



South Asia Earthquake Health Situation Report # 24

20-25 November 2005

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

Highlights

- The number of diarrhoeal cases is decreasing and no deaths were reported but clean water and appropriate sanitation remain major concerns
- WHO investigated a rumour of a measles outbreak in Balakot and reported that the situation is under control.
- There is an increase in number of reported ARI cases.
- A Global Fund mission has visited Muzaffarabad to discuss support to the revitalization of the TB program in the area
- The priority list of BHUs to be housed in prefab buildings has been identified and the list of basic drugs and equipment finalized.
- Polio campaign with the national country-wide immunization days has started and is also targeting most of the affected areas and camps



WHO Representative Dr. Bile vaccinating a child for polio in Islamabad, one tent village sheltering displaced from the earthquake

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.

- Door to door and tent to tent polio vaccination campaign will start in the affected area with exception of Muzaffarabad and Bagh district where the absence of detailed plans and the level of destruction do not permit the activities. This is a three-day national polio immunization campaign starting on the 23rd of November. The plan is to vaccinate 31 million children under five years of age with polio and Vitamin A drops. 75, 000 teams will be constituted to cover all the country.
- The lady health workers will be involved in the planning of this campaign and it has been decided that the EPI cards will not be used for polio.

Balakot:

- The measles campaign is continuing and children from camps in Balakot where cases of suspected measles were recently reported, have been vaccinated.

Mansehra:

- WHO has supported 10 basic health units (BHU) with mapping of existing health facilities by quality of care (QoC) assessments, ensuring provision of health facilities within the camps, re-establishment of DEWS, quality EPI-surveillance and a response plan.
- WHO engineers are in the process of conducting structural assessment of BHU's that are still standing and functional in Mansehra district and are teamed with local engineers.

Muzaffarabad:

- A Global Fund mission visited Muzaffarabad to discuss support to revitalization of TB program in the area. The visit was a part of the Global fund project recently initialized. The aim is to reduce the morbidity and mortality from malaria and tuberculosis in the district of Muzaffarabad. The strategy is to rehabilitate and strengthen the infrastructure through revitalization of TB care services, establishment of a referral and early warning system and by community organization and mobilization. The estimated length of the project is one year.

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:

- A referral system comprising of a network of national and local agencies has been established in Bagh in order to ensure access to secondary and tertiary care for the affected population. The area of Bagh counts with over 220 field hospital beds provided by 10 international and national agencies and three facilities count with full services such as laboratory, X ray and ICU.

Mansehra and Muzaffarabad:

- WHO is providing essential drugs and health emergency kits to the hospitals in Mansehra and Muzaffarabad as well as various NGO's active in remote locations in the Kaghan valley.

Muzaffarabad:

- The Canadian DART team will be leaving and transferring their clinic to the Pakistan Red Crescent. Most agencies are reviewing their outreach program to include camps and attempt to provide care to the population still accessible before the winter.

Project 3: Increase access to health care for affected communities

Objective: 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.

- Re-establishment of primary health care services:
MOH in cooperation with WHO identified the priority locations of BHU's that will be temporarily housed in prefab buildings. The selection has been done based upon the demographic changes and closeness to IDP camps.

| District | # of facilities | District | # of facilities |
|-----------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Bagh | 31 locations | Batagram | 5 locations |
| Mansehra | 9 locations | Balakot | 6 locations |
| Shangla | 5 locations | Rawalakot | 6 locations |
| Abbotabad | 6 locations | Muzaffarabad | 63 locations |

- A total of 100 prefabs funded jointly through WHO and UNICEF will be produced and installed with assistance from UN OPS. The first prefabs will be delivered in two weeks as production and preparation of the site has to be completed first.
- The list of basic equipment, staff required and drug supply for a BHU have been agreed upon with MOH.
- Teams from MOH with logistic support from WHO will be working in the identified BHU's and where possible local staff will be identified. Approximately 50 teams will be rotating in the coming winter months and WHO will provide with assistance from partners winterized tents that may serve as accommodation for the male staff working in the Basic Health Units.

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 5 field offices (Muzaffarabad, Mansehra, Bagh, Balakot 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.

- Supplies sent by WHO to primary health care facilities to affected areas in AJK and NWFP to refunctionalize services and provide TB care:

| | |
|------------------|------------------------|
| Muzaffarabad | 10 tents, 1 generator |
| Neelum | 1 tent |
| Bagh | 10 tents |
| Rawalakot | 4 tents, 1 generator |
| Mansehra/Balakot | 17 tents, 3 generators |
| Batagram | 7 tents, 1 generator |
| Abbotabad | 6 tents |
| Shangla | 6 tents |

Bagh:

- Consensus on activities of the work plan was reached between WHO/DHO

Mansehra:

- A meeting was held in Abbotabad meeting on Nov 21st attended by WHO, chaired by the Minister of Health (NWFP). The main points of concern raised during the meeting were:
 - The importance of coordination between all intersectoral actors.
 - The shortage of female medical officers, as well as para-medical and nurses.
 - The need for all MoH departments to prepare plans that cover the tented villages.

