

## Health Situation Report # 35

1-15 March 2006

### Highlights



*Training of 45 medical professionals on rehabilitation of patients with spinal injury due to the earthquake.*

- The return process of the earthquake-affected population residing in camps to their home villages is gradually taking place. Vaccinating centres and medical checkouts are being set up to minimize imminent health risks.
- A total of 45 medical professionals (doctors, physiotherapists, nurses, and psychologists) currently taking care of the 740 spinal injured patients affected by the earthquake, were trained to improve their skills in physical rehabilitation. The six-day training course was organized by the National Institute for Handicapped and WHO in Islamabad.
- Already 20 out of the 35 confirmed prefabricated WHO basic health units have been completed.
- Due to heavy rains, landslides caused 15 deaths in one accident in Balakot.
- A total of 1,458,058 children up to 5 years of age were vaccinated against Polio in the earthquake affected areas during the March round of the Polio National Immunization Days (NID). Over 80% of the targeted population between 12 months and 5 years of age were covered (335,892 in AJK, and 786,274 in NWFP).
- The main causes for consultations this week remain Acute Respiratory Infection (26%), Acute Watery Diarrhoea (7%), Fever of Unexplained Origin (4%) and (4%) injuries.

### WHO Response

#### Revitalization of primary health care services

##### Bagh

- As the result of a rapid assessment, the District of Health Office and WHO established a 'health house' in Naumanpura camp (862 people), to provide the Lady Health Worker with a private place to attend to females.
- A district-wide immunization campaign against Haemophilus influenzae type b and Hepatitis A has been initiated along with the routine vaccination.
- The continuing problem of scabies in camps is tackled by setting up temporary skin clinics in close collaboration the skin specialist of the District Headquarters hospital.
- A mop-up vaccination against Polio will be conducted in all areas that have not been covered during the Polio NIDs.

##### Battagram

- A survey to investigate coverage of measles vaccination among children in Meira camp (approximately 20,000 population) in Battagram shows that 85% of the children were vaccinated.

## Revitalization of hospital care services

### Balakot

- While construction works at the main hospital in Balakot (financed by private companies and individuals) are ongoing (see picture), WHO has completed three more prefabricated basic health units (BHU) in Jabri, Sanger and Gabri Kalesh. The NGO OXFAM will be providing safe drinking water to Gabri Kalesh.



### Muzaffarabad

- The 100-bed ICRC field hospital is all packed and ready to be handed over to the Ministry of Health, where it will be used for future disaster situations.
- The rehabilitation works of three rooms at the gynecological ward of the Abbas hospital (AIMS) has been completed.

### Rawalakot

- Construction works at the 50-bed Maternity and Child Health care clinic in the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) is progressing steadily with the completion of the flooring.

## Emergency health coordination and information management

### Bagh

- While many organizations are planning to leave by April, the NGO Mercy Corps is planning to initiate Primary Health Care and water and sanitation activities for a four-year period.
- The Cuban field hospitals in Dhirkot, Chamankot and Kahuata, including all the equipment and supplies, will be handed over to the Pakistani army by the end March.
- To facilitate the planning process of the transition phase in the health sector, WHO is compiling baseline data for the reproductive and maternal health programmes.

### Balakot

- For further enhancement of the Logistics Support System in the warehouse of the main hospital and the WHO office in Balakot, follow-up training was conducted. Stock managers from the Ministry of Health and WHO are using the LSS software for a more efficient and transparent supply management.

### Battagram

- As the result of a joint UN mission to Kohistan and Batera camp, three more Rural Health Centres in Dassu, Pattan and Shattyal will be sending their epidemiological data on a weekly basis to WHO as part of the Disease Early Warning System. Training in DEWS was also conducted in Kanai Batkul, Tiloose, Bihari, Tandul and Rashang.

### Rawalakot

- The five Cuban field hospitals are planning to leave Poonch district by the end of March. According to DEWS, the Cuban field hospitals of Polytechnic and Abbaspur are still seeing almost 2,500 consultations per week, Hajeera more than 1,750 and Bangoin more than 500. The average bed occupancy rate of the 10-bed Polytechnic Cuban hospital is 60% per week.
- To enhance the Logistics Support System in the WHO warehouse, stock keepers received a follow-up training.

## Disease Surveillance and Early Warning System (DEWS)

- Acute Respiratory Infections (ARI) continue to contribute significantly to the overall consultations in all reporting districts, but is showing a decrease compared with the previous week (27% and 28% respectively). The number of Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) cases showed a moderate increase compared to the previous week.

