

AN APPEAL FOR URGENT HELP FOR VICTIMS OF PAKISTAN'S EARTHQUAKE

It is now one month since the tragedy of the massive earthquake involving northern Pakistan and the adjacent Kashmir Province. We are all acutely aware that over 60,000 residents in that region died immediately or soon after the earthquake.

Worldwide responses for aid to the victims were promised but to-date only 25% of what had been promised has arrived in the region.

There are now over 800,000 victims of the quake left with no adequate shelter and food for the very harsh winter that will soon be upon them. If left with little or no aid, thousands more will die from the cold and hunger that will strike them.

An appeal has been received by the Wonca World Secretariat from its two Member Organisations in Pakistan for urgent help to relieve the sufferings of these unfortunate victims. The Government of Pakistan is doing all it can to bring relief but the burden is just too massive.

As members of the world's community of family doctors whose aim is to relieve suffering, could I appeal to you to strongly urge all members of your organisation to help in any way possible in providing relief to the victims? They may work through the Red Cross or Red Crescent Society in the country or any recognised local charity or relief agency that may have been formed specifically for this purpose.

Your cooperation in having this appeal disseminated to all your members is deeply appreciated.

**Alfred Loh
CEO
Wonca**