

Balochistan Earthquake Emergency Shelter Cluster (ESC) Response Plan 1 December 2008

An earthquake of 6.4 magnitude struck 80 kilometers northwest of Quetta in Balochistan province early morning on 29 October 2008 with epicentre in district Ziarat and seriously impacting the adjoining districts of Pishin and Harnai. 166 died and 357 were injured, and initial estimates put the houses destroyed and damaged at round 10,000. Approximately 68,000 – 70,000 population was affected, mostly living in heights ranging from 5,000 feet to above 7,000 above sea level in sub – zero temperatures.

Winter weather pattern and forecasts predict extremely cold spells, rains and snowfall commencing mid December to mid – March with a varying intensity. The affected population, therefore, must be provided by winterized shelter to prevent migrations to adjoining regions of Balochistan which would exacerbate the humanitarian situation. However, as per Nazim Ziarat about 20,000 to 25,000 population living above 2,100 meter (7,000 feet) traditionally migrate in winters to districts of Harnai and Sibi.

Emergency assessments

With the approaching winter, the Army on behalf of government of Balochistan has conducted a house to house survey within the earthquake affected region by deploying joint teams of Army, FC Balochistan and the civil administration. Damaged houses are categorized as destroyed, seriously damaged, partially damaged and with minor damages. The survey results are documented and affected houses are photographed along with their owners or next of kin in case the owner has died. Survey outcomes are:-

Collapsed houses:	711
Houses with major damage:	4,524
Partially damaged houses:	2,309
House with minor damages:	2,354
Total	9,898

The collapsed and major damaged houses have been defined as the 'essential need'. All damaged houses as 'total need'

In addition to the damage categorizations, the response timing of shelters has been prioritized in priority 1 and 2, based on the distance from the epicenter of the earthquake (see map), the altitude and vulnerability to the winter conditions. According to that prioritization **4,770 houses** are defined as priority 1 and **5,128** houses as priority 2.



McRAM assessment concurs with the government assessment in terms of affected population and number of houses damaged or destroyed. While the humanitarian community is basing the planning on government assessments, Some organizations, such as ICRC, for example, conducts community based assessments before launching shelter intervention.

Government response

The government reacts to the disaster by paying PKR 350.000 compensation to owners of completely collapsed houses and those with major damages, while those partially destroyed and with minor damages are being paid PKR 50,000 and PKR 15,000, respectively. The cash compensation exercise is ongoing and those being compensated on the smaller scales are demanding some sort of parity. House reconstruction cannot start in earnest before mid – March owing to severe winter conditions. Cash compensation, nonetheless, would contribute in building post disaster coping mechanisms of the beneficiaries.

However, delays in shelter reconstruction would have a cross cutting negative impact on multi-sector response to the earthquake especially with aggravating health vulnerability and compounding protection issues.

Objective ESC Response plan

Provide emergency shelter to all earthquake affected households (total need), according to the prioritization of urgency (priority 1 and 2)

Planning Parameters

- The ESC response plan MUST be implemented by 31 December 2008 to avoid forced migration resulting from vulnerability to harsh winter conditions.
- According to the army survey, the total number of needed shelters (calculated as the affected population divided by 8 beneficiaries per shelter) per criteria / priority is reflected in the following table.

	Priority 1 (4,770 hs)	Priority 2 (5,128hs)	Total (9,898 hs)
Essential need (5,235 hs) Collapsed and major dam.	3,240 shelters (Block A)	3,480 shelters (Block B)	6,720 shelters
Need (4,663 hs) Partial and minor dam.	3,456 shelters (Block C)	3,770 shelters (Block D)	7,226 shelters
Total need (9,898 hs)	6,696 shelters	7,250 shelters	13,946 shelters

- The sequence of allocation of the shelter support will be in theory Block A -> B -> C -> D, but activities will go parallel in all the blocks since the organizations will work at different locations.
- Emergency transitional shelters are the preferred shelter solution but with time pressing, the distribution of winterized tents will also continue to ensure that all affected families receive some assistance. Programs to winterize ordinary tents will be implemented simultaneously.
- The district government / Army emergency shelter response plan is acknowledged as the basis of the ESC response plan. The ESC coordination team in collaboration with cluster stakeholders, will continue to refine the ESC response plan as resources are mobilized and in accordance with the evolving humanitarian situation and weather.

- The ESC response plan aims at extending winterized shelter cover to the 'essential needs' category. The second category contains houses that are partially or minor damaged (as per Army survey). Resource mobilization permitting, implementation of programs to cover both these categories can occur concurrently.
- With respect to the quality, The implementing agencies have agreed minimum standards and specifications.
- Allocation of geographical areas will be done in collaboration with stakeholders and implementing agencies. The allocation of UCs or villages to agencies will take into account resources available, capacity, the prioritization of areas according to the plan and linkages with the local communities. Updated plans and beneficiary lists will be issued on a regular basis. This will serve as a forum for collecting new information on resources available and progress.

Resource Mapping

- The ESC coordination team maintains an agency progress summary which tracks progress according to planned timelines (see table in Annex A)
- The ESC coordination team maintains an operational plan which tracks the need and support of shelter per village. (see table in Annex B)
- The ESC coordination team maintains a total overview of the shelter response per agency (see table Annex C)

Coordination Arrangements

- Operational coordination of the Emergency Shelter Cluster will continue to be led by the (IFRC) coordination team.
- Regular weekly meetings with the ESC members and key stakeholders will continue in Quetta with DG PDMA as the government counterpart.
- Field coordination will occur on a regular basis with the Nazim of Ziarat, the army and shelter (cluster) implementing organizations.
- The ESC coordination team will undertake field coordination with DCOs Pishin and Harnai on a need basis.
- The ESC coordination team in collaboration with district government counterparts endeavour to take responsibility for field coordination at the earliest but not later than 5 December 2008. Army is likely to thin out its presence in the earthquake zone by that time.

Monitoring and Evaluation

All ESC stakeholders will be involved in monitoring progress and ensure prerequisite standards are met. The Army will also take part in monitoring field trips as long they have sufficient presence to sustain the activity. Reports will be shared at the weekly ESC coordination meeting and compiled by the ESC coordination team.

The ESC Information Manager will be the gatekeeper for the ESC Response Plan and will feed the Humanitarian Information Management Support Unit run by BRSP and UNOCHA, which will undertake gap analysis and provide shelter deployment updates through the 3w matrix.

Rolling plan

The updating and revision of the ESC response plan and its annexes will occur during the regular coordination meetings in Ziarat and Quetta.