

LANDSLIDE IN HUNZA, PAKISTAN – 6 January 2010

This situation report is based on information from humanitarian partners and government source

SITUATION OVERVIEW

At least 15 people are reported to have been killed and others are still missing after a massive landslide hit Atta Abad and Sarat villages in the Hunza Nagar District on 4 January 2010. A total of 34 houses are said to have been destroyed and dozens of others damaged in the two villages that lie in the Gilgit-Baltistan region. The first part of the landslide swept into the valley at 1.30pm on Monday. Two hours later a second slide came down with such intensity that the small village of Atta Abad was completely wiped out with most of the rubble being dragged into the Hunza River. During the reporting period, the sliding was still continuing, further increasing the height of the dam created by the landslide. The debris is now blocking the course of the Hunza River, which could lead to an overflow potentially threatening three other villages. The approximately 7,000 people living in these villages (Shishkat-Gojal, Ayeenabad and Gulmit) along the banks of the Hunza River could be immediately affected by such floods. According to local authorities around 1,600 individuals from the surrounding area have so far been displaced, 700 of which are accommodated in four school camps in Altit village in Hunza. The remaining people are staying with host families. Various other villages downstream the Hunza River are also in danger of being flooded, if the dam breaks, which could affect another 18,000 people. The landslide also destroyed 3km of the Karakorum Highway, the main road between Pakistan and China, and a bridge in the Hunza Valley.

NEEDS

There is an immediate need to meet the food and non-food requirements of the approximately 1,600 individuals currently displaced. According to the Gilgit-Baltistan Disaster Management Authority (GBDMA), the most needed food items are rice, pulses, ghee, sugar, flour and salt. In addition winterised tents, blankets, quilts, medicines, firewood and other non-food items are also urgently required.

As the road to the disaster area has been cut off by the landslide, access is currently only possible by air. The government has deployed four helicopters to carry out search, rescue and relief operations.



RESPONSE

Government agencies along with non-governmental organisations, including the Pakistan Red Crescent Society, FOCUS, Scouts and other volunteers have started initial relief operations. The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in coordination with the Gilgit-Baltistan Disaster Management Authority (GBDMA) and the District Disaster Management Authorities (DDMA) has distributed relief items, such as food and non-food items (NFIs). Nevertheless, reports from the field indicate that more supplies are needed.

The humanitarian community, including UN Agencies and international and national NGOs, is in contact with NDMA and stands ready to provide additional assistance, if need be.

For more detailed and updated information on Pakistan, please visit the OneResponse website at <http://pakistan.oneresponse.info> or contact:

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