### Bagh

- One case of suspected measles was reported from Sohawa Sharif, Dhirkot Tehsil. The one-year-old boy was vaccinated against measles. Four more cases were found after active case finding; three were not vaccinated. One more case of suspected measles was reported from DHQ hospital from Dhal Qazian, Bagh Tehsil; the 2 year old boy was not vaccinated. Blood samples were taken and send to the National Institute of Health (NIH).
- One case of acute flaccid paralysis was reported by Arja RHU in Dhirkot Tehsil. Stool samples were taken and sent to NIH in Islamabad for laboratory confirmation.
- Two cases of suspected hepatitis were reported from Arja RHC. Both cases came from Dhirkot Tehsil, but from two different locations.
- One case of suspected meningitis was reported from Ravalli. The 12-year-old boy was referred to the PIMA hospital.

### Battagram

- After the measles vaccination in Meira camp, the number of cases has decreased to 14 this week. Preliminary results of the vaccine coverage survey in Meira camp show that 7.5% of children between 10 months and 15 years developed measles since the earthquake, while 84.7% of children of the same age group received at least one dose of measles vaccine while in the camp.
- Three cases of suspected measles cases were reported by the Al-Rasheed trust clinic, one other case was reported from Gajbori by the District Headquarters hospital. The 7 months old child was not vaccinated.

### Muzaffarabad

- One case of clinically diagnosed measles was reported from the Combined Military Hospital (CMH). The 13 year old boy was vaccinated.

### Poonch

- Two cases of suspected meningitis were reported: a 3 year old girl from from Kallar-Pak, Gali, Rawalakot Bangoin Cuban Hospital; and a 10 year old girl from Kahuta.

## Environmental Health

### Bagh

- A health education campaign is conducted in Bagh district through wide broadcasting of hygiene messages on the radio, distribution of hygiene kits, and the organization of a walk for promotion of hygiene awareness. One important aspect is the involvement of religious leaders in the dissemination of hygiene messages.
- A clean up committee, chaired by Deputy Commissioner Bagh, was established to focus on solid waste management in the town and main health facilities.

### Balakot

- To establish a high level solid waste management programme, the Tehsil Municipal Authority (TMA) set up a task force with WHO, UNICEF, and UNAP and the NGOs Oxfam and ACF. One of the first achievements focuses on the elaboration of a landfill site in Balakot and Gari Habibullah. The selection of potential landfill sites is currently ongoing.

- WHO handed over a Delagua water field testing kit for water quality monitoring to the TMA. On-the-job training will be conducted soon.
- Ten drum incinerators are currently under construction for remote health facilities. Two will be dispatched next week.

### **Battagram**

- The wide scope WHO water and sanitation project in Battagram has been completed: ensuring safe drinking water for 487,500 people and 12 basic health facilities. The project also consisted of the construction of an adequate amount of latrines together with UNICEF as well as 20 incinerators for proper medical waste disposal at the health facilities, which is 80% of the total number of health facilities functioning in Battagram.
- To improve the health waste management in the District Headquarters hospital, WHO started a large cleaning up campaign and provided three drum incinerators.
- WHO will ensure safe drinking water supply at the three completed prefabricated BHU in Bhattiam, Rashang, and Paimal Sharif.

### **Mansehra**

- Over 40 lady health workers were trained in hygiene promotion in al Rasid and Al-Husainia camp by WHO, UNFPA, and the NGO RedR. The lady health workers all received more than 80 hygiene kits to be distributed among the affected population.
- The incinerator for the disposal of medical waste at the District Headquarters hospital was completed and is currently being tested. The construction is an initiative of the Ministry of Health, WHO, UNICEF, and the NGO MSF.

### **Muzaffarabad**

- A total of 35 plant supervisors, engineers, laboratory technicians, and ICRC staff were trained on water quality testing by WHO and OXFAM at the Public Health Engineering Department Makri Treatment Plant.
- WHO is planning to rehabilitate the drinking water supply and sanitation infrastructure for eight rural villages, affected by the earthquake.

### **Rawalakot**

- The Combined Medical Hospital (CMH) water purification plant in Rawalakot has been enhanced with a new water supply line.
- WHO will donate two tons of aluminium sulphate double crystal for the Rawalakot Jar water treatment plant.

## **Mental health and psychosocial actions**

### **Bagh**

- The Mental Health Relief Unit (MHRU) has initiated a large number of mental health related activities to ensure that mental health problems are not solved by the use of pharmaceuticals. Training and radio programmes directed to schoolteachers, religious leaders, medical doctors and the population, provide messages on how to best treat those people psychologically affected by the earthquake.
- A master training for 33 new trainers and lady health supervisors is currently ongoing.

### **Battagram**

- Mental health activities in Maidan and Meira camp are focusing on the return process of the earthquake affected population to their villages, which was initiated on 10 March.
- Outreach programmes will be extended to Kohistan and Shangla.

### **Rawalakot**

- A new WHO mental health team has started services to Hajira and Abbaspur Tehsils.