New Delhi, 06 October (Asiantribune.com): Many families in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir and adjoining North West Frontier Province are vulnerable to coming winter, says a report by the California based a Fritz Institute, on the plight of families hit by the killer earthquake that rocked the area one year back.

‘Our findings are alarming. Too many earthquake survivors are facing another winter without basic services and adequate shelter,’ Anisya Thomas managing director of Fritz Institute, says. The institute specializes in improving global disaster relief operations. Another global NGO, Oxfam has reported that corruption and bureaucratic inefficiency have increased the miseries of the locals with at least 90% of the 3.3 million affected people in need of assistance with food, shelter and livelihood almost one year after the earthquake.

Both Fritz and Oxfam say that poverty is increasing in the area. Sixty-three (63%) percent of survivors report a loss of income, with the people at the lowest income levels most affected. Before the earthquake, only three (3%) percent reported inadequate income for survival, while today thirty-one (31%) percent report not having enough income to survive. Nearly one-fifth (19%) of the survivors said that their lives will never be normal again.

One year after the earthquake, over fifty (50%) percent of people surveyed reported that they still needed and had not received assistance with food, water, livelihood and clothing. The unmet needs for shelter, counselling and medical care were 38%, 39% and 46%, respectively.

The situation in POK is in contrast to the relief effort on our side of the LOC. The entire machinery of Jammu and Kashmir and local army formations have ensured that the basic necessities are provided to the quake victims. The Central government also had chipped in with liberal aid.

While India politely declined international aid for quake relief, Pakistan government welcomed financial and material help with open arms. Reports in local media read in conjunction with NGO surveys show that victims have not benefited by the global generosity.

In fact the government agency entrusted with relief work is being accused of using ‘faulty data’. The World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and other donor agencies have pointed out that the data provided by the AJK and NWFP governments and National Database and Registration Authority were contradictory and, therefore, unhelpful to scientific implementation of all rehabilitation and reconstruction schemes.

Now the Pakistan Census Organisation has stepped in to undertake a fresh survey so as to come up with reliable data. Naturally therefore, question marks continue to appear before Islamabad’s claim that ninety per cent of the mid-term reconstruction work has been completed.