

Sent: Sunday, October 09, 2005 12:52 PM
Subject: ASIAN EARTHQUAKE

Dear Friends

We have agreed that the best response to the latest disaster in Pakistan, India and Afghanistan would be to support Aquabox, Emergency Box, and Shelter Box, rather than to send money. I have emailed all three box schemes to ascertain what the stocks are, and I will update you all once I have information. For those who want more information about the situation in the affected areas, there are regular updates and maps on the Reuters AlertNet site at www.alertnet.org/index.htm. Relief agencies are already on their way to the region or preparing their response, as you will see from the newsbrief appended below.

I will be in contact once I have more news.

Yours in Rotary

Keith
International Service Chairman

From Reuters

"We are working with local relief organizations in India and Pakistan to determine the extent of the devastation and the relief needs," said Christoph Gorder, AmeriCares vice president of international programs. "In the meantime, our operations center in Amsterdam is staging thousands of treatments of antibiotics, analgesics, oral rehydration solutions and other life-saving medicines, as well as bandages and other trauma supplies that would help treat the injuries and illnesses that commonly occur as a result of an earthquake."

Oxfam GB has a history of working in Pakistan and has launched an emergency appeal. "Hundreds of thousands of people will be affected by this earthquake and will need help urgently," Raphael Sindaye, humanitarian response coordinator in Islamabad, said in a statement.

"The death toll won't become clear for days but what is clear is that if we don't get help to those people quickly the death toll will grow.

"The initial needs appear to be tents, blankets, medical kits, food aid, water and trauma counselling for those affected. Winter is drawing in. and night time temperatures are already dropping," Sindaye said.

Kashmir, divided between India and Pakistan, appears heavily hit by the quake. Oxfam said five out of seven divisions on the Pakistan-administered side of the region were severely affected, and its teams had started assessing local needs on the ground in three of these. It also planned an assessment mission on the Indian-administered side, where the death toll was

mounting.

Oxfam said there was massive destruction in the North West Frontier province of Pakistan, according to its staff and partner agencies, and another emergency assessment and response team was on its way there. "In some areas all of the houses have collapsed," Oxfam said in a statement.

German medical agency humedica said it had sent a team to northern Pakistan.

Marie-Francoise Borel, a press officer for the International Federation of Red Cross Red Crescent societies (IFRC), which supports local Red Cross and Red Crescent societies when big disasters hit, told AlertNet by phone from Geneva: "We've put our field assessment and coordination teams on alert. We know the Red Crescent and Red Cross societies are already doing their assessments. Of course, we have put on standby our emergency funds in case they are needed."

Julie Ryan, assistant operations director and national press officer for British emergency rescue group International Rescue Corps said: "We've got a team on standby, including myself. It looks like it will call for international assistance. These things can happen - it starts small and things then erupt. It looks like it's going to be bigger than we think."

Medair is sending staff already located in the region to Pakistan to determine the extent of the need, and possibly begin provision of emergency supplies and shelter. The organisation has released initial funding from its emergency fund to assist in the crisis.