

Swiss Humanitarian Aid in Pakistan

The emergency team of Swiss Humanitarian Aid went into action immediately upon receiving news of the earthquake. Thanks to our Cooperation Office (SCO-P) in the Pakistani capital Islamabad, the emergency relief operational unit had detailed first hand information.

The emergency phase is over, reconstruction started.

Reconstruction and Livelihood Programme RLP

Main Objectives:

Vulnerable communities and families in earthquake-affected areas restore their basic livelihood. Private buildings and public infrastructure are reconstructed through coordinated support of SDC-HA, ERRA, the local government and partner organizations.

SDC-HA carried out a needs assessment in close cooperation with SCO-P and local authorities. Following basic action lines have been identified:

A Reconstruction:

- A1 Reconstruction of primary schools and basic Health Units (BHUs) in some 30 to 50 villages.
- A2 Support the rural private housing reconstruction in Mansehra and Battagram districts by building and operating two ERRA Housing Reconstruction Centres, providing training and advice to local craftsmen and self-builders.

B Livelihood:

Vulnerable communities and households in the project area of Mansehra and Battagram districts are able to restore and secure their livelihood through provision of agricultural inputs, rehabilitation of productive assets including the support to community based development.

C Prevention & Preparedness:

The RLP will enhance earthquake resistant construction standards and will ensure that all its reconstruction and livelihood projects are disaster resistant (Prevention).

SDC-HA further supports the Government in setting up a Disaster Management System and in the building up of local Urban Search and Rescue capacity (Preparedness).

Main Partners:

The Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority (ERRA) of the Government of Pakistan www.erra.gov.pk

UN-HABITAT, Intercooperation, Terre des Hommes, Caritas Switzerland.

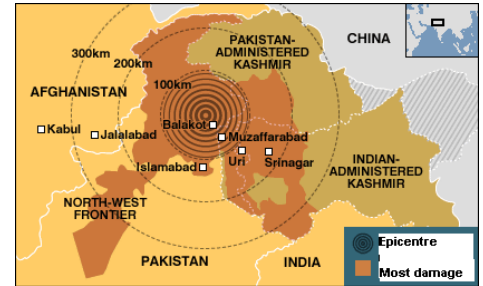
Earthquake on

08.10.2005

Time UTC 03.50

Time CH 05.50

Local time 08.50



Background information on the Earthquake

On 8 October 2005, an earthquake that measured 7.6 on the Richter scale, the most devastating for a century in the region, destroyed entire cities and villages in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and the North West Frontier Province (NWFP), including the former's capital, Muzaffarabad, leaving almost three and half million people homeless. Eleven days later, officials reported a death toll of more than 80,000 and over 100,000 injured.

The rugged topography of the affected areas, combined with a scattered settlement pattern, poor quality of construction and the virtual lack of seismic resistant considerations in building designs now pose significant challenges for both humanitarian and reconstruction efforts. The private housing sector suffered the most extensive damage, followed by the transport, education, health, agriculture and livestock sectors.

SDC Resources

SDC committed CHF 7 Mio. for emergency assistance and around CHF 7 Mio. for reconstruction in Pakistan. With the additional funding of CHF 8 Mio. through UN organizations and ICRC, a **total of CHF 22 Mio.** is pledged.

8 SHA experts from Switzerland and some 70 national staffs are presently running the Reconstruction and Livelihood Programme RLP in Pakistan.

Further information

SDC / Humanitarian Aid

Sägestrasse 77 / Köniz, 3003 Bern

Tel. +41 31 322 31 24

www.sdc.admin.ch

e-mail: hh@sd.admin.ch

www.sdcpakistan.org

Media information: andreas.stauffer@deza.admin.ch



Reconstruction of Public Infrastructure: Schools and Basic Health Units (BHUs)

The assessment estimates that around 30-50 schools and BHUs can be built through direct programme funding, thereby serving about 50 villages in Mansehra and Batagram districts.

