

# Earthquake in Eastern Afghanistan

WHO Situation report no. 5 | 5 Sept 2025



World Health  
Organization  
Afghanistan

Reporting period: Based on available information as of 15:00 on 5 September 2025

## KEY FIGURES



**84 000**

People affected



**2205**

Fatalities



**3640**

Injured



**6782**

Homes destroyed



**16**

Health facilities damaged

## WHO RESPONSE



**6 Mobile Health Teams**

supported by WHO, deployed to the affected areas



**2280 Consultations**

provided at WHO-supported primary healthcare facilities



**43 metric tonnes**

medical supplies provided



**US\$ 4M**

funding gap for rapid life-saving response



WHO female social health worker visits Garigal village, Chawkay District of Kunar Province to meet families affected by the recent earthquake. (Photo: WHO Afghanistan)

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

Eastern Afghanistan continues to experience aftershocks, including a 5.6 magnitude tremor on 4 September adding fear among communities and complicating access to earthquake-affected areas. The 6.0 magnitude earthquake of 31 August has already affected an estimated 84 000 people across Kunar, Nangarhar, Laghman and Nuristan provinces. Districts most affected include Chapa Dara, Chawkay, Dara-e-Pech, Nurgal and Watapur in Kunar, and Dara-e-Nur and Kuz Kunar in Nangarhar. To date, over 2200 deaths have been reported, with at least 3600 people injured and 6782 houses destroyed.

WHO has started assessments of health facilities in the four provinces. Early findings indicate that 16 health facilities have been damaged, including Chawkay District Hospital and Nurgal Comprehensive Health Centre. Arif Basic Health Center in Nurgal District in Kunar Province has been completely destroyed.

Thousands of families have lost their homes and remain displaced. Temporary shelters have recently been established in Khas Kunar District to host survivors, providing them with basic protection and essential needs.

However, overcrowded shelters, unsafe water and poor hygiene are **deepening the risks for families** in a region already battling malaria and dengue fever. So far in 2025, more than 1200 suspected dengue fever cases —**nearly all of the country's total**— have been reported here, along with over 32 000 confirmed malaria cases representing **more than 80% of the national burden**. Measles continues to spread across the country including in this region. Since 4 September, 49 cases of acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) have been reported in Nurgal, Chawkay, and Asadabad, and 14 malaria cases have been reported in Nurgal and Chawkay districts.

WHO has developed a six-month strategic operational response plan focusing on expansion of primary health care, enhancing disease surveillance, strengthening of MHPSS capacity, and improvement of referral and ambulance systems. Despite donor contributions, a funding gap of US\$ 4 million remains, hindering the scale-up of life-saving interventions.

## HEALTH SITUATION

A temporary hospital has been set up in Khas Kunar as a first referral site with 50 beds. In addition, four hospitals are functioning as referral centres: Chawkey District Hospital in Kunar (25 beds), Asadabad Provincial Hospital in Kunar (150 beds), Kama District Hospital in Nangarhar (75 beds), and Nangarhar Regional Hospital in Jalalabad (623 beds).

Nangarhar Regional Hospital is now the main hub for specialized care for the most critical patients. Since the earthquake, hospitals have received 1974 injured people, with 298 needing blood transfusions and 180 undergoing major surgeries. At present, 558 patients are still hospitalized. In Nangarhar alone, 1964 injured people—including 760 women and girls—have been treated across several facilities, including Nangarhar Regional Hospital, the University Teaching Hospital, and Fatima Zuhra Hospital.

## WHO RESPONSE

With its strong presence across the country and in the field, WHO is working hand in hand with health authorities and partners at national, regional, and local levels to ensure that life-saving assistance reaches those who need it most.

### Primary Healthcare Services

WHO has been delivering primary health care (PHC) services to earthquake-affected communities through six mobile health teams (MHTs) deployed in remote areas of Nurgal District, Kunar Province. This includes two teams in Masoud village, two in Wazir village, one in Mazar Dara Valley, and one in Suhail Tangi village. These teams are providing first aid, outpatient consultations, maternal and child health services, vaccinations, and essential medicines, along with triage and referral of the injured. So far, the MHTs have carried out more than 2280 consultations—including trauma care—and referred over 200 patients for further treatment.

### Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

WHO has deployed two outreach mobile teams to provide Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) services in Nurgal District, Kunar Province, and at Nangarhar Regional Hospital. These teams are offering consultations, individual and group counselling, and Psychological First Aid. To date, they have conducted more than 300 consultations and referrals.

