



Pakistan earthquake

Swiss humanitarian aid

Swiss humanitarian aid officials went into action immediately upon receiving news of the earthquake. Thanks to the SDC Cooperation Office in the Pakistani capital Islamabad, the operational unit had detailed first-hand information. The SDC Humanitarian Aid department decided to concentrate on emergency assistance for survivors in the disaster area.

Current activities

The earthquake has created a humanitarian crisis which will get worse in the coming winter. After helping victims survive comes the rebuilding of destroyed houses and infrastructures and the revival of income earning activities which will take several years.

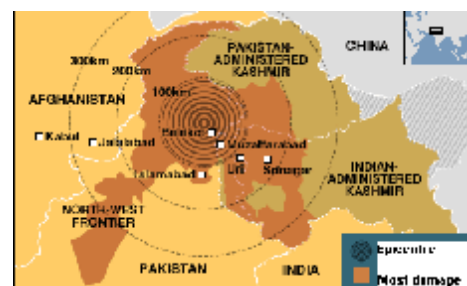
In the districts of Mansehra and Batagram in the North West Frontier Province more than CHF 11 million have gone into emergency and survival assistance. Up to the end of the year more than 45 SHA experts (www.skh.ch) will have been on mission to the area. More than 300 tonnes of aid material has been sent from Switzerland to the crisis area or bought on location and distributed in cooperation with local partners. In addition 50 prefabricated, winter-proof buildings have been constructed as school rooms and health centres, two medical treatment containers have been set up and three SHA doctors have been assigned to the primary medical care of the victims.

In the meantime, the SDC has been able to provide around 10,000 families with construction material and tools to build provisional shelter before the onset of winter. Stoves, blankets and sleeping bags have also been distributed. Material, which to a large extent was no longer needed by the Swiss army has also been provided.

The SDC is also planning emergency measures for earthquake victims at lower altitudes whose living conditions are also worsening. More and more people have had to move to lower lying areas for the winter and they are receiving provisional shelter in official and "spontaneous" camps.



Earthquake in Pakistan
 08.10.2005
 Time UTC 03.50
 Time CH 05.50
 Local time 08.50
 Magnitude 7.6



Background information

On 8 October 2005, an earthquake measuring 7.6 on the Richter Scale struck the region of Kashmir at a depth of around 10 km below the earth's surface. The death toll in Pakistan, India and Afghanistan has risen to more than 80,000 with around 70,000 injured. Around 2.5 million people are today living in tents and other emergency shelters.

Many villages remain cut off. Roads that had been reopened on a provisional basis are partly impassable again. Landslides caused by aftershocks, rain and the first snow have made road travel to the remote areas almost impossible and very dangerous. Deliveries of aid supplies have therefore been delayed

Emergency assistance has become a race against time.



Swiss involvement in figures

- § To date, the SDC has provided around CHF 11 million for emergency assistance in Pakistan, CHF five million through UN organizations.
- § Fifteen experts from Switzerland are on mission with staff from the SDC Cooperation Office. Two of them are with the **World Food Programme** and **UNICEF**.

Further information

www.sdc.admin.ch - E-Mail: hh@sdc.admin.ch
 Media information: jean-philippe.jutzi@deza.admin.ch

SDC / Humanitarian Aid
 Sägestrasse 77 / Köniz, 3003 Bern
 Tel. +41 31 322 31 24

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 Fotos: DEZA