

# Earthquake in Northern Afghanistan

WHO Situation Report No. 2 | 4 November 2025



**World Health Organization**  
Afghanistan

**Event:** 6.3 Magnitude Earthquake

**Report Period:** Based on available information as of 14:00 on 4 November 2025

**Affected Areas:** Primarily Samangan Province and parts of neighboring Balkh province.

## KEY FIGURES



**26**  
Fatalities



**1144**  
Injured



**430**  
Homes destroyed



Patients receiving treatment at Samangan Provincial Hospital after the recent earthquake in northern Afghanistan.  
(Photo: WHO Afghanistan)



An earthquake-damaged house in Khulm District, where several families have been affected. (Photo: WHO Afghanistan)

## HIGHLIGHTS

- A 6.3-magnitude earthquake struck northern Afghanistan near Mazar-e-Sharif at 00:59 local time, causing significant casualties and damage in Samangan and Balkh provinces.
- Other provinces Baghlan, Jawzjan, Kunduz and Sari Pul has also been affected. Around 430 houses were reportedly destroyed, including 151 in Qoshmahala village of Feroznaqshir district and 279 in Khulm district of Samangan province.

### North Region Earthquake Disaster Report

Province	Injured	Deaths		
		Male	Female	Total
Balkh	635	9	3	12
Samangan	418	9	4	13
Kunduz	58	0	0	0
Saripul	16	0	1	1
Baghlan	14	0	0	0
Jawzjan	3	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1144</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>26</b>

- At least 26 deaths and 1144 injuries have been reported across the six affected provinces, the most affected provinces among those are: Balkh (12 deaths, 635 injuries) and Samangan (13 deaths, 418 injuries).
- Partial damage reported in several health facilities, including Balghali PHC (WHO-supported) in Samangan, while Samangan Provincial Hospital's laboratory collapsed, destroying critical medical equipment, in addition to Hayatan PHC in Balkh Province supported by the Health Emergency Response (HER) project.
- Emergency response operations are ongoing, with health teams, rescue units, and humanitarian partners mobilized to provide life-saving medical care and supplies.
- WHO and partners are coordinating closely with local health authorities to support assessments, deploy emergency supplies, and ensure continuity of care for the injured.



Images from the affected region show fragile structures and the enduring impact of the earthquake. (Photo: WHO Afghanistan)

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

A powerful 6.3-magnitude earthquake struck northern Afghanistan near Mazar-e-Sharif at around 00:59 local time on 3 November 2025, causing tragic loss of life, hundreds of injuries, and damage to health facilities in Samangan and Balkh provinces. The earthquake damaged several health facilities, including the Balghali Primary Healthcare Clinic (WHO-supported) in Samangan and Hayatan PHC under the Health Emergency and Response (HER) project) in Balkh. The Samangan Provincial Hospital also sustained partial damage, with its laboratory department collapsing and several essential medical equipment items destroyed causing disruption in essential diagnostic services for hundreds of patients.

Emergency response operations are underway. Health workers, rescue teams, and humanitarian partners have been mobilized to deliver life-saving care, emergency supplies, and psychosocial support to affected communities. WHO and partners are closely coordinating with local health authorities to ensure timely medical assistance, assessments, and supply delivery where most needed.

WHO expresses its solidarity with the affected families and reaffirms its commitment to supporting national and provincial health authorities in responding rapidly and effectively to this emergency.

## WHO IMMEDIATE RESPONSE

Within one hour of the 6.3-magnitude earthquake striking northern Afghanistan, WHO teams and partners mobilized rapidly to support life-saving health operations in the affected provinces.

Critical medical supplies were dispatched to strengthen emergency and trauma care capacity. These included four Trauma Emergency Surgery Kits (TESK), enough to treat around 200 trauma patients, and one Interagency Emergency Health Kit (IEHK),

enough to treat 10,000 people for a period of 3 months. The supplies were distributed strategically across key health facilities:

- Balkh Regional Hospital: 1 TESK
- Khulm District Hospital: 1 TESK and 1 IEHK
- Samangan Provincial Hospital in Samangan: 2 TESKs



These are expected to benefit 10,200 patients.

An additional 5 metric tonnes of TESK, IEHK and pneumonia kits have been dispatched from Kabul to Mazar warehouse to replenish the stock and respond to any emerging needs and possible after-shocks. These kits are expected to benefit 62,600 patients.

To reinforce the response, WHO field staff have been immediately repurposed to assist local health authorities and ensure rapid coordination of emergency health services.

Twelve surveillance support teams (SSTs) were already stationed across the northern provinces before the earthquake, with four teams in Balkh and two in each of Samangan, Sari Pul, Faryab, and

Jawzjan. These teams are now ready to be mobilized to help identify and respond to any outbreaks of communicable diseases in affected areas.

To support the referral services, six ambulances from the Balkh Ambulance Department have been urgently deployed to the hardest-hit regions. These teams are working around the clock to rescue people trapped under rubble and transport critically injured individuals to major hospitals for specialized care.

Injured survivors are being treated at Balkh Regional Hospital, Samangan Provincial Hospital, and Khulm District Hospital, where medical staff are providing life-saving support.



Collapsed houses in Khulm District after the recent earthquake, which caused widespread damage in the area. (Photo: WHO Afghanistan)

## HEALTH CLUSTER RESPONSE

The Health Cluster continues to coordinate the overall response efforts. Two meetings were held so far to review and align the ongoing health cluster response and to train participating members on the data collection tool for the rapid health needs assessment.

Operational priorities are being urgently addressed, with critical medical supplies being pre-positioned and distributed to the most affected areas to support ongoing response efforts.

### Challenges

1. The ongoing landslides in the Tange area of Khulm district have severely impacted transportation, blocking the Balkh–Kabul highway and delaying the movement of ambulances. This has slowed the transfer of critically injured individuals to Samangan Provincial Hospital. In addition, access to Marmol district in Balkh province has also been cut off due to landslides, further hindering the ability to deliver timely medical assistance and support to affected communities.

2. A temporary electricity outage in the affected areas disrupted health service delivery and complicated emergency medical operations.
3. Limited hospital capacity. Khulm District Hospital faced severe overcrowding, lacking adequate space and resources to manage the sudden influx of injured patients.

### Projected needs

- Continued support is urgently needed to help Balkh Regional Hospital, Samangan Provincial Hospital, and Khulm District Hospital manage the high influx of injured patients. These facilities require additional medical supplies, and emergency personnel to sustain life-saving services.
- A comprehensive assessment across all affected districts is urgently needed to determine the full scale of damage, health risks, and humanitarian needs.
- Strong and coordinated regional and national efforts are also essential to ensure that displaced families have timely access to shelter, clean water, and food assistance, alongside continued health and psychosocial support.
- Urgent support is required to provide health services to internally displaced persons (IDPs) in two villages: Qoshmahala village in Ferozdaqshir district (home to 151 families) and Khulm district in Samangan province (home to 279 families). These communities are in critical need of medical care, including primary health services, emergency treatment, and mental health support, as they cope with the aftermath of the disaster.



Additional supplies have been dispatched to replenish Mazar's stock from Kabul. (Photo: WHO Afghanistan)

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