

# Pakistan Earthquake

by Charles Storer

We watch the news again in horror at the scenes in Pakistan, and I'm sure you all, like me and the rest of the Hope and Aid Direct team, feel the pain and frustration at not being able to more to help.



I'm delighted to be able to report two pieces of news:

1. Jeff Gill will, at the request of the Irish NGO [GOAL](#), be flying out to Pakistan tomorrow (15/10/05) as part of their initial seven man emergency response team – he says he's not sure quite what they will be doing yet, but his IT skills will no doubt be put to the test again. Well done Jeff, and we wish you good luck – stay safe!
2. As was the case after the Tsunami, I have managed to arrange, with big thanks again to Simon Jones and his company Titusfield, for 14 pallets of fortified and long dated extruded biscuits (those lovely orange flavoured ones we took to Kosovo) to be collected by the [International Aid Trust](#) based in Preston, who will ship them out to Pakistan hopefully next week. They will go first to Karachi, then on to Rawalpindi, and then, with help from Rotary International out there, by helicopter to the remote areas where most needed.

By co-incidence, Jade O'Hanlon who I spoke to at the International Aid Trust, was out in Sri Lanka for five months earlier this year, and remembers receiving the original consignment of 20 pallets of biscuits, which they re-packed out there into family packs for distribution!

**Charles has received the following report from Jeff since he arrived in Pakistan**

## **GOAL Bagh - 3 November 2005 NFI Delivery To Chalandrat**

Chalandrat is a small village high on the side of a mountain between Bagh Town and Dhirkot. The village is reliant on agricultural products from the small fields cut into the side of the mountain and also fruit trees which grow quite precariously in some places. They have no other means of income within the village.

The target today was to deliver:

- ⊕ 1,800 blankets, donor DCI;
- ⊕ 25 large boxes of plastic sheeting to be divided between 175 families, donor USAID;
- ⊕ 180 large tarpaulins, donor DCI;
- ⊕ 2 very large tents suitable for use by a school as temporary classrooms, donor USAID.

The whole delivery was loaded on to four tractor trailers. We expected the journey to take around two hours. All went fine until we started the last third of the journey. A group of locals stopped us to say we would not get much further with loaded tractors carrying a total of about 12 tons. The road got narrower, rougher and steeper, it is quite amazing what the local Ferguson fully loaded can climb and the drivers really go for it.

We were eventually stopped by a part of the road that had fallen away when the earthquake happened. After walking the rest of the way, about 1.5 km the villagers agreed to come down to collect the non-food items (NFIs).

We managed to find a cutting on the side of the mountain to offload the NFIs and we had the help of about 40 villagers plus a number of the council who were going to be responsible for allocating the correct amounts to each family.

This village built into the side of the mountain has about 1,500 inhabitants and approx 400 houses. All houses have suffered damage with over 60% being totally destroyed. The two schools are again completely destroyed hence our delivery of two very large tents to allow classes to continue throughout the winter. The schools started running again last week but at the moment all classes are held outside. This will no longer be possible within three to four weeks when the snow comes.

When the earthquake occurred the schools were in session, five children died and over 50 were injured. In the village 35 people died in total and hundreds were injured.

The villages seem incredibly resilient they were very grateful to the donors for supplying the shelter materials and blankets and to GOAL and their staff for all the work in bringing in the materials. To move the 12 tons the last 1.5 kms up to the village was going to take them two to three days, but they seemed totally undaunted by the task in front of them

Two people helping to supervise the unloading were Grandfather Mahmood Ashraf with his six year old grandson Mahmood Avais. At the time of the 'quake Granddad was inside the house along his sons wife and younger children. The house collapsed however, the family members managed to escape, although two suffered minor injuries. Young Mahmood had just gone into class when the school collapsed he managed to escape without injury. Five children in the school were killed and 50 injured.

I am sending a weather report every other day as they need to know when snow is expected. It's exactly what we are seeing on the TV.

*Jepp Gill*