

Majority of Pakistan Earthquake Survivors Still Displaced, Study Finds

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A year after an earthquake devastated northern Pakistan, and with another frigid winter approaching, 60 percent of the survivors are still displaced, a survey from the Fritz Institute finds.

The San Francisco-based nonprofit, which works to improve global disaster relief operations, found that more than 90 percent of the affected population remain in need of assistance with food, shelter, and their livelihoods. In addition, more than half of those surveyed reported they had not received food, water, or clothing assistance, while the percentage of people reporting inadequate income for survival rose from 3 percent before the earthquake to 31 percent following the event. "Too many earthquake survivors are facing another winter without basic services and adequate shelter," said the institute's managing director Anisya Thomas, Ph.D.

Those who received assistance overwhelmingly identified the Pakistani government and military as the principal providers of aid, with three-quarters of survey respondents expressing satisfaction with the level of government assistance. Still, most households reported that they had no input in the decision-making processes related to the restoration of livelihoods (98 percent), shelter (98 percent), counseling and psycho-social care (98 percent), or food assistance (97 percent).

"Even a year after the earthquake, it is surprising that the overwhelming majority of aid recipients in our survey reported not being consulted," said Thomas. "It is reasonable to say that the voices of the affected were not adequately incorporated into the rehabilitation efforts to date."