All planned reconstruction activity needs to be in accordance with ERRA's official strategies, norms and standards to «Build Back Better». SDC-HA will complete the first 10 Primary Schools presently under construction by April 2007. So far, the structural designs for 4 BHUs have been completed and the construction shall start after the winter period. A successful Consultancy Contract has been established with the University of Engineering and Technology in Peshawar to enable locally adapted construction approaches.

Private Housing Reconstruction Support



SDC-HA is one of the institutional partners to the governmental Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority (ERRA) in the implementation of the private rural housing reconstruction strategy. SDC-HA operates two out of 12 ERRA Housing Reconstruction Centres (HRCs), one in Batagram and one in Balakot. The HRCs are staffed with a team of technical advisors and trainers.

Training and technical assistance is provided in the two HRCs on earthquake safer building methods according to the standards of the «Build Back Better»-Strategy since spring 2006. Trainings are conducted at various levels and for different target groups (masons, engineers, self builders, Army, social mobilizers, trainers, NGOs etc).

The HRCs further provide information to everyone on other construction related issues (e.g. technical standards), particularly through the Partner Organizations (POs). POs pass on the private housing policy to the rural areas in their assigned Union Councils through so called «mobile teams». Mobile teams are composed of a mason/engineer and a male and female social mobilizer. SDC-HA itself is a Partner Organization in the Union Councils Shamlai (Batagram) and Mahandri (Balakot) where field offices were recently established.

The financial support on private housing reconstruction is provided through the Government of Pakistan. Affected households receive a grant of Rs 175,000 for fully damaged houses (approx. CHF 4000) and Rs 75,000 (app. CHF 1750) for partially damaged/retrofitable houses.

The concept of an «owner driven» private housing reconstruction approach has been adopted as the guiding policy. Apart from the training component, the program identifies additional support to the most vulnerable and marginalized people by building some sample houses. This is done as an inclusive community based and integrated approach.

Support in Restoring Livelihood

Looking at immediate needs, the activities are related to food security such as purchase and provision of agriculture inputs (seeds and fertilizer), feed & fodder and livestock restocking. Further activities are related to the rehabilitation of communal infrastructure in the three earthquake affected union councils in Mansehra covered by the IC/CBRM project plus two union councils in Batagram district.

Distribution of agricultural inputs

Agricultural inputs such as seeds, livestock and fertilizer have been provided among over 10000 identified households in April/May 2006. A total of 160t of maize seeds, 6t of rice seeds, 50t of potato seeds, 8t of beans and 428t fertilizer have been distributed in the villages of the target area. The timely distribution of 1656 kg of vegetable seeds (coriander, okra, spinach, radish, turnip, tomato) is targeting in particular the female members of the households.

Livestock plays a pivotal role for the life of the peasant farmers in NWFP. Whilst goats provide milk and meat, cows and buffalos also count as assets against which small credits and loans can be obtained. The earthquake devastated the livestock population and families were also forced to slaughter their animals to survive the winter.

Under the Livestock Restocking Project SDC-HA distributed 140 bulls among the farmers during June to August for tilling the fields. Distribution of 120 cows



was completed in Nov 06. These cattle are assigned to the female head of a household. The project identified and targeted in particular the most vulnerable families. A distribution of goats to female headed households is also planned.

Agricultural tools are presently provided to about 1000 families in the villages of the five Union Councils to support the agricultural activities in the villages. The tools are also useful for the reconstruction works.

Communal Infrastructure and Cash component

To support farmers and help revive livelihoods also in economic terms, small cash for work activities are undertaken whereby the communal infrastructure is rehabilitated (roads, irrigation channels, water supplies, etc). In total, 26 projects have been identified under the Infrastructure Rehabilitation Project in close cooperation with the community and the line departments.

Social Mobilization and Community Development

Throughout the programme SDC-HA ensures that a gender and equity sensitive approach is taken. Social mobilization of the targeted communities is an integral part of the implementation of the RLP.