

<b>SITUATION</b>
<p>In the afternoon of Tuesday the 24 September 2019, the district of Bhimber, Mirpur and Jhelum in Azad Jammu Kashmir and Punjab, Pakistan, was badly struck by the Earthquake of magnitude 5.8 that killed 39 people (38 in Azad Jammu Kashmir and 1 in Punjab) injuring 746 others. 454 houses including 135 severely and 319 have been partially damaged. However, as per the visit of the affected areas and meetings with the communities by the field staff of ACTED, FAO, Muslim Aid and Islamic Relief, the unofficial findings estimated that around 9,000 families have been affected with 7,000 houses have been damaged in Mirpur district during this earthquake. Out of them, 1,000 have been destroyed while 6,000 have been partially damaged. In Mirpur City alone, 70% of the houses have been either partially or fully damaged as confirmed by the Deputy Commissioner of Mirpur AJK. Aftershocks continued to rock the region, many left their homes and spent the night on the roadside or in parks. Infrastructure including houses, roads, mobile phone towers and electricity poles have been badly damaged and communication channel both through roads and telephones to some of the affected areas has been cut off. It is expected that the figures of damages and losses may be increased once the information from these inaccessible areas will be added.</p>
<b>NEEDS</b>
<p>The earthquake has put the district in a state of crisis. The earthquake affected persons find themselves in a desperate situation, with many unmet vital humanitarian needs such as access to food, shelter and household items, basic health services, and safe drinking water. Protection is an issue as well as people continue to live outside their houses fearing aftershocks.</p> <p>The dire situation is further compounded for the earthquake affected people with vulnerabilities especially women and persons with disabilities, as they are the ones who are mostly affected with such disasters. Trauma is also a concern. In addition, women and girls' personal safety and security are at higher risk while homes are still damaged. There is a pressing necessity to provide immediate assistance to minimize loss of life and to ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable are covered first.</p>
<b>STAKEHOLDERS</b>
<p>The following national and international entities are present and doing their best to respond to the crisis:</p> <p>Initially Army has started rescue and relief activities. Rescue operations have been almost completed while relief activities are underway. National Disaster Management Authority supported 500 families with tents, distributed 1000 food items and drinking water bottles, 200 kitchen sets and plastic mats. WHO has provided some medical assistance to the earthquake affected communities. ACTED has mobilized funds to support 1,000 families with cash intervention. Rest of the humanitarian organizations are assessing the situation and are planning to start assisting the communities.</p> <p>Looking at the current response by the Government and pledges by other humanitarian agencies, there are still estimated 2,500 extremely vulnerable families who require immediate support for food, shelter, water supply and health services.</p> <p>Based on its experience and presence in the area, Community World Service Asia (CWSA) plans to provide food and household items such as quilts and pillows as well as household repair toolkits to repair houses.</p> <p>The emergency response is currently being coordinated by Deputy Commissioner, State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) and National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). To ensure that the humanitarian response is well coordinated and complementary, CWSA will take part in meetings with all relevant sector stakeholders (including government line departments, clusters, Working groups</p>

and other coordination mechanism established for the earthquake response etc) and establish an open line of communication with crisis affected persons and communities to ensure a humanitarian response based on participation and feedback.

**ACT Alliance**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ACT Alliance member, CWSA has been working in Pakistan for decades, now helping/planning to help people affected by the earthquake
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ACT Alliance works in areas affected by the earthquake, and is assessing the impact of the disaster to better understand the needs and vulnerabilities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	In collaboration with relevant stakeholders, the CWSA has identified a gap in Shelter, Food security, and household items for emergency response and has resolved that if funded, it will have the capacity to properly bridge the identified gap.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CWSA is planning to access ACT Alliance's Rapid Response Fund to provide Shelter, Food security, Non Food Items (Winterization) for emergency response to ensure that the earthquake affected persons' basic needs are met with regards to Shelter and food security.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Furthermore, ACT Alliance will engage in advocacy on the national and international level to ensure that the voices of those affected by the earthquake are amplified.

**Any funding indication or pledge should be communicated to the Head of Finance and Administration, Line Hempel ([Line.Hempel@actalliance.org](mailto:Line.Hempel@actalliance.org))**

For further information please contact:

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