



SOUTH ASIA EARTHQUAKE EMERGENCY RESPONSE – PAKISTAN 2005

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Doctors Worldwide Response to the South Asian earthquake.

Rapid response and assessment team

A rapid response team travelled from Istanbul on the 9th October, arriving on the 10th in Muzaffarabad. The team leader Mohammed Fateh registered with the UN on arrival, set base camp in Muzaffarabad next to the UN compound and immediately began work. This was initially carried out as a forward triage centre from a tent, also serving three Muslim Hands IDP camps and also providing assistance in a field hospital set up by TNF (a Pakistani NGO).

In the first five days, 2100 patients were seen, most with traumatic wounds requiring immediate treatment, from dressing, infective treatment, fracture reductions to more extensive surgical cases treated at the field hospital and some cases airlifted to Islamabad.

Team 2

Arrived 19th October, Left 25th

Team Leader Fatih Celik

A team of 9, were airlifted from Rawalpindi by helicopter, on arrival the surgical team proceeded to the mobile surgical unit, the remaining team members worked at the Challabandi camp.

Three separate tents were erected and a pharmacy was given shape that also included medicines that had been brought by them from Karachi.

On the first day this team collectively saw a total of 150 patients ranging from head wounds, fractures, infected wounds, post trauma echhymoses, gangrene, dehydration and diarrhoea. In total this team saw 800 patients, including latterly more chest related conditions and ongoing chronic disease management.

The surgical team conducted 60-70 surgeries a day for critical patients being airlifted from remote and inaccessible areas to Muzaffarabad. This mobile surgical unit was situated right across from the helipad thus allowing easy access to the patients. A total of 350 operations were performed.

Team 3

Arrived 20th October.

Team leader Dr Rippon Ahmed

Team of 4, one A and E specialist, one internal medicine doctor and two family practitioners.

Based in Muzaffarabad.

Continued work at the Challabandi camp and extended work to a camp in Tariqabad.

Team 4

Arrived Muzaffarabad on the 20th October

Team leader Dr Imtiaz Khan

(current overall medical co-ordinator)

Team of 5, two surgeons, one A and E specialist, one physician and one junior physician.

Team 5

Arrived on the 23 and 24 October

Team leader Dr Imtiaz Khan

9 Doctors, one surgeon, six junior physicians and two family practitioners.

Current status

Base Camp	Muzaffarabad, Pakistan
Weather	Hot and Sunny now
Census	17 Doctors (11 in Muzaffarabad, 5 Balocot, 1 Bagh)
Accommodations	5 tents at UN Base in Muzaffarabad with Toilet, Water and Food
Security	Safe
Communications	Mobile and Sat Phone, Internet on site
Transport	Drivers and Cars available

Current Projects (by Region)

Muzaffarabad Area

- 3 primary health clinics being run by DWW within Muslim Hands Refugee Camps. We are involved in General medical and pediatric issues, wound management, and public health awareness.

Tariqabad Camp- 50-70 ppday with main issues GI, Infection and Wounds
poor water supply being sorted by MOH, WHO and French Army

Chalabandi Camp- 30-40 ppday with main issues wound mgmt, rashes,
scabies and URI's

Jalalabad Camp- 30 ppd with main issues URI's, Dehydration and Gen med
and peds issues

Current status ON GOING

- The Citizens Foundation Field Hospital

This dedicated field hospital was operational from 7 am to 12 am daily for 21 days post earthquake. They were a major triage and operation area for injured IDP's flown in via helicopter.

DWW had 5 volunteer doctors participate in this endeavor. Thousands of patients were treated and triaged via this facility. We had Ortho, anesthesia, ER and general medical volunteers during the peak phase of operations.

This facility was involved in Acute trauma care, wound management, Fracture management.

Current Status FINISHED

- The Abbas Hospital

Primary Permanent Hospital in Muzaffarabad city region. Structure is intact and they have OT's, Post Sx Wards, ICU's and ER. With a staff made up primarily of local Pakistani Doctors and Nurses.

DWW has been sending specialist physicians to assist in cases dealing primarily with orthopedic injury and wound management issues. We have also sent Internal Medicine specialist to help manage Medical and Surgical Wards.

Current Status ONGOING

- DWW Field Clinic and Triage Center

DWW has sent an advanced medical team to a remote and inaccessible region in the lower Neelum Valley. This team is currently working in a small village called Pateakah and has established Field Clinic and is currently working with the Pakistan military and ICRC to evacuate patients daily to Muzaffarabad.

We have been involved in 15 evacuations so far and have treated over 300 patients in 4 days of work. We have 3 ER, 1 GP and 1 Anesthesiologist.

Our Scope of practice ranges from Fracture reduction, Wound management, General Med and Peds issues.

Current Status ONGOING

- DWW Immunization Program

DWW has undertaken an ambitious and aggressive immunization project. Our principle partners are the Pakistan MOH, Unicef and WHO. We had initiated an immunization program in the Lower Neelum Valley. Primarily in Pateakah proper and to date we have immunized nearly 600 people. Immunizations given are TT, DTP, OPV, MMR and Vit A.

Current Status ONGOING

We are currently in negotiations with the MOH to take the responsibility of the entire lower Neelum Valley (MAYBE). This would include several villages around Pateakah, which poses quite a logistical issue as cold chain issues need to be addressed as well as human resources to run this project.

Current Status IN NEGOTIATIONS NOW

- Balokot Region

Five doctors covering three IDP camps run by Muslim Hands, saw 100 patients on the first day, now daily numbers around 100-120. mainly chronic disease management, wound dressings and infections, one case of tetany. Undertaking tetanus immunizations were necessary.

- Bagh Region

Dr Liaquat Ali was taken here on arrival along with a camera man from channel 4 news. The first medic to arrive at this particular area since the earthquake, seeing many cases including untreated fractures and wounds. High need in this area and will require further medical support.

Total number of patients seen all the camps now approaching 6000.

- Future issues

Assessment, decision on location and purchase of a of semi permanent hospital in Muzaffarabad

Assessment of volunteer needs for the next six months (four further doctors traveling in early/mid November)

Local country coordinator (need to hire)

Supply meds and equipment for the hospital