

# EARTHQUAKE IN NORTHERN AFGHANISTAN

## SITUATION REPORT

No. 4 | November 2025



World Health  
Organization

Afghanistan

**Event:** 6.3 Magnitude Earthquake

### Report Period:

Based on available information as of 11:00 on 13 November 2025.

### Affected Areas:

Primarily Samangan and parts of neighboring Balkh province.

### Key Figures (Cumulative)



**26**

Fatalities



**1172**

Injuries



**3520**

Homes destroyed



**22**

Health facilities  
damaged



*WHO and partners assessing the earthquake affected communities in Samangan Province. (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 3520 houses and mainly impacting the districts of Aybak (696), Feroz Nakhchir (611), Hazarat Sultan (788), Khulm (680), Dara-e-Suf-e-Payen (135) and Dara-e-Suf-e-Bala (26) in Samagan province, also in Marmul ( 24 ) and Shulgara ( 233 ), Charkent (61), Chemtal (48), Mazar-e-Sharif (202) and Zari (16) districts of Balkh province were affected.

Rapid assessment has revealed that twenty-two 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

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

Emergency response operations are still ongoing. 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**

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Immediately after earthquake striking, 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. A further one metric ton of TESK kits have been dispatched from Kabul to Mazar warehouse as an emergency stockpile.

## **HEALTH CLUSTER RESPONSE**

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The Health Cluster continues to coordinate the overall response efforts. 15 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. In addition,

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.

10 mobile health and nutrition teams (MHNTs) are currently deployed in the area with 9 additional teams on standby. Operational priorities are being urgently addressed, with critical medical supplies pre-positioned and distributed to the most affected areas to support ongoing response efforts.

## SAFE, ETHICAL HEALTH SERVICES IN THE NORTHERN REGION EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE

The recent earthquakes in Herat, Kunar, and the Northern region have taught us important lessons about safeguarding in emergencies. These disasters exposed recurring challenges that put vulnerable communities at risk. Many affected families had limited awareness of SEA, lacked understanding of free health services, and were unaware of reporting mechanisms. These gaps remind us that safeguarding is not just a policy, it is a life-saving principle.

A health cluster lead risk assessment conducted in northern earthquake affected areas revealed

concerning findings. More than one-third of health facility staff (36.7%) have never received PSEAH training, and 16% have not signed a Code of Conduct. These figures highlight persistent gaps in awareness and accountability among health workers.

At the community level, the situation remains concerning. Nearly one in four respondents (23%) reported feeling unsafe when accessing services related to violence during emergencies, and 5% were unsure about their safety. These findings highlight persistent barriers to safe and equitable access to health services.

## MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT (MHPSS)

Deployed one specialized MHPSS outreach team (comprising a medical doctor, nurse, counselor, and psychologist) to Balkh Regional Hospital to provide immediate psychosocial support and mobilized 49 healthcare staff (16 male, 33 female) previously trained by WHO in mhGAP-IG, PM+, and self-care protocols to reinforce the emergency response.

Delivered one Mental Health Kit (MHK 2022) to Balkh Regional Hospital. This kit guarantees the uninterrupted availability of psychotropic medicines for approximately 10,000 affected individuals over a three-month period.

Distributed 28,000 MHPSS Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials (brochures, leaflets) on

loss, grief, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), self-care and managing insomnia in affected communities.



*WHO implementing partner- WADAN conducting health needs assessment in Bagh-e-Pahlawan Clinic, Shulgareh district, Balkh province (Photo: WADAN).*

## CHALLENGES

Limited number of healthcare workers trained in PRSEAH.

High number of affected populations that need mental health and psychosocial support.

## SUPPORT NEEDED

Continue the delivery of critical health services including primary care and mental health support to internally displaced families in the affected districts.

Capacity building of health facility-based staff to handle mass causality as a preparedness measure.

Expand PRSEAH training coverage, reinforce accountability measures, and strengthen safeguarding systems at every level of health service delivery.

## ANNEXES

## Annex 1: 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
<b>Total</b>	<b>1172</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>26</b>

## Annex 2: Houses affected by the earthquake in the north region.

Province	District	Number of affected houses
Samangan	Aybak	696
	Feroz Nakhchir	611
	Hazrat-e- Sultan	788
	Khulm	680
	Dara-e-Suf-e-Payen	135
	Dara-e-Suf-e-Bala	26
Balkh	Marmul	24
	Sholgara	233
	Charkent	61
	Chemtal	48
	Mazar-e-Sharif	202
	Zari	16
<b>Total affected houses</b>		<b>3520</b>

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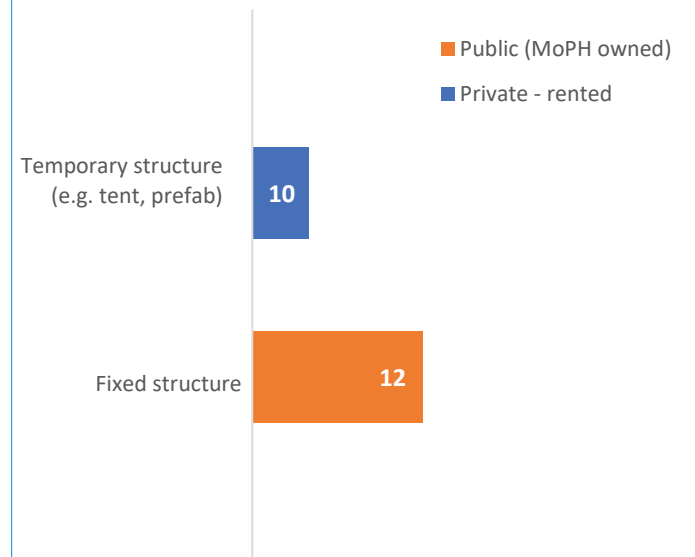
26 Fatalities

1,172 Injuries

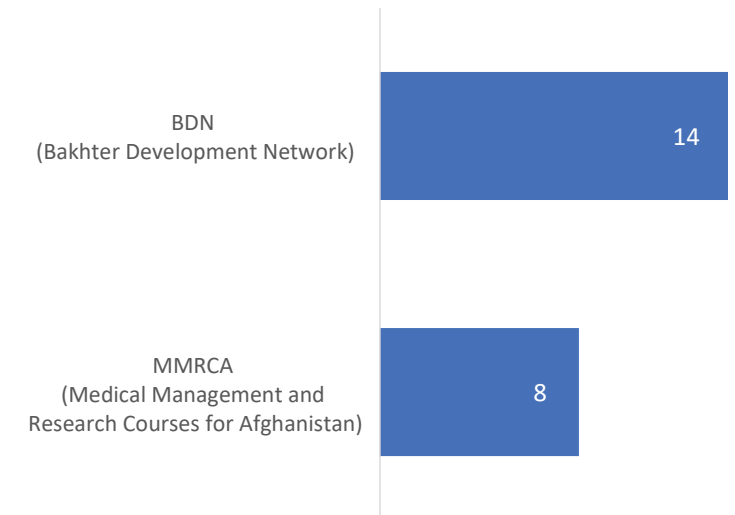
3,520 Houses damaged

22 Health facilities partially damaged

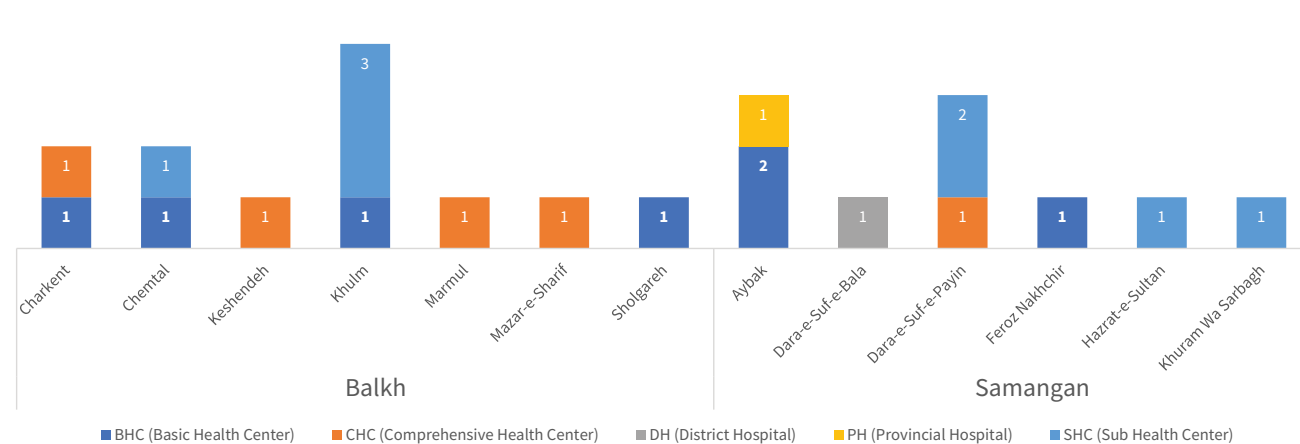
### DAMAGED FACILITIES BY OWNERSHIP / BUILDING STRUCTURE



### DAMAGED FACILITIES BY IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS



### DISTRIBUTION OF DAMAGED HEALTH FACILITIES BY TYPE/LOCATION



### DAMAGED FACILITIES BY PROJECT DONOR