### Disease Surveillance/Potential Diseases Outbreak Prevention and Response

WHO has deployed 17 Surveillance Support Teams (SSTs) across four provinces—eight in Nangarhar, four in Kunar, three in Nuristan, and two in Laghman—to strengthen active disease surveillance.

Between 4 and 5 September 2025, 125 cases of infectious diseases were detected and reported from Kunar Province, including 49 cases of acute watery diarrhoea and 14 cases of malaria. All patients received treatment at Nurgal Comprehensive Healthcare Centre, Chawkey District Hospital, and Asadabad Provincial Hospital. Two rapid diagnostic tests were conducted among the AWD cases, with one positive sample sent to Nangarhar Regional Laboratory for confirmation. Results are pending.

### Risk Communication and Community Engagement

WHO has delivered 10 000 information materials on acute watery diarrhoea and 2000 on cholera to the Eastern Region, helping health facilities and outreach teams raise community awareness on preventing infectious diseases.

### Operations Support and Logistics

WHO has delivered 20 metric tonnes of medical supplies to eight health facilities in the affected areas, including Kunar Provincial Hospital, Chawkey District Hospital, and Nurgal Comprehensive Health Centre. The shipment includes 44 Interagency Emergency Health Kits (IEHK), 40 cholera kits, and seven Trauma and Emergency Surgery Kits (TESK), enough to meet the needs of an estimated 84 500 patients.

This builds on the 23 metric tonnes of supplies already dispatched. An additional 35.9 metric tonnes of health items, including primary health care and non-communicable disease kits, are being mobilized through the WHO Dubai logistics hub.

### Prevention of and Response to Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment

A total of 551 women and 439 men from affected communities were reached with awareness on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA).

## NEEDS AND GAPS

Primary health care services remain under severe strain, as damaged facilities and limited referral capacity urgently need rehabilitation and expansion to meet the growing health needs of affected communities.

Referral hospitals in Kunar and Nangarhar are operating well beyond capacity, facing critical shortages of medicines, surgical supplies, and functioning ambulances—all essential to saving lives.

Survivors with complex injuries urgently require post-trauma care and physical rehabilitation. Thousands will need ongoing medical follow-up and support to restore mobility and function.

Psychosocial needs are intensifying as communities grapple with grief, loss, and displacement, highlighting the urgent need to expand trained staff and specialized mental health services.

Women and girls face particular barriers to accessing care due to the shortage of female health workers and lack of private spaces. Immediate measures are needed to deploy more female health staff and ensure safe spaces for women to receive essential services.

Poor water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure, unsafe water, and overcrowded shelters are increasing the risk of communicable diseases, underscoring the need to strengthen disease surveillance and case management capacity.

With winter approaching, there is an urgent need for shelter, heating, and winterized health supplies. A funding gap of over US\$4 million continues to threaten the timely delivery of these life-saving interventions.



A camp has been established in Khas Kunar District, Kunar Province, to host earthquake survivors. (Photo: WHO Afghanistan)

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WHO's initial response to the earthquake has been possible with the generous support of the following donors:



# AFGHANISTAN | Eastern Region

SNAPSHOT OF EARTHQUAKE AFFECTED AREAS AND WHO HEALTH EMERGENCY RESPONSE As of September 5, 2025

✕

2,205

Fatalities

✕

6,782

Houses destroyed or damaged

3,640

People injured

6

Mobile Health Teams Deployed for Earthquake Response

813

people received trauma care services

1,467

primary health consultations

133

children received vaccination services

654

people received health awareness /education

197

trauma cases referred to next level of healthcare

198

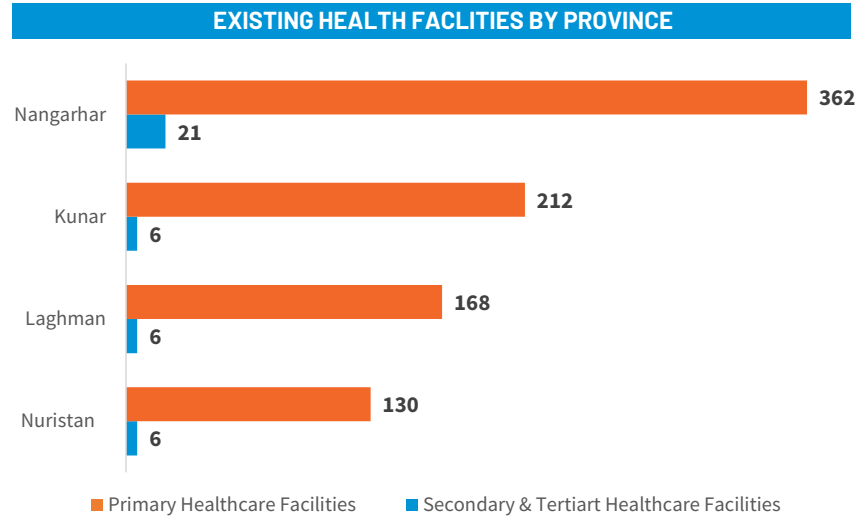
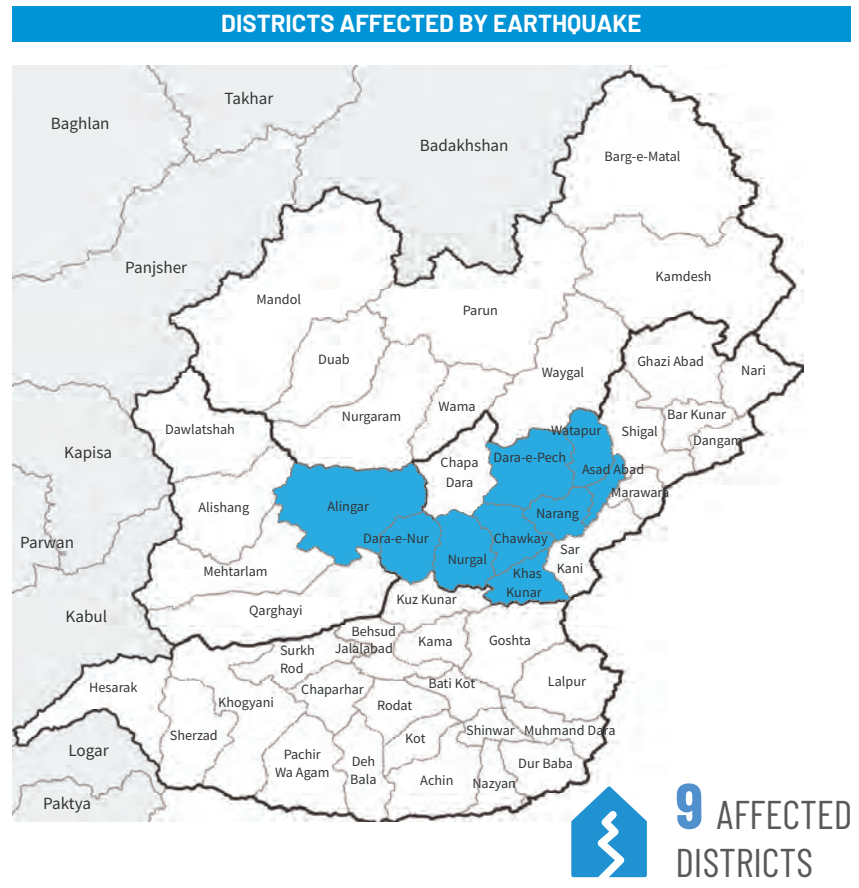
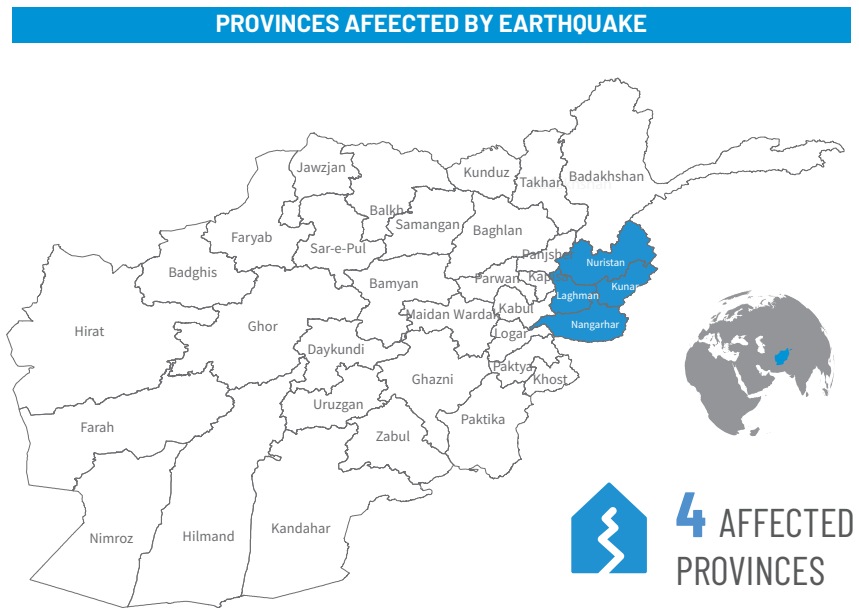
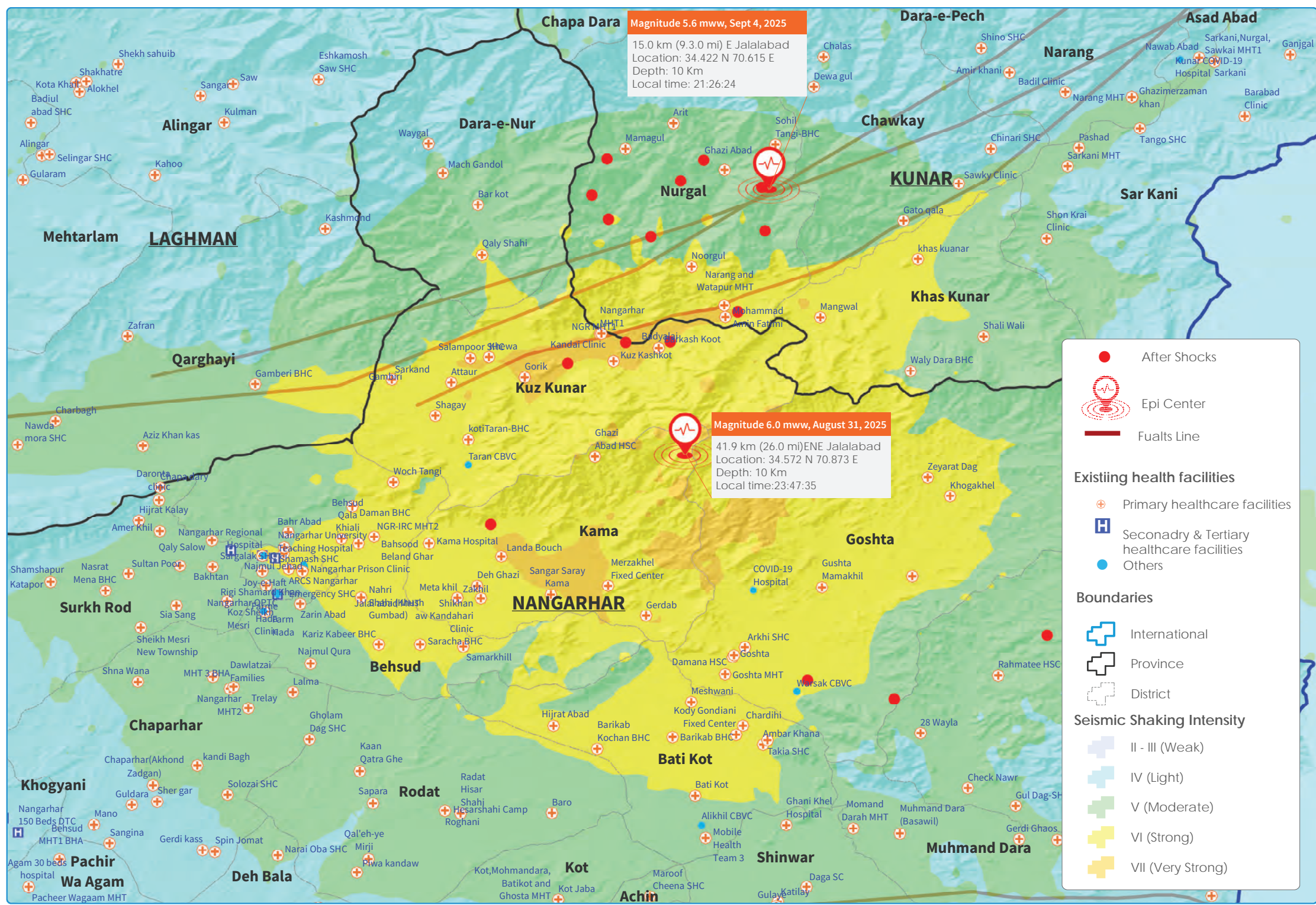
people received MHPSS consultations

29

women received MNCH services

664

people received essential medicine



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Data Sources: WHO, MoPH and OCHA.