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UNJLC Pakistan Earthquake

BULLETIN No. 46

Period, Thursday May 4th – Wednesday, May 10th, 2006

UNJLC Bulletins aim to provide a clear and concise regular overview of the logistics situation in the earthquake-affected area of Pakistan and adjacent areas as it pertains to humanitarian relief work. They focus on practical issues affecting the welfare of the afflicted populace and related humanitarian work such as the status of transport routes for getting supplies and personnel into the area, relevant administrative or commercial developments, air (including strategic airlift and helicopter operations), customs and immigration matters, and the availability of accommodation and fuels. They further seek to identify major issues for the humanitarian community and other interested parties, to provide relevant background and constructive recommendations on current issues, and to alert responsible parties to emerging factors.

Summary and Highlights

Days since October 8th Earthquake: 214

- **UNJLC** continues to map the status of tertiary roads which are important for reaching settlements, and is looking for an agency to take over road mapping and reporting at the end of its operation.
- The population of 17 villages in the area of Muzaffarabad may be moved to camps as the area in which the villages are located is prone to seismic activity. This would bring the number of IDPs in Muzaffarabad up to approximately 70,000.
- The UN base camp in Bagh will be retained for a further three months until August 15th.

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1. Road Access

All primary roads remain open with the exception of the route to Kaghan Valley. The majority of secondary roads are open as well. However, the status of tertiary roads which are important for reaching many settlements remains partially unknown and many are blocked. **UNJLC** continues to map these roads. In the Batagram area access to the Naran Valley remains blocked and **the Pakistan Military** estimates that road clearance will take another month. The status of roads in the Kaghan valley, in particular between Paras and Jared, changes daily due to the high potential for landslides. In the Neelum Valley, the condition of some bailey bridges appears to be deteriorating. The local authorities have recognized this problem as a priority, and **UNJLC** has planned a mission to assess the condition of the bridges. The road between Bagh and Bir Pani is open but remains dangerous in places and caution is advised.

UNJLC continues to collect data on road conditions and is seeking ways of handing over this data in coordination with **HIC** and the **Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority (ERRA)**. **UNJLC** is seeking to identify an agency to take over road mapping and reporting when its operation ends at the end of June. **UNJLC** road assessments, conditions updates and maps can be found at www.unjlc.org/pakistan.

2. IDP Returns

Returns in the Mansehra and Bagh areas are nearing completion apart from the residual caseload. In Bagh, no decision has been taken yet on the designation of a residual camp. Only the areas of Bedhi and Azad Bara remain difficult to access. In the Mansehra area, **IOM** is currently returning 150 families per day from spontaneous camps and host families. **UNJLC**, **UNDSS** and **OCHA** are assisting **IOM** in this process. The three Mansehra residual camps (Kashtra, Meira and Siran Sialkot) are to be handed over from the Pakistan Military to the local administration on May 15th. Balakot is due to be rebuilt within two to three years in the Bakarial area which is halfway between Mansehra and Shinkiari on the east side of the Karakoram Highway. Meanwhile compensation payments are to be used to build transitional houses on current sites in Balakot.

In the area of Muzaffarabad 17 villages located in areas susceptible to seismic activity have been identified. Therefore 30,000 to 40,000 people will possibly need to be moved into camps that may last throughout the winter. This would bring the caseload of IDPs in Muzaffarabad to 70,000 and would mean a need for additional NFI and transitional shelter solutions. The current plan is to move residual IDPs from Islamabad to Muzaffarabad or Mansehra.

3. UN Base Camps

WFP has announced that the UN base camp in Bagh will be extended for three months until August 15th to allow agencies more time to find alternative office space and accommodation. The camp in Batagram is scheduled to close May 15th. **UNICEF** is taking over the site to set up offices. In Muzaffarabad, the UN base camp will close on June 15th.

ABOUT UNJLC: UNJLC is an inter-agency facility reporting to the Islamabad-based Humanitarian Coordinator for the South Asia (Pakistan and India) Earthquake and strategically to the Inter Agency Standing Committee. Its mandate is to coordinate and optimise logistics capabilities of humanitarian organisations in large scale emergencies. UNJLC operates under the custodianship of WFP, which is responsible for the administrative and financial management of the unit. UNJLC is funded from voluntary contributions that are channelled through WFP. The UNJLC project document for the Pakistan Earthquake can be viewed at the UNJLC website (www.unjlc.org).

4. UNJLC Bagh

Reconstruction work in the Bagh area is largely pending the approval of reconstruction plans by ERRA. Many locals and NGOs are still concentrating on rubble removal. The warehouses are currently full and cargo is being stored outside. This may in part be due to the transition from relief to recovery which has slowed down operations. A fourth temporary warehouse is to be established to address the problem.

A significant amount of the caseload of IDPs from Azad Bara is at present unable to return due to accessibility problems. Discussions with civil and military authorities are underway to facilitate their return at a suitable time. The logistics support needed for that return will be assessed in light of the outcome of these discussions.

A variety of food is available in shops in Bagh. There is also no shortage of construction materials, though prices appear to be higher than in other hubs. However, NGOs are expected to buy their construction materials from manufacturers in larger cities. A matrix has been established to record the prices of skilled labour and construction materials. For more information, contact UNJLC Bagh.

5. Aviation Update: Helicopter Status

Helicopter capacity has decreased this week with the end of the ICRC air operation May 10th, and the redeployment of the two Squirrels operating for MSF Holland.

As previously reported, UNHAS plans to cease its helicopter operations for both cargo movement and passengers by May 31st. UNJLC and UNHAS welcome information from users of the passenger service on their projected alternatives after May 31st. This information can be forwarded to Islamabad.unhas@wfp.org. The UNHAS passenger schedule and booking procedures can be found at www.unjlc.org/pakistan.

As of 10 th May		Number of aircraft	
Aircraft Type	10 th May		Comments
UNHAS Tasked Assets:			
Mi-8T	2		The UNHAS fleet is currently 4xMi-8 helicopters, one of which will be reserved for passenger flights.
Mi-8 MTV	2		
Sub-total	4		
Other:			
Mi-8 MT	-		Operated by ICRC
AB-139	2		Operated by Aga Khan Foundation (Pakistan)
AS-350 Squirrel	-		Operated by AirServ for MSF Holland
Sub-total	2		
Total	6		



In addition to providing protection, police escorts have been helpful in providing local information about the roads network during UNJLC roads assessments. Photograph: CJ Hendrix, UNJLC.

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Additional information on the humanitarian response to the Pakistan Earthquake is available on www.un.org.pk and on www.reliefweb.int.

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