

EARTHQUAKE IN NORTHERN AFGHANISTAN

SITUATION REPORT

No. 3 | November 2025



World Health
Organization
Afghanistan

Event: 6.3 Magnitude Earthquake
Report Period: Data current as of
10:00 a.m. (local time), 6 November
2025

Affected Areas: Primarily
Samangan province with impacts
extending into parts of neighboring
Balkh province.

Key Figures (Cumulative)



26
Fatalities



1172
Injuries



1319
Homes destroyed



21
Health facilities
damaged



WHO team conducts field assessment in earthquake-affected areas of Samangan and Balkh provinces to evaluate damages and support response coordination. (Photo: WHO Afghanistan).

HIGHLIGHTS

A 6.3-magnitude earthquake struck northern Afghanistan near Mazar-e-Sharif at 00:59 local time on 3 November 2025, causing significant casualties and damage mainly in Samangan and Balkh provinces. Other provinces (Jawzjan, Sari Pul, Kunduz and Baghlan) have also been affected.

At least 26 deaths and 1172 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, 421 injuries).

The earthquake destroyed 1,319 houses, with the greatest impact reported in Samangan Province — particularly in the districts of Aybak (595 houses), Feroz Nakhchir (306), and Khulm (284).

Rapid assessment reports have revealed twenty-one health facilities are partially damaged.

WHO and partners are coordinating closely with local health authorities to support assessments, deploy emergency supplies, and ensure continuity of care for the injured.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

The powerful 6.3-magnitude earthquake that struck northern Afghanistan near Mazar-e-Sharif at around 00:59 a.m. local time on 3 November 2025 caused tragic loss of life, hundreds of injuries, and damage to health facilities in Samangan and Balkh provinces.

Current information indicates that earthquake damaged 21 health facilities, including the WHO-supported Balghali Primary Healthcare Clinic as well as Samangan provincial hospital and Bazar-e-Sokhta district hospital in Samangan province.

Emergency response operations remain active. Health workers, rescue teams, and humanitarian partners continue to be deployed, providing life-saving care, emergency supplies, and psychosocial support to affected communities. WHO and partners are working closely with local health authorities to ensure rapid medical assistance, needs assessments, and timely delivery of essential supplies to the areas most in need.

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

Immediately following the earthquake, WHO teams and partners were rapidly mobilized to support life-saving health operation, 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 a total of 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 approximately 62,600 patients. A further one metric tonne of TESK kits have been dispatched from Kabul to Mazar warehouse as an emergency stockpile.

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.

HEALTH CLUSTER RESPONSE

The Health Cluster continues to coordinate the overall response efforts. These efforts included:

- Fifteen Health Cluster members are actively supporting responses in the affected areas.
- Trauma and Emergency Surgery Kits (TESK), Interagency Emergency Health Kits (IEHK), human resources, Interagency Reproductive Health Kits (IARH) kits among others have been sent to the earthquake affected areas.
- Ten mobile health and nutrition teams (MHNTs) are currently deployed in the area with nine additional teams on standby.
- Health assessments (facility and community level) in the affected areas are ongoing and are expected to end Thursday 06 November late afternoon. Findings from the assessments will inform further planning.
- 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.



A member of an earthquake-affected family in Samangan speaks about the tragedy.

Ensuring Safe, Ethical Health Services in the Northern Region Earthquake Response

WHO is leading a coordinated health response to the earthquake, with the prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment (SEAH) as a central priority. Teams and partners have been briefed on expected conduct standards, three focal points have been deployed, and community engagement activities are ongoing, having reached approximately 1,800 people (1,200 men and 600 women). A joint risk assessment is currently underway to further strengthen mitigation measures and ensure safe, accountable operations.

CHALLENGES

Khulm District Hospital is operating beyond its surge capacity as a result of a mass casualty influx, leading to critical shortages of resources and space that are impacting the delivery of patient care.

The limited deployment of female health workers creates a critical gender barrier, impeding the establishment of safe and accessible reporting mechanisms for affected populations.

PROJECTED NEEDS

Urgent support is required for Balkh, Samangan, and Khulm hospitals to manage high patient influxes. This includes deploying emergency personnel and supplying essential medicines and medical equipment to sustain life-saving services and address critical resource gaps.

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

essential to ensure that displaced families continue to have timely access to health services and psychosocial support.

Urgent support is required to deliver critical health services including primary healthcare, emergency treatment, and mental health support to internally displaced families in all affected districts, who are currently experiencing severe gaps in access to medical care.

ANNEXES

Annex 1: List of health facilities were partially damaged in Balkh and Samangan provinces.

No	Province	District	Health Facility Name	Health Facility Type	Type of Damaged
1	Samangan	Aybak	Delkhaki and Kokjar	BHC	There is a crack in the MCH, EPI, OPD and CHS rooms
2			Tai Khanak	BHC	The surrounding wall of the health facility has developed a crack.
3			Dr.Kiramuddin Wakilzada	PH	The rooms of the health facility are partially damaged and require renovation.
4		Hazrat Sultan	Naieman	SHC	There is a crack in the MCH, EPI and OPD CHS rooms
5		Khuram&Sarbagh	Baba Qamber	SHC	There is a crack in the MCH and EPI rooms
6		Dara-e-Sof Payen	Toqsan Maqsood	CHC	The rooms of the health facility are partially damaged and require renovation.
7			Bayanan	SHC	There is a crack in the MCH and EPI rooms
8		Dara-e-Sof Bala	Bazar-e-Sokhta	DH	The surrounding wall of the health facility has developed a crack.
9		Feroz Naqshe	Feroz Naqshe	BHC	The rooms of the health facility are partially damaged and require renovation.
10		Khulm	QurGHan	BHC	There are cracks in the MCH, Female OPD, corridor, and OPD rooms.
11			Oljato	SHC	There are cracks in the Nutrition room.
12			Sayad	SHC	There are cracks in the battery room.
13			Logariha	SHC	The rooms of the health facility are partially damaged and require renovation.
14	Balkh	Charkent	Qara Ghouch	BHC	The rooms of the health facility are partially damaged and require renovation.
15			Shar Shar	CHC	The surrounding wall of the health facility has developed a crack.
16		Chimtal	Chile Khil	BHC	The rooms of the health facility are partially damaged and require renovation.
17			Qazel Qoduq	PHC	The rooms of the health facility are partially damaged and require renovation.
18		Kishendah	Aqkuprok	CHC+	The glass windows are broken.
19		Marmol	Zabihullah Shaheed	CHC	The rooms of the health facility are partially damaged and require renovation.
20		Mazar-i-Sharif	Noor-i- Khuda	CHC	The water system of the health facility has damaged.
21		Shulgara	Dalan	BHC	The glass windows are broken.

Annex 2: North region earthquake casualty summary by province.

Province	Injured	Deaths		
		Male	Female	Total
Balkh	635	9	3	12
Samangan	421	9	4	13
Kunduz	83	0	0	0
Sar-e-pul	16	0	1	1
Baghlan	14	0	0	0
Jawzjan	3	0	0	0
Total	1172	18	8	26

Annex 3: Houses destroyed by the earthquake in the north region.

No	Name of province	Name of District	# f houses destroyed
1	Samangan	Aybak	595
2	Samangan	Feroz Nakhchir	306
3	Samangan	Hazrat-e- Sultan	92
4	Samangan	Khulm	284
5	Balkh	Marmul	24
6	Balkh	Sholgara	18
Total affected Families			1319



A WHO team member speaks with a resident amid the ruins of traditional mud-brick homes in Khulm District of Samangan Province.

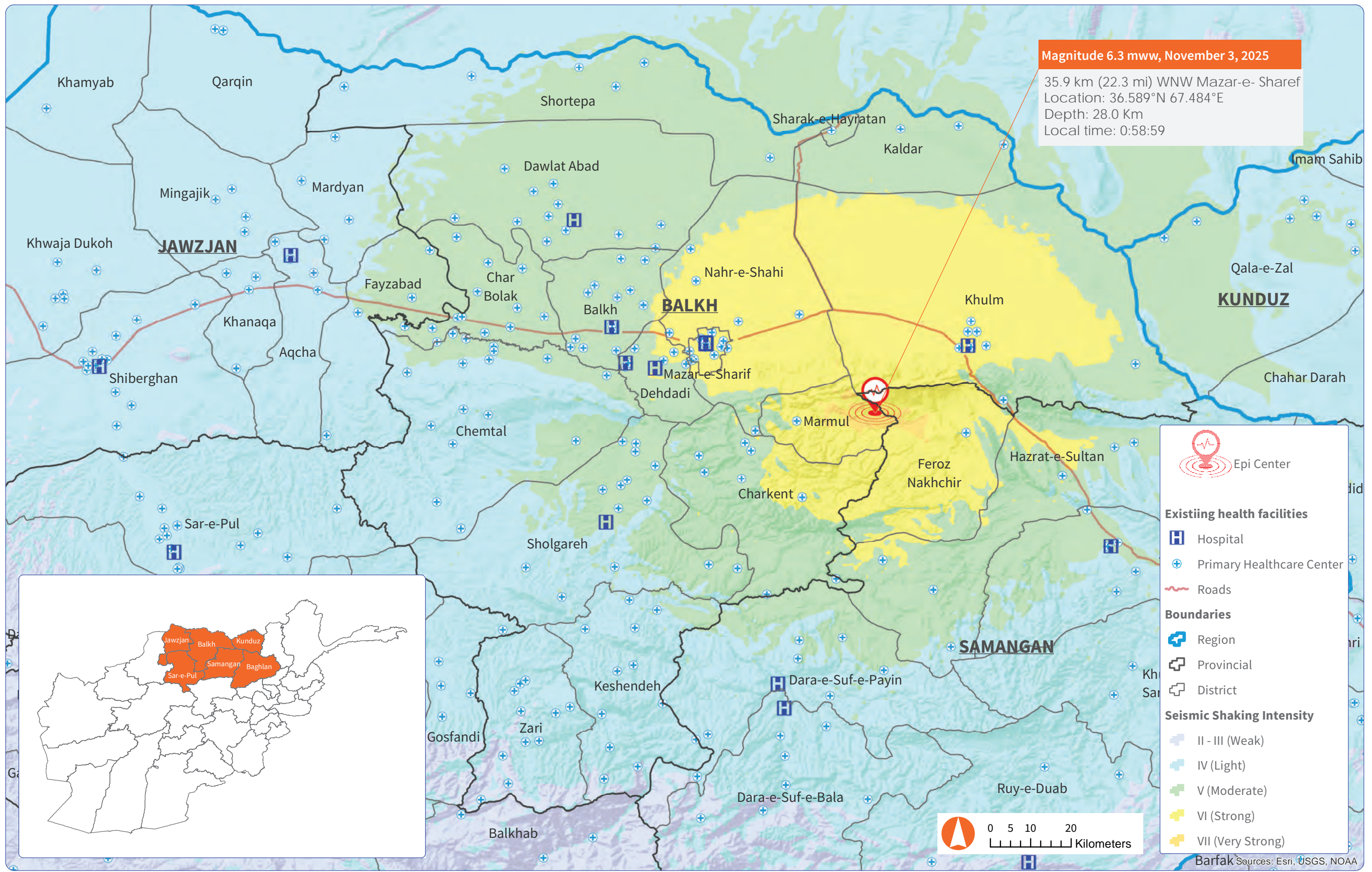
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Data Sources: WHO, MoPH, OCHA, and USGS.