The U.S. responded immediately and generously to Pakistan's call for assistance following the October 8th Earthquake. The first U.S. relief helicopters were on the ground in Pakistan within days after the earthquake struck. U.S. humanitarian relief personnel arrived in Pakistan within 48 hours to assist.

Photo Credit: Photo by U.S. Military
U.S. Naval Ship arrives into Pakistan with relief and reconstruction supplies. The United States government is participating in a multinational humanitarian assistance and support effort lead by the Pakistani Government to bring aid to victims of the devastating earthquake that struck the region October 8, 2005.

Photo Credit: Photo by U.S. Military
U.S. Rear Admiral Mike LeFever, U.S. Ambassador Ryan C. Crocker, and USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) Leader Bill Berger held a press conference detailing United States Earthquake relief and recovery efforts following the October 8th earthquake in Pakistan on October 20, 2005.

Photo by: PH2(AW/SW) Timothy Smith, Fleet Combat Camera Group Pacific
The United States' highest priority is ensuring that earthquake victims have adequate shelter during the winter months. USAID continues to distribute winterized tents, and is now promoting shelter-in-place options to rebuild or repair homes with plastic and galvanized sheeting. USAID has funded eight NGO partners to provide shelter assistance for a targeted 75,439 households.

Photo Credit: Photo by Cassandra Nelson of Mercy Corps
Volunteer staff from U.S. private company Alaska Structures construct a tent in Bugna, Pakistan, on Nov. 21, 2005. USAID continues to distribute winterized tents, and is now promoting shelter-in-place options to rebuild or repair homes with plastic and galvanized sheeting. USAID has funded eight NGO partners to provide shelter assistance for a targeted 75,439 households.

Photo Credit: Photo by Dayton Mitchell, U.S. Air Force
Equipment Operator 2nd Class Peter Frederickson, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 74, clears debris at Muzaffarabad, Pakistan, on November 10, 2005. A 125-person Naval Mobile Construction Battalion has cleared debris from seven schools and continues to build support structures at camps for displaced persons, as part of U.S. earthquake relief and reconstruction efforts.

Photo Credit: Photo by U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Barry Loo
A U.S. Army Mobile Army Surgical Hospital operating in Muzaffarabad and a U.S. Combined Medical Relief Team operating in Shinkaria have provided urgent medical care to over 9,000 injured people.

Photo Credit: Photo by U.S. Military
U.S. Ambassador Karen Hughes Secretary Hughes led a Presidential delegation of U.S. corporate leaders to Pakistan to survey earthquake damaged areas. "President Bush asked us to come here because Pakistan is a friend of America, and an important friend and a partner, and we care about what has happened to the people here. We're concerned about people's lives in Kashmir. We have helped with direct funding. We are the number one international donor to Pakistan. We've helped with our military. We've helped by trying to rally the international community," said Secretary Hughes at a Press Conference in Islamabad.

Photo Credit: Photo by Barry Loo, U.S. Air Force
U.S. Army General John Abizaid, U.S. Central Command commander, shakes hands with Pakistan Army Brigadier General Sher Tariq, Director of Logistics. "The challenges that are facing any group of people that have to deal with this level of destruction -- the destruction of the lines of communication, the loss of life, the level of rebuilding that has to be done are really quite significant. And so, it's very clear to me that not only the United States, but the international community needs to continue to help Pakistan in this hour of need," said General Abizaid at a press conference at Chaklala Airbase on October 23, 2005.

Photo Credit: Photo by Airman First Class Barry Loo, U.S. Air Force
U.S. Senator George Allen visits Pakistan to assess earthquake devastated areas. "Pakistan has suffered greatly with the devastating earthquakes and I want to deliver and express support and friendship of the people of the United States... It's in times of crisis that you find out who your friends are and I hope the people of Pakistan will know that Americans truly do care. I also want the people of Pakistan to know how much Americans value their support on the front lines in the War on Terror and look forward to developing economic opportunities between our nations," said Senator Allen in a press release on November 21, 2005.
U.S. Congressman Dan Burton led a delegation of Congressmen and women to Pakistan. "The Pakistani government and its people have been friends and allies of the United States for a long time. In the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the Pakistani people and their government reached out to the people of America in our time of need with offers of aid. Just as we did after the devastating Southeast Asia tsunami last year, I again urge my fellow Americans to show the world that America is always ready to assist those in need; and I would ask every American to give whatever they can, no matter how small, to the recovery and relief efforts. Together we can help the people of South Asia through this very difficult time," said Congressman Burton in a press release on October 11, 2005.