Muzaffarabad:

- The Canadian DART team has reported that they are phasing out from the hospital in Ghari Doppata. They will also be phasing out from the primary health care clinics, the medical clinic will be closed next Friday. They will transfer their tents to the Pakistan Red Crescent. DART will also be leaving and will hand over activities to MOH.
- The Agha Khan Foundation has made an appeal for anti scabies drugs. Scabies is widespread due to lack of washing facilities in the camps. WHO provided the foundation with one box consisting of 80 bottles of Benzil Benzoate 25% solution (anti-scabies treatment). WHO also

donated the same amount of drugs to the Wewan Mushtaq group and the Mera Tanowliyou camp health center.

- The Red Crescent Society (RCS) has made a request for anti-rabies vaccine since eight cases of animal bite were reported last month. The Pakistani military will provide them with the vaccine.
- AIMS reported that hospital have some shortage of essential drugs.
- Turkish hospital reported that they will provide Mobile teams services in Muzaffarabad district.
- MASH Army reported that a routine care will be from 8-12 am on daily basis. The emergency cases and patient referral will be provided after 12 am.
- Canadian Relief Foundation mentioned that they have a partnership with AIMS for post hospital care and with GDRO.
- MSF reported that they will redistribute their medical outreach teams.

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.

- It is important to note that no death were reported from acute watery diarrhea outbreak in Muzaffarabad but deaths due to camp fire and road traffic accidents are taking their toll. Wounds and injuries are reaching up to 14.1% of the total number of consultations
- The Disease early warning system is collecting data from all health actors on a weekly base including NGO's, field hospitals and MOH. A trend of increase of pneumonia cases and a slight decrease in the number of cases of AWD has been noted.

Bagh:

- A six month plan for disease surveillance, including epidemic response and control has been developed for the district in partnership with all health actors.
- Data from 7 health facilities were collected and the total number of consultations amounts to 2562 in one day. No death were reported from the following facilities: Bagh district hospital, NATO hospital at Bagh, AAI clinic in Khorshadabade, MSF BHUs in Mallut and Birpani OPD.
- One case of measles was reported from Khorshadabade and four cases of acute Jaundice syndrome were reported from Birbani and Mallut.
- An overall increase in the number of scabies cases has been observed in the district.

Balakot:

- A suspected outbreak of measles was reported from an International Medical Corps (IMC) camp for internally displaced in Garhi Habibullah, Balakot. During 17-19 November, 23 measles cases were confirmed, all children aged 8 months - 10 years.
- After investigation WHO reports that except for one case, the children had not been vaccinated before the earthquake.
- Mass vaccination against measles was undertaken on 19-20 November. 744 children between ages six months to 15 years were vaccinated.
- A total of 9934 consultations were reported from 13 of the 14 agencies on the ground between 12-18 November, 1502 suspected pneumonia, 861 acute watery diarrhoea and 946 wounds and injuries. Road traffic accidents are increasing and some camps took the initiative to put road bumps to slow the traffic in the vicinity. Children amounted to around 18.47% of all consultations.

| Balakot- 12-18-Nov | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| | <5 | 5+ | Total |
| Acute Diarrhoea | 324 | 537 | 861 |
| Bloody Diarrhoea | 70 | 125 | 195 |
| AFP | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Suspected Malaria | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Pneumonia | 390 | 1112 | 1502 |
| Measles | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Meningitis | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Acute Jaundice | 3 | 0 | 4 |
| Tetanus | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Hemorrhagic Fever | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Unexplained Fever | 96 | 338 | 434 |
| Injuries/wounds | 156 | 790 | 946 |
| Others | 724 | 5265 | 5989 |
| TOT | 1765 | 8169 | 9934 |

Batagram:

- On the morning of 20th of November WHO office in Batagram has been alerted of possible measles cases in the village of Makaria. Surveillance officers visited the village together with UNICEF house to house. Three more cases were identified in addition to those previously reported, one 7 year old boy, one 1 year old boy and a 4 year old girl. A WHO team visited the two families from Makaria whose five children were diagnosed as suffering from measles. Apart from these cases, the WHO team discovered that there were four more measles cases, all children below the age of 8 years. Vaccination could be confirmed only in one case. One case was brought to the DQH hospital the next day.
- After discussion with EDO health Batagram and UNICEF, WHO decided to send a vaccination team to Makaria.
- WHO will visit Landai for proper follow up of other measles cases in order to see the status of contacts and examine other children in the village for any vaccine preventable diseases.
- The District Headquarter hospital (DHQ) reported seeing 34 Children in OPD, on Nov 20: 10 cases of AWD. 8 cases of ARI and 5 cases of scabies. The consultations are taking place in a tent outside the hospital.

