

IN BRIEF



DART brings relief to Pakistan

Canada's Disaster Assistance Relief Team (DART) returned from its second mission of the past year, providing care and essential services following the devastating earthquake in the Kashmir region of northern Pakistan.

The DART mission known as Operation PLATEAU brought more than 200 medical personnel, engineers and soldiers to a remote mountain area near Muzaffarabad, the epicentre of the October 8, 2005, earthquake that killed more than 73,000 people and left some 3 million homeless.

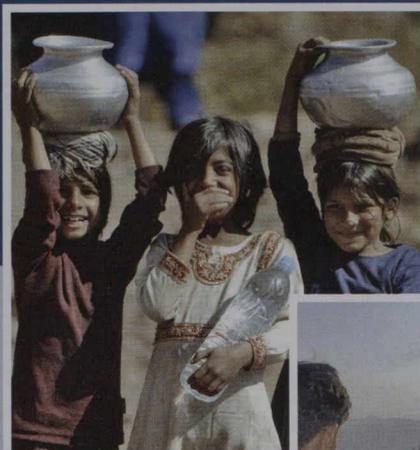
Based at Garhi Dopatta in the Jhelum Valley, DART provided treatment to more than 11,700 patients—including some 7,000 people treated by mobile medical teams operating in isolated areas that could only be reached by a chartered helicopter or on foot—and distributed more than 3.8 million litres of pure water.

"It was a huge undertaking," said Captain Rick Regan, a DART operations officer, adding that the biggest challenges

in the region were the treacherous conditions of roads and other infrastructure following the earthquake and the steep, rough terrain that made it hard to reach severe casualties. "You couldn't just build a medical facility and expect people to climb down out of the mountains and find you."

DART members provided a number of additional services, delivering babies and inoculating people who might have been exposed to diphtheria, repairing the X-ray machine at the local health-care centre, providing technical advice on reconstruction efforts, building latrines in displaced-persons camps and bringing tents to remote locations. The team included three Pakistani Canadians who were able to speak Urdu and understand the culture.

Medical treatment and water purification capabilities were handed over to long-term relief organizations such as the Red Crescent Society, a branch of the Red Cross, and Regan said that people in the region are beginning to rebuild their homes, villages and lives.



Local girls carry clean drinking water produced by DART at the Reverse Osmosis Water Purification Unit site in Garhi Dopatta, Pakistan.



Last January and February, following the Indian Ocean tsunami, a DART mission in Sri Lanka called Operation STRUCTURE treated more than 7,600 patients, produced nearly 3.5 million litres of drinking water and transported more than 70,000 people across a local waterway.

Pakistani and Canadian soldiers with DART prepare a young boy with broken legs for a helicopter medical evacuation from the remote mountain village of Palhot Bala, Pakistan.

See more on DART in Pakistan at www.forces.gc.ca/site/Operations/Plateau/index_e.asp.

photos: Sgt. Frank Hudec, Canadian Forces Combat Camera

From the ground up

One year after a massive tsunami in the Indian Ocean devastated the coastlines of countries across the region, Canada's support for communities there is making a difference.

In the immediate aftermath of the tsunami triggered by an earthquake on December 26, 2004, an estimated 5 million people needed humanitarian assistance and 270,000 people died.

Concerned Canadians responded immediately and generously. Their donations included some \$213 million given to eligible non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to help tsunami-affected communities, which the Government of Canada is matching dollar-for-dollar as part of its five-year, \$425-million commitment following the disaster. The Canadian International Development Agency is channelling aid through international agencies such as the World Food Programme as well as

23 Canadian NGOs that work with local partners. In addition, many other government departments responded to the disaster according to their expertise.

Support from Canada has been instrumental in the three phases of assistance, starting with relief and rehabilitation and moving on to reconstruction activities that are well under way.

In the relief stage, Canadian NGOs and partner organizations provided food, medicine, basic supplies and emergency items such as insecticide-treated bed nets to help prevent malaria. Rehabilitation involved setting up temporary shelters and water supplies, addressing the emotional needs of survivors and restoring livelihoods through initiatives such as business training. Now, reconstruction measures are helping to rebuild infrastructure, erect permanent homes, restore local governments, and provide credit, training and other services to businesses—all the while engaging citizens in the process.



Master carpenter Muchsin keeps a watchful eye on an apprentice cutting wood in the village of Baroh Blang Me, Indonesia. After the tsunami destroyed Muchsin's first shop, a grant helped him buy equipment and restart his business.

Read about the one-year anniversary of the disaster and the relief, rehabilitation, and reconstruction efforts of Canadian organizations in individual communities affected by the tsunami at www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/canadatsumami-e.

photo: Benoit Aquin/CIDA-ACDI