

Herat Earthquake Appeal



On 7 October 2023, a 6.3 magnitude earthquake shook Herat province in western Afghanistan, causing massive loss of lives and destruction of property. Aftershocks continue to affect more communities, claiming more casualties and causing additional damages.

As of 15 October, the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) indicated the total affected population at 318,000 and the number of people in need at 114,000. With the persisting aftershocks, the number could increase further.

TOTAL REQUIREMENT:
\$11,648,340

AFFECTED POPULATION:
318,000

PEOPLE IN NEED:
114,000

Duration: 9 months
(October 2023 - June 2024)



Women of reproductive age
76,320



Currently pregnant
7,435



Adolescent girls
38,160

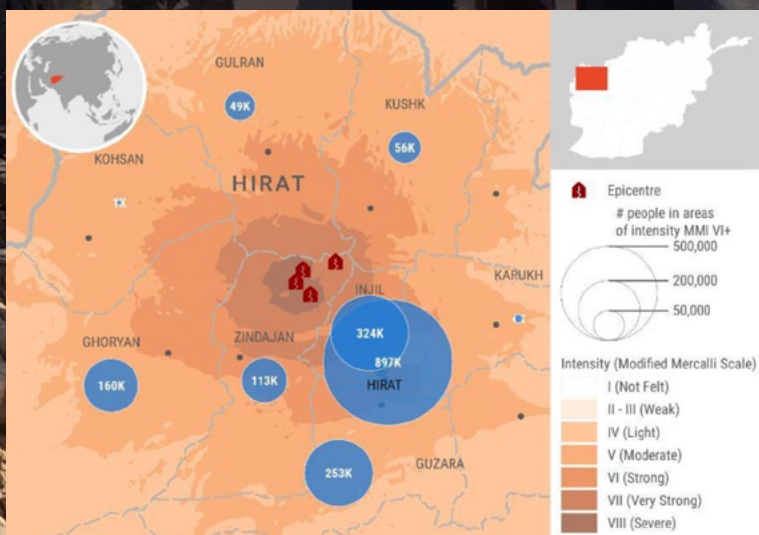
Afghanistan is highly prone to natural hazards, whose frequency and intensity are exacerbated by climate change, increasing humanitarian needs and structural limitations in mitigating disaster impact.

THE HERAT EARTHQUAKE:

Most of those who died were women and children who were in their houses at the time of the earthquake, while the men were out to work.

Displaced people are sheltering in abandoned buildings, makeshift shelters and tents, with some areas seeing every home flattened by the disaster.

Women and girls are particularly vulnerable, with protection needs, as well as challenges seeking and obtaining humanitarian assistance.



HUMANITARIAN NEEDS:

Priority needs for emergency health care include **maternal and reproductive health, mental health and psychosocial support**, emergency shelter, water and sanitation, food assistance and protection. As the winter approaches, there is a pressing demand for blankets and tarpaulin sheets, particularly for women and girls, to provide them protection from the cold from the onset of the cold season and throughout the anticipated difficult winter.

POTENTIAL RISKS FACED BY THE AFFECTED COMMUNITY INCLUDE:

- ▶ **Increased maternal morbidity and mortality** due to the destruction of essential infrastructure, such as healthcare facilities, and the lack of access to critical life-saving health services encompassing maternal and reproductive health and psychosocial support services.
- ▶ **Gender-based violence, sexual exploitation and abuse, burden of care, early marriage** for the affected population, especially women and girls, including people with disabilities and mental health conditions.

UNFPA HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE:

Goal and Key Lifesaving Interventions

The OVERALL GOAL of UNFPA's interventions in the humanitarian context in Afghanistan is to provide life-saving reproductive health services and prevent, mitigate and respond to gender-based violence among the affected population, including women, girls and young people.

UNFPA KEY INTERVENTIONS:

1. Maternal and reproductive health
2. Psychosocial support services for women and girls
3. Lifesaving adolescent sexual and reproductive health services
4. Emergency supplies



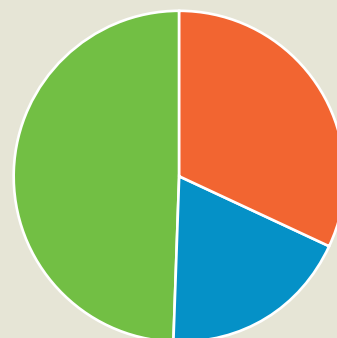
PEOPLE IN NEED REACHED WITH UNFPA ASSISTANCE WITHIN 72 HOURS OF THE EMERGENCY:

5,458 affected people reached with MRH and PSS services

1,744 affected people reached with maternal and reproductive health services

1,024 affected people reached with psychosocial support services

2,690 affected people reached with essential supplies and kits



On 10 October 2023, when the total affected population was estimated at 12,100

UNFPA and its NGO partners have reached 5,458 people, or 45% of the affected population, with maternal and reproductive health and psychosocial support services, as well as distribution of essential supplies and kits.

UNFPA key interventions



Maternal and reproductive health

- Outreach through Mobile Health Teams and referrals
- Provision of basic and comprehensive emergency obstetric care at the referral health facilities



Psychosocial support services for women and girls

- Provision of lifesaving psychosocial interventions through psychosocial support teams for earthquake-affected women and girls
- Referrals to specialized maternal health services for individuals with post-traumatic stress disorder and severe psychosocial distress



Lifesaving adolescent sexual and reproductive health services

- Mobilize youth networks in supply chain process via the Youth in Last Mile Assurance networks
- Support youth leadership in humanitarian response via youth volunteer networks such as Y-PEER



Emergency supplies

- Distribution of Inter-Agency Reproductive Health Kits, and Mama & Baby Kits
- Distribution of blankets and tarpaulin sheets for women and girls to complement the non-food item sector
- Distribution of Dignity Kits
- Distribution of Adolescent Girl Kits (menstrual hygiene management kits)



Accountability to Affected Populations

Community participation is key to UNFPA's lifesaving interventions. UNFPA has established and implemented systematic approaches for accountability to affected populations, including community listening initiatives, community voices and accountability platform (real-time monitoring tool) and other localized community engagement mechanisms to ensure that women, girls and vulnerable communities continually guide the UNFPA response in all programme cycles.



Coordination

UNFPA leads in the following inter-agency mechanisms:

- Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal, Child and Adolescent Health in Emergency (RMNCAH-iE) Working Group under the Health Cluster
- Gender-Based Violence Sub Cluster (GBVSC) under the Protection Cluster
- Adolescent and Youth Working Group (AYWG) under the Protection Cluster
- Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) Working Group under the Inter-Cluster Coordination Team
- Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Task Force