Baluchistan Earthquake

On September 25, 2013, a 7.7 magnitude earthquake at a depth of 12 miles struck 66 miles northeast of the Pakistani city of Awaran, home to 118,173 people according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics. Almost 90% of all the homes in Awaran, averaging 5.4 inhabitants per home, were destroyed. In all, 20,000 homes were flattened in the Baluchistan (Balochistan) region.

A week after the earthquake struck, the National Disaster Management Authority reported that the death toll from the earthquake reached 825 people. In total, 300,000 people were affected in Awaran, Kech, Gwadar, Panjgur, Chaghi and Khuzdar. It was the deadliest earthquake in Pakistan since 2005’s Kashmir earthquake that killed 73,000 people.

Despite the desperate conditions amongst survivors after the quake, some going without food, water, and shelter, no relief camps were established.

Relief Partner: Rahnuma

Following the quake, Give2Asia partnered with Rahnuma to support the Awaran, Kech, Gwadar, and Lasbela districts in Baluchistan.

Rahnuma-FPAP is a pioneer organization in the field of Reproductive Health and Family Planning in Pakistan. In the last 50 years, it has since shifted from its initial focus on family planning motivation to an integrated development and community participation paradigm, which includes safe motherhood and women empowerment.

Project

Give2Asia partnered with Rahnuma to provide 485 blankets to families who had lost their homes, and reduce maternal and neonatal morbidity and mortality in four crisis-affected communities.

From September to December 2013, Baluchistan’s average temperature was below freezing. For families who lost their home, having these types of supplies was vital. Additionally, Rahnuma used grant money to support ongoing medical relief to nearly 15,000 women throughout the four districts. Given Rahnuma’s focus, medical relief primarily focused on maternal and neonatal health, primary health care, as well as clinical and psychological care. Remaining grant money is still being used to support medical programs specifically focused on young women within this area.

To learn more about how you can support ongoing work, or about how you can develop new projects to support communities in Pakistan, please contact Give2Asia at info@give2asia.org.

To learn more about Rahnuma, please visit www.fpapak.org.