

HIGHLIGHTS

- A powerful earthquake rocks Northeastern Afghanistan on 26 October, killing 115 and injuring 524.
- Fatalities and injuries were highest in Kunar and Nangarhar; property damage was most extensive in Badakhshan
- Significant need has emerged for emergency shelter solutions over the winter.
- Afghan culture of hospitality has enhanced resilience and the capacity for communities to cope.
- CHF and CERF funds released to address urgent needs related to the earthquake.

 **7.5**
magnitude earthquake

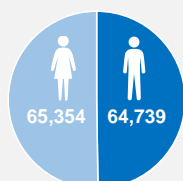
 **115**
people killed

 **524**
people injured


 **6,929**
houses destroyed


 **11,616**
houses damaged

Affected Population Estimates



 **130,093**
Individuals

 **87,698**
Children (<18 years)

 **4,766**
Elderly (>59 years)



Property damage from the earthquake was most extensive nearest to the epicentre, including in Jorm District, pictured here. Photo credit: IOM/Badakhshan

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Powerful earthquake rocks Afghanistan

More than 130,000 people affected in 15 provinces

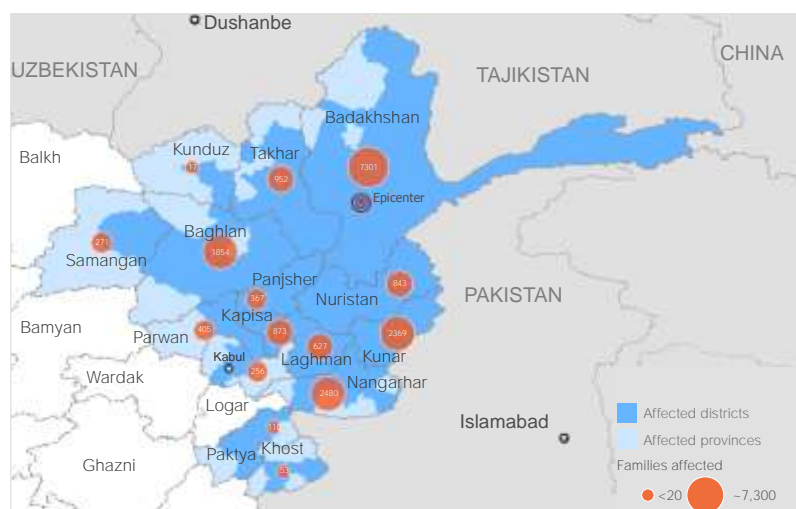
A powerful 7.5 magnitude earthquake rocked Afghanistan on 26 October killing 115, including 12 girls in Takhar Province as they attempted to flee their school, injuring 524 people and damaging or destroying more than 18,000 homes.

The earthquake was 196 kilometres deep and its epicentre was 82 kilometres southeast of Fayzabad, the capital of Badakhshan Province, in the district of Jorm in the Hindu Kush mountain range. Property damage was most extensive nearest the epicentre. More than 130,000 people in 15 provinces, including 50,000 in Badakhshan, have been affected while the disaster claimed the most lives in the eastern provinces of Kunar and Nangarhar, according to verified reports.

The United Nations Secretary-General Ban ki Moon expressed his deepest condolences to everyone affected shortly after the earthquake, particularly those who had lost family and friends. In the immediate hours following the powerful seismic event, the international community monitored the situation through the On-Site Operations Coordination Centre and bilateral channels.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan took the lead in assessment and response. The Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA), respective Provincial Disaster Management Committees (PDMCs) and humanitarian partners mobilized resources to alleviate the suffering of affected people. PDMCs, Operational Coordination Teams and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) have been active in coordinating assessment and response efforts throughout affected provinces in the Northern, North Eastern, Eastern and Central regions of