

Earthquake in Eastern Afghanistan

WHO Situation report no. 7 | 7 Sept 2025



World Health Organization
Afghanistan

Reporting period: Based on available information as of 15:00 on 7 September 2025

KEY FIGURES



84 000

People affected



2205

Fatalities



3640

Injured



6782

Homes destroyed



20

Health facilities damaged

WHO RESPONSE



2 Mobile Health Teams*

supported by WHO, deployed to the affected areas



4121 Consultations

provided at WHO-supported primary healthcare facilities



43 metric tonnes

medical supplies provided



US\$ 4M

funding gap for rapid life-saving response



WHO-supported mobile health team is providing emergency care for patients in Mazar Village, Nurgal District of Kunar Province. (Photo: WHO Afghanistan)

SITUATION OVERVIEW

A week has passed since a 6.0 magnitude earthquake hit eastern Afghanistan on 31 August, leaving a trail of devastation across Kunar, Nangarhar, and Laghman provinces. Humanitarian operations are ongoing in hard-to-reach mountain areas. So far, more than 2200 people have been reported dead, over 3600 injured, and nearly 6800 homes destroyed. Many families are still displaced, struggling to find shelter after losing their homes.

The scale of loss has left deep psychological impact. Families who lost relatives, homes, and livelihoods are facing grief, anxiety, and uncertainty for the future, while survivors with serious injuries face compounded mental health challenges compounded by their physical suffering.

Mental health support has become an urgent need. WHO has deployed mobile outreach teams in Kunar and Nangarhar to provide psychosocial services, including individual and group counselling, Psychological First Aid, and distribution of information and awareness materials. So far, more than 400 consultations and referrals have been conducted.

The well-being of health workers is also a concern. Many have been working tirelessly around the clock since the first day of the earthquake, even though they themselves are affected and continue to face logistical challenges in remote areas. WHO is deploying technical officers to reinforce local capacity and reactivate previously trained staff in community mental health and psychosocial care, helping to expand services and reach more affected communities.

WHO has mobilized its resources to deliver life-saving care, expand psychosocial support, and keep health services running in the affected provinces. To maintain and further scale up these efforts, urgent financial support of more than US\$ 4 million is required.

* Initially WHO supported the deployment of six MHTs to affected areas in Nurgal District, Kunar Province. On 7 September, four of these MHTs returned to their original locations. WHO is preparing additional MHT deployments to reach the most affected and hard-to-reach areas.

HEALTH SITUATION

Initial reports indicate 20 health facilities have been damaged, including 19 HF in Kunar and one HF in Nangarhar. The damaged health facilities include 10 sub-health centres, six Basic Health Centres, two Comprehensive Health Centres, one District Hospital, and one provincial hospital.

A total of 2112 injured people have been received across 10 health facilities, namely Nangarhar Regional Hospital, Nangarhar University Teaching Hospital, Fatima Zahra Hospital, Kama District Hospital, Khiwa Comprehensive Healthcare Centre, Mach Gandol Basic Health Centre, Police Hospital,

Nang Hospital, Shifai Azim Hospital, and Gambiri Hospital. Of the injured, 58% are men and 42% are women and girls, with 90% aged five years or older and 219 cases (10.3%) involving children under five.

Nangarhar Regional Hospital is the main hub for specialized care for the most critical patients and has received a cumulative 945 patients. Currently, 671 patients remain admitted in all four health facilities, and the same facilities have conducted 289 surgeries and 334 blood transfusions.

WHO RESPONSE

Leveraging its operational presence across Afghanistan, WHO continues to work with health authorities and partners to ensure essential health services and life-saving support reach those who need them most.

Primary Healthcare Services

WHO currently has two Mobile Health Teams (MHTs) operating in Ghaziabad camp and Dewa Gal village, Nurgal District, providing the full Basic Package of Health Services (BPHS). To date, they have delivered over 4121 consultations, including trauma care, and referred more than 200 patients for further treatment.

Initially, six MHTs were deployed to the districts. On 7 September, four of these teams returned to their original locations to continue serving returnees and host communities. In coordination with health authorities and partners, WHO is planning to deploy additional MHTs to reach the most affected and hard-to-reach areas.

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

WHO has deployed two outreach mobile teams to provide Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) services. On 7 September, two MHPSS outreach team provided services in a camp established in Mazar Village, Nurgal District in Kunar Province. The services include consultations, individual and group counselling, and Psychological First Aid. To date, nearly 500 consultations and referrals have been conducted, along with the distribution of information, education, and communication (IEC) materials.

Disease Surveillance/Potential Diseases Outbreak Prevention and Response

WHO has deployed 17 Surveillance Support Teams (SSTs) across four provinces; Nangarhar, Kunar, Nuristan, and Laghman for active disease surveillance.

Between 2 and 7 September 2025, 743 cases of infectious diseases were reported in Kunar Province, including 473 acute respiratory infections, 231 acute diarrheal diseases (140 acute watery diarrhea and 91 acute bloody diarrhea), and 39 malaria cases. Six rapid diagnostic tests were conducted among the AWD cases, with one positive sample sent to Nangarhar Regional Laboratory for confirmation; results are pending. All patients received treatment at health facilities, including Nurgal Comprehensive Healthcare Centre, in Nurgal District and, Chawkay District Hospital, and Asadabad Provincial Hospital.

Operations Support and Logistics

WHO delivered additional 15 metric tonnes of medical supplies to its Jalalabad warehouse on 6 September for replenishment and onward distribution, including 44 Trauma and Emergency Surgery Kits (TESK), 4 Interagency Emergency Health Kit (IEHK) supplementary kits, 10 cholera kits, and 10,000 units of Ringer's lactate.

To date, WHO has delivered 43 metric tonnes of medical supplies to health facilities in the affected areas, sufficient to meet the needs of approximately 86 500 people. An additional 35.9 MT of health items, including primary health care and non-communicable disease kits, are being mobilized through the WHO Dubai logistics hub and are expected in the coming days.

Cross-Cutting Areas

Prevention of and Response to Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment

As earthquake response operations intensify, WHO's Safeguarding and Gender team is working with staff and partners to strengthen safeguarding women's participation and safety measures. A total of 15 WHO responders (two were women) and eight members of the Eastern Region MHPSS Working Group were briefed on safeguarding and Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (SEAH) responsibilities. To date, 273 health workers and 2483 affected individuals have been reached with safeguarding awareness messages.

Accountability to affected populations

WHO, working with its partners, is advancing Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) by promoting transparent communication, inclusive engagement, and feedback mechanisms that build trust between communities and the health response.

Gender, equity, rights, and disability inclusion

As part of the earthquake response, WHO is mainstreaming gender, equity, rights, and disability inclusion (GRED) by supporting female healthcare workers, promoting safe spaces for women and girls, and ensuring persons with disabilities can access essential health services without barriers.

NEEDS AND GAPS

While prolonged displacement heightens vulnerability, families living in temporary shelters require safety, privacy, and adequate hygiene conditions to reduce health risks. Overcrowding and inadequate WASH infrastructure are driving higher risks of communicable diseases, while the stress of displacement contributes to growing psychosocial needs. Expanding disease surveillance, case management, and MHPSS services is therefore critical.

Primary health care is under severe strain, with an already fragile system further stretched by the recent influx of returnees. Expanding PHC capacity through urgent mobilization of medicines, medical supplies, and additional staff—particularly female health workers—is essential to ensure that women, girls, and other vulnerable groups can access the care they need.

Referral hospitals continue to carry a heavy burden. While no new patients have recently been admitted,

nearly 700 critical cases remain hospitalized. These patients require specialised post-trauma care and rehabilitation, making it vital to scale up physiotherapy, provide assistive devices, and ensure long-term follow-up for rehabilitation to support recovery and restore mobility.

At least 20 health facilities have sustained damage. Rehabilitation of these facilities, alongside the integration of infection prevention and control and WASH measures, is urgently required to restore and expand service capacity.

WHO has outlined a six-month operational plan focused on scaling up PHC, reproductive health, MHPSS, ambulance and referral systems, and the supply of medicines and medical equipment. However, over US\$5 million is still needed, with only US\$1 million received to date, to sustain and expand life-saving interventions for communities affected by the earthquake.

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For more information, please visit: facebook.com/WHOafghanistan | x.com/WHOafghanistan | www.emro.who.int/afg/who-in-afghanistan

For donations to WHO's earthquake response in Afghanistan, please visit : <https://donate.who.foundation/afghanistan-earthquake-appeal/>

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 7, 2025

✖

2,205

Fatalities

✖

6,782

Houses destroyed or damaged

🚚

3,640

People injured

2

Mobile Health Teams Deployed for Earthquake Response

👤

863

people received trauma care services

3,258

primary health consultations

133

children received vaccination services

1,440

people received health awareness /education

197

trauma cases referred to next level of healthcare

270

people received MHPSS consultations

35

women received MNCH services

796

people received essential medicine

Detected Infectious Diseases Cases

139

Suspected Acute Watery Diarrhea Cases

91

Acute Blood Diarrhea Cases

437

Suspected ARI Cases

39

Suspected Malaria Cases

The main map displays the Eastern Region of Afghanistan, including provinces like Laghman, Kunar, Nangarhar, and Nuristan. It highlights the areas affected by two earthquakes: a magnitude 5.6 quake on Sept 4, 2025, and a magnitude 6.0 quake on August 31, 2025. The map shows the locations of various health facilities, including primary, secondary, and tertiary care centers, as well as existing health facilities. It also indicates the seismic shaking intensity across the region, ranging from weak (II-III) to very strong (VII).

PROVINCES AFFECTED BY EARTHQUAKE

This map shows the four provinces affected by the earthquakes: Laghman, Kunar, Nangarhar, and Nuristan. It includes a small inset map of Afghanistan showing the location of these provinces within the country.

DISTRICTS AFFECTED BY EARTHQUAKE

This map shows the nine districts affected by the earthquakes: Alingar, Chawkay, Khas Kunar, Kuz Kunar, Nangarhar, Nuristan, Paktia, Paktika, and Sar Kani. It includes a small inset map of Afghanistan showing the location of these districts within the country.

EXISTING HEALTH FACILITIES BY PROVINCE

Province	Primary Healthcare Facilities	Secondary & Tertiary Healthcare Facilities
Nangarhar	362	21
Kunar	212	6
Laghman	168	6
Nuristan	130	6

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted and dashed lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement. Search and rescue efforts are ongoing It is anticipated that the number of casualties and injured to further increase. Data Sources: WHO, MoPH and OCHA.