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**NANGARHAR EARTH QUAKE, EASTERN AFGHANISTAN
Situation Report April 20, 2009**

Nangarhar Province in the Eastern Afghanistan was jolted by a 5.5 Richter scale Earthquakes at around 2.00 AM in the early morning of April 17, 2009. This was followed by an after shock of 5.1 magnitude aftershock at 4.00 AM the same morning. The Epi centre of this Earthquake is known to be in the Hindukush Mountain region with a depth of 3.2 kilometers

Location: Sherzad district: Villages Kudikhel, Bahzad Khel, Mirgetkhel, Shorakel, Kalikhel, Warbash Gara, Malik Khelili Khel, and Sarkot with estimated Population of 40,000.

Loss of lives and Injuries: Early reports indicate that 21 people died. There are 59 injuries, with almost all of them mild to moderate, with no one critically injured. Three injured persons are admitted to the Jalalabad Public Health hospital, two in Jalalabad University hospital while the remaining are admitted in Kaga district hospital.

Damage to houses: Around 300 houses have been affected, with approximately 50 houses totally destroyed.

Infrastructure Damage: No information yet available regarding destruction to the roads, schools, water supply, Health institutions

Livestock: Estimates range from 500-600 livestock killed. Updates expected from the ground team. Ministry of Agriculture is leading on the response.

Health: No initial reports of damage to health facilities. MoPH and the BPHS implementing NGOs are on the scene. WHO is also part of the assessment and an update will be given to the Emergency task force upon their return. However, the area of impact is small and the area is not expected of major health consequences.

Education: No casualties expected from schools given the time of the earthquake. The Education sector does not expect major damage to school buildings and no reports have been received to indicate that any schools were destroyed in the earthquake.

Security

Accessibility: UNDSS 'no go' area. However a UN road mission is being prepared for 18 April.

Early Response:

- Teams have been sent to that area from the Department of Public Health, Afghanistan Natural Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA), and Afghanistan Red Crescent Society (ARCS)
- A high ranking team from ANDMA Kabul is in the disaster area. The team is led by Dr. D.G ADRAK, head of ANDMA.
- An oversight flight was arranged by OCHA, UN agencies including WHO joined to investigate the damage.
- A Disaster Task Force Meeting was held on 17 April, at the Governors' House at 16.00 hrs in Jalalabad, Eastern Region to finalise early response activities.
- A Joint UN team including OCHA, WHO, WFP and UNICEF traveled to the area for assessment of the situation on April 19, 2009.

WHO SUPPORT

The WHO Jalabad immediately provided consignment of emergency medicines to the Provincial Health Director office in Jalalabad to be dispatched immediately to the area. Later on WHO Country office sent IEHK 2006 on April 19.

WHO Team made the assessment for the medical requirements in the area and is planning to conduct immunization campaign.

WHO is also closely monitoring the health situation of the affected community to prevent any disease outbreak.

Other Organizations Contribution

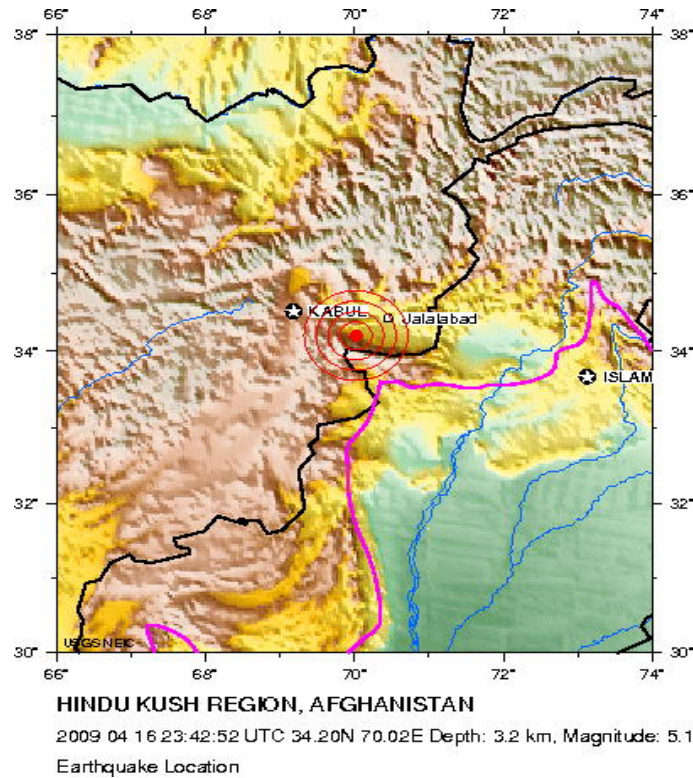
- Head of public health department report that they have dispatched 100 medical kits and some tents and blankets.
- ICRC informed that ARCS dispatched 100 tents, 100 tarpaulins, 400 blankets, 200 jerry cans, 100 kitchen kits.
- The government disaster tasks force team is in site, they called PRT for assistance and PRT state they have 600 Humanitarian Aid kits for distribution. OCHA requests these be given to the government for distribution.

UN agencies and NGOs have strengthened emergency capacities in preparation for response. WFP organized an over-flight to the area to determine the extent of damage. The Humanitarian Coordinator led the Humanitarian Coordination Team overhead assessment; little to no damage was visible from the air although a 20km radius from the epicenter was surveyed.

Initial reports indicate there is sufficient civilian humanitarian assistance response capability, military actors are asked to remain on standby for rubble removal / search and rescue capability as deemed necessary.

WHO Sub office Eastern Region is in regular contact with the MoPH, Health Implementing NGOs and the UN partners, WHO Country office in Kabul and the entire actors in the region responded to the situation timely.

Earth Quake location



Location of the two main districts affected: Sherzad and Khogiani (Khogiani is minimally affected)
Approximate population of Sherzad 84,000