Mansehra:

- There has been no report of any communicable disease outbreak from MOH, the Pakistani military or other health agencies partners working in the area. The main health concerns are currently: acute respiratory infections (ARI), scabies, diarrhoeal diseases, post-trauma injuries/rehabilitative services, and access to basic reproductive health (RH) and Emergency obstetric care (EmOC).

Muzaffarabad:

- A total of 16,795 consultations were reported from 13 out of the 18 registered facilities.
- WHO continues to closely monitor the situation at the Old University camp, the site of an outbreak of acute watery diarrhoea.
- Since November 7 until November 18, a total of 738 cases of acute diarrhoea were reported from the camp. No recorded deaths from diarrhoea/dehydration in this camp and the outbreak is under control. WHO is involved in consistently monitoring the treatment facilities and mobilization of all health agencies.

- WHO received a report of 14 cases of watery diarrhoea in Jalalabad Garden camp. The camp is located in Muzaffarabad city and the estimated population is about 3700 population. There is only one health clinic in the camp operated by Children Advocacy International. WHO epidemiologist responded to the alert and visited the camp. The registration book shows that 14 cases reported were for less than 5 years old children. No cases of severe dehydration were recorded and no cases needed an IV fluids. WHO.
- Diarrhoea cases were also reported at Ehsass camp near Mera tinolya but assistance from MSF located nearby as well as doctors from Rahat Syed active in the camp assisted with improvement of the camp conditions especially the water sources. Water will be tested regularly by WHO/MOH.
- The Red Crescent Society, requested anti-rabies vaccine and reported that 8 cases of animal bite occurred in the last month. The Pakistani Army will provide them with the vaccine.
- The number of ARI (pneumonia) is reaching 18.9% of the total number of consultations (16.795) in the week from 12 to 18 November.
- One new case of acute jaundice syndrome in a three-year-old child has been reported from Topki Kalas, Gari Dopatta, by the Canadian DART team. The case was transferred to Islamabad.

Project 6: Environmental Health Response

Objectives: To improve the environmental health conditions of affected populations, and health facilities, and therefore reduce environment related diseases and deaths among the population. To provide technical advice, partnering on activities and strengthening the link between disease surveillance, focused environmental health interventions and outbreak prevention.

Mansehra:

- The WHO EH Officer to Balakot on Sunday 19/11/2005 with UNICEF. The urgent need for a solid waste disposal system was identified by T.M.A. On Monday another visit was paid to Oghi and an urgent demand for a solid waste disposal system was identified. These issues need to be solved in cooperation with partners and will be discussed in the cluster coordination meetings.
- EH advisor is also working with UNICEF, MOH and the Italian Hospital in Mansehra to improve the hospital disposal waste system and build an incinerator.

Muzaffarabad:

- Abbas Hospital reported that there is an urgent need for a solid waste disposal system and safe drinking water to cope with the rapid increase of the hospital capacity. Also the heating system seems to be deficient. Actions to be taken have been discussed with the health cluster partners.
- The cleaning campaign of the yard of Al Abbas Institute of Medical Science (AIMS) started and heavy machinery from the municipality has been used.
- Environmental team visited the Old university camp to implement minor enhancements to existing water supply of the camp

Rawalakot:

- WHO Environmental health advisor has been working with local authorities to improve the water system in the city. Today water in Rawalakot is chlorinated and system has been repaired.
- The activities are focused now on provision of water and sanitation to the hospital staffed by Cuban doctors. Water supply, latrines and showers for the Cuban Hospital in Abbaspour was made. The agreement to supply the Cuban hospital in the Polytechnic institute was signed. The cleaning of the reservoirs at the CNH Rawalakot was completed, and the purification plant was put in operation after rehabilitation. The removing of the rubble from DHO started, and the agreement to build a Hangar for the DHO was signed.

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.

- Following the workshop for mental health professionals that has been conducted in Islamabad a kit for mental health was specifically developed. It is the intention that the teams deployed to the field will work on psycho social support and mental health focusing on communities rather than hospital based.

Muzaffarabad:

- The mental health team based at AIMS hospital is now fully functioning. It has outreach visits to camps at Tariqabad and near locations such as Ali Akber High School and Neelum Stadium.