

B.16 Pakistan - 2005 - Earthquake

See Shelter Projects
2008 for more

Overview

Summary

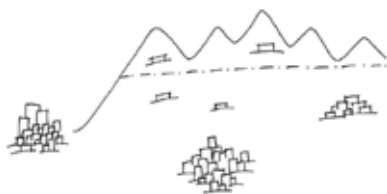
The earthquake in North Eastern Pakistan on 8th October 2005, left over 3,500,000 people with damaged or destroyed shelter. The earthquake struck in a mountainous region with winter only months away.

Of the many responses to the earthquake, this book contains two case studies of emergency shelter programmes. Both were conducted to support people through the first winter. The first project is the construction of transitional shelters with a phased delivery of materials. The second project is the distribution of shelter materials and toolkits.



Population movements

The Pakistan earthquake of October 2005 occurred in a region with difficult access months before the onset of winter. There were significant concerns that cold, and, at higher altitudes snow, could lead to significant further loss of life with an estimated 3.5 million people left homeless and 600,000 damaged or destroyed houses. Most of these houses were in rural areas.



Pre-earthquake - people live in mountains, both above and below the snow line and in cities.



Earthquake strikes. Many people stay, some people move from mountains, to regional cities and to larger cities. Some are forced to live in camps.



Over the course of several years, people reconstruct their houses and return, although some people remain permanently displaced

Illustrations Elizabeth Babister

Following the earthquake, many people remained on their land, often for fear of losing their land entitlement. However many others moved towards larger and less affected cities, either staying with family members, renting, or staying in temporary shelters on unoccupied land. Around 80,000 people moved into formal planned camps. After three years, 1800 families were verified to have lost their land through land slides. A further 4000 families had not had the status of their land verified.

After the first winter there was a large-scale return for those who still had access to land despite concerns of landslides with the following summer's monsoons. By the second winter, a year after the earthquake, most people had returned, but 30,000 people still remained in camps. Many of these people had either lost their land in landslides or were from urban environments where they previously rented or squatted.

The earthquake

The longer term policy for reconstruction adopted by the government was one of self build with distributions of approximately 3000 USD per family. Additionally, regional training centres were set up to support construction practices that were safer against earthquakes.

The major source of support for affected people was in the form

of remittances from other parts of Pakistan and overseas, often from family members who had moved away to work. Additional support to affected people was in the form of donations of goods from other parts of Pakistan, especially of food and clothing, in the first weeks after the earthquake.

A large-scale humanitarian response grew up over the first month, with the key actors being the government of Pakistan (largely operating through the Pakistani military) and the national and international humanitarian community.

Assistance provided

There were multiple approaches taken by different organisations and the Government of Pakistan to support the emergency response during the first winter after the earthquake. These included:

- the distribution of tents, blankets and plastic sheeting
- toolkits with corrugated iron sheeting to support self build
- a variety of shelter designs using distributed corrugated iron and tools, and locally available materials including reclaimed timber
- earthquake resistant construction Training
- cash for work and distributions of small amounts of cash
- set up and management of camps for those who were displaced
- rubble removal