000	kits: 12 Trauma A, 12 Trauma B, 15 NEHK, 5 Diarrhoea Profile D and 5 Diarrhoea Profile F, & transport
Japan	1,000,000		vaccines and kits
Korea, Republic of	99,990		
Kuwait	500,000		
Monaco	121,065		supplies
Norway	253,670		
Norway	593,471		
Slovak Republic	123,812		
Sweden	1,905,972		
Switzerland	100,000		
Turkey	500,000		
UK/DFID	249,110		operational support
UK/DFID	843,373		disease control
UK/DFID		36,500	staff secondment
USAID	2,000,000		
Private donors	678		
Total	14,120,774	387,500	