

Pakistan, UN agree on plan for quake survivors Agence France Presse -- English April 23, 2006 Sunday

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HEADLINE: Pakistan, UN agree on plan for quake survivors

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Pakistan and the United Nations have agreed to a 12-month early recovery plan for the earthquake survivors, the world body announced.

"Its objective is to support the longer-term road to recovery by bridging the end of the relief operations and the start of reconstruction," the UN said in a statement.

Six months after the massive 7.6 magnitude earthquake that killed more than 73,000 people in Pakistan, the government and aid agencies are now shifting their attention to rebuilding and relocating survivors.

The new plan is expected to cost 286 million dollars, up from 188 million dollars and will be focused on improving the standard of living for affected communities.

"Early Recovery Plan will not be an extra appeal," said Jan Vandemoortele, UN resident coordinator for Pakistan, said during a weekend press conference.

"It offers an opportunity for donors to turn pledges into concrete contributions," he said.

The plan also aims to move away from relief and into rebuilding in Pakistan-administered Kashmir and North Western Frontier Province, the areas hardest hit by the quake.

It calls for providing basic education, primary health care, access to safe water and skills training. The plan also covers rubble removal, small livestock, seeds and fertilisers and other needs to restore livelihoods.

Pakistan's Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority (ERRA) had lent its support for the plan, the UN said.

Deputy Chairman ERRA Lieutenant General Nadeem Ahmad called for fine tuning the plan to make sure partners, non-governmental organisations and the government work together.

Protests against authorities erupted Saturday in Muzaffarabad which was flattened by the disaster that displaced about 3.5 million people.


Police fired warning shots and charged with batons as hundreds of survivors took to the streets demanding compensation payments.

Residents said the government promised cash compensation of 175,000 rupees (about 3,000 dollars) to owners of each house destroyed in the quake.

Most of the survivors have received an initial 25,000 rupees but the payment of the remaining money has now been suspended pending a new survey, residents said.

They said compensation money should be doubled and paid to each affected family instead of each devastated house.

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