

# RI Doctor Returns from Pakistan with Goal of Establishing a Field Hospital

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**R**esponding to the devastating earthquake in Pakistan, Dr. Tehmina Khan, a physician from Kaiser Permanente, volunteered to deploy on October 15<sup>th</sup> with Relief International's first team of doctors headed to Northern Pakistan. She returned home to the San Francisco Bay Area passionate about establishing an adequate field hospital in Battagram, at the heart of the earthquake-affected zone, to treat the thousands of injured and provide medical services where all facilities have been

**destroyed.**



*Dr. Tehmina Khan sets a young boy's broken leg.*

As a result of the 7.8-magnitude earthquake on October 8<sup>th</sup>, the hospital in Battagram was completely destroyed, making it necessary for RI medical teams to work out of tents. More than 22,000 injured and ill individuals have been treated at the current tented site. RI's medical team - including American, Pakistani-American, and Pakistani medical staff with specialties ranging from pediatrics to Ob/Gyn, to general practice - are currently treating over 150 patients every day and, on average, conducting 12 major surgeries and more than 70 minor surgeries. Yet with limited resources, lack of refrigeration, no running water or adequate child-birthing equipment, Dr. Khan realized upon her return to the US that she felt compelled and driven to continue to help.

"When we arrived in Manserha, we found the district hospital destroyed," said Dr. Khan. "RI's team staffed the pediatric ward, set up a registration / triage center for the camp, and established a pharmacy. This allowed our doctors to begin treating gangrene, caring for children with multiple bone fractures in their legs, helping women deliver babies (including several C-sections), and nursing week-old wounds - some so deep that bones were visible. We were performing life-saving surgeries on individuals who had been trapped in rubble for days. All of this in a makeshift hospital set up in a tent."



Many of the injured have gone weeks without receiving medical attention as access to some villages is only now opening up. As winter quickly sets in the window of opportunity to save the lives of earthquake survivors is quickly closing. Upon her return to the U.S, Dr. Khan is determined to help RI establish an adequate field hospital in Battagram.

### **The Need for a Hospital**

Having now seen the devastation firsthand, Dr. Khan knows how desperate the need is for an adequate facility for doctors to provide essential

medical services to the greatest number of people possible.

“If we have more able hands, refrigeration for vaccines, and most importantly, semi-permanent tents in which to work, we could save more lives and provide greater medical assistance to the thousands of injured,” commented Dr. Khan.

In spite of the growing medical needs of the earthquake survivors, RI medical and relief teams are making a significant impact in Northern Pakistan, commented Dr. Farshad Rastegar, founder and CEO of Relief International. “However, in order for Relief International to accomplish this goal under the time constraint and harsh working conditions of the approaching winter, there needs to be a significant outpouring of financial and volunteer support.”

Dr. Khan is reaching out to everyone and every organization she knows in order to raise the funds needed buy the tents and equipment needed to establish a basic, yet effective field hospital.

“This field hospital will allow the tens of thousands of injured survivors to receive the continuous, medical assistance they deserve,” said Dr. Khan

### **On-going Relief Efforts**

RI relief teams working in Balakot, Battagram and other devastated towns and villages surrounding Mansehra, have already distributed thousands of tents and blankets to families who have lost absolutely everything. RI is also beginning a three-month program of food distribution to serve thousands of needy families.

Even while still in the emergency phase of the disaster, RI assessment teams are evaluating recovery and restoration opportunities to help earthquake survivors restore their livelihoods and communities through permanent shelter construction, educational facilities and cash-for-work programs.

With over 15 years of international relief and disaster response experience, RI specializes in meeting emergency needs as well as in bridging disaster relief to recovery, rehabilitation and development. Yet with the scale of the emergency in Northern Pakistan continuously growing, decisive action and financial support is **urgently** needed now to **save lives and rebuild livelihoods**

Dr Tehmina Khan has already committed herself to that process.

## **[DONATE NOW](#)**

To help provide relief to victims of the earthquake in Pakistan by assisting Relief International provide and equip a field hospital in Northern Pakistan, **DONATE NOW**. 95% of all private contributions directly benefit the survivors through direct aid on the ground.

**Phone:** 1.800.573.3332 or 1.310.478.1200  
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