

**Earthquakes and Social Vulnerability:  
Toward a Perspective on Women and  
Their Families in Mountain Communities  
of Central Asia**

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## Research Focus:

- \* Muslim Culture Realm of Tajikistan, Northern Afghanistan, and Northern Pakistan
- \* Pamir, Hindu-Kush, Karakoram, and Western Himalaya Mountain Ranges



# SELECTED CENTRAL ASIAN EARTHQUAKES

Country	Region	Date	Magnitude	Casualties
Afghanistan	Hindu Kush	12/12/2005	6.7	
Pakistan	Kashmir	10/8/2005	7.6	80,361
Afghanistan	Hindu Kush	4/5/2004	6.6	
China	Xinjiang - Kyrgyzstan Border	12/25/2002	5.5	
Pakistan	Kashmir	11/20/2002	6.4	
Afghanistan	Hindu Kush	3/25/2002	6.1	1,000
Afghanistan	Hindu Kush	3/3/2002	7.4	
Tajikistan	Afghanistan-Tajikistan Border	5/30/1998	6.6	4,000
Tajikistan	Afghanistan-Tajikistan Border	2/4/1998	5.9	2,323
Tajikistan	Khait	7/10/1949	7.5	12,000
Turkmenistan	Ashgabat	10/5/1948	7.3	110,000
Pakistan	Quetta	5/30/1935	7.5	60,000

# CHARACTERISTICS OF EARTHQUAKE DISASTERS IN MOUNTAINOUS CENTRAL ASIA



# WOMEN'S VULNERABILITY TO EARTHQUAKES



# Kashmir Earthquake, October 8, 2005, 8:50 am



# Pakistan-administered Kashmir

INDIA

PAKISTAN

Jhelum Valley

Jhelum Valley

Muzaffarabad

Khagan Valley

Neelum Valley

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# THE KASHMIR QUAKE AND WOMEN'S EXPERIENCES



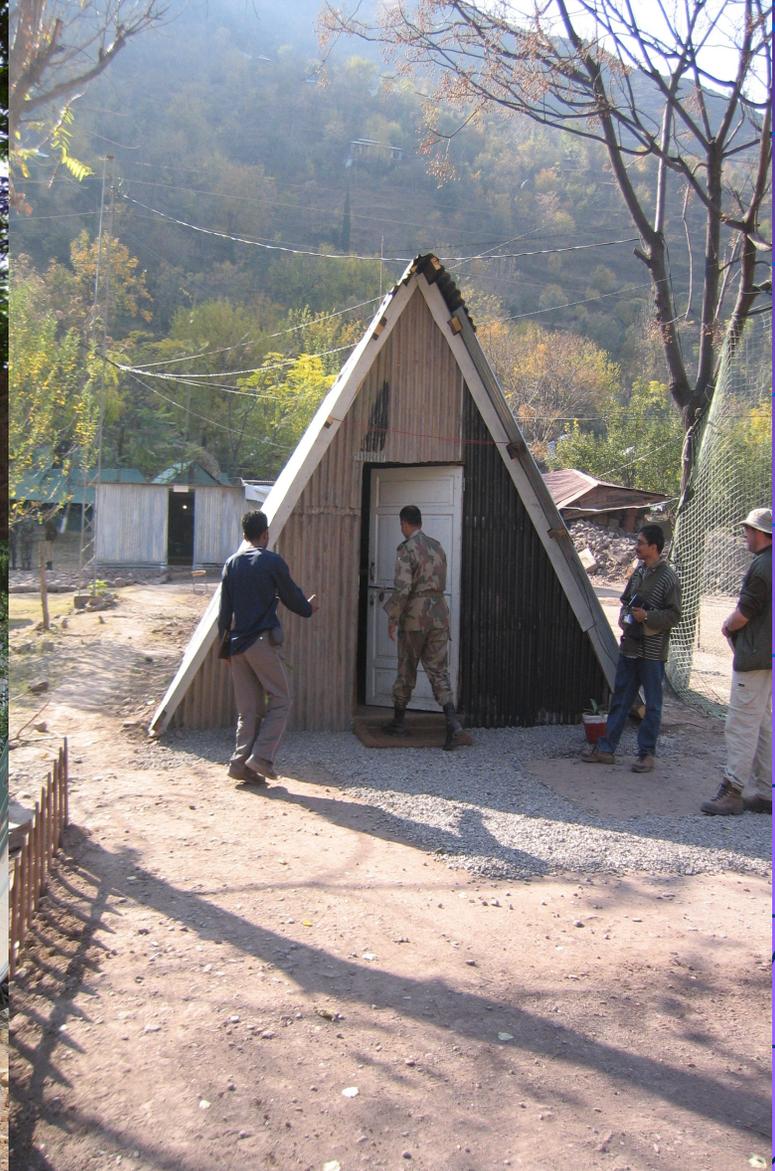
# Immediate Aftermath



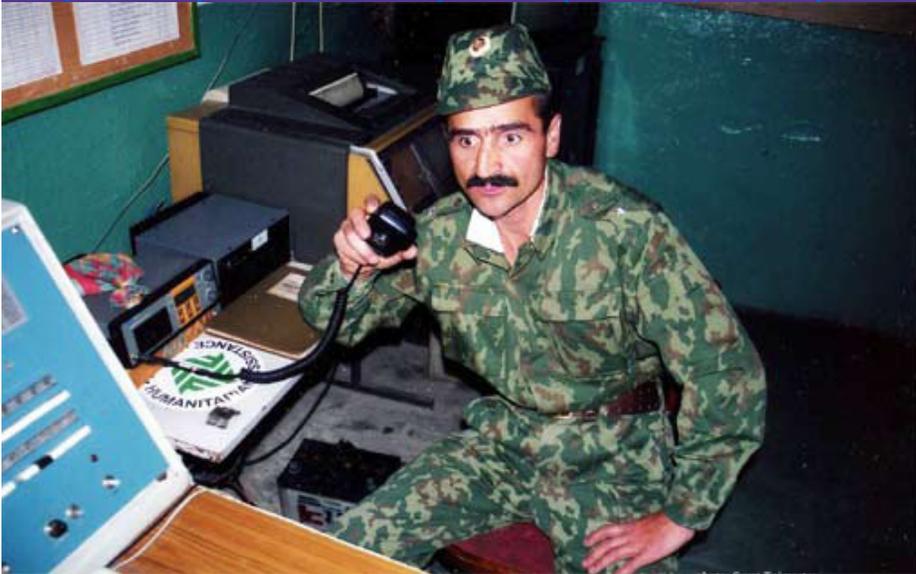
# Response and Relief



# Rebuilding Communities



# EFFORTS TO REDUCE EARTHQUAKE RISK IN CENTRAL ASIA



- ❖ RADIUS
- ❖ GESI
- ❖ DIPECHO
- ❖ UNDP
- ❖ EU
- ❖ Other regional efforts

## MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- Undertake a gender-based needs assessment
- Support women's access to resources
- Utilize women's indigenous knowledge
- Provide earthquake education

## MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- Give women active relief, rehabilitation, and rebuilding roles
- Provide physical and legal protection
- Ensure psychological care
- Provide gender training to military and relief organizations

# CONCLUDING REMARKS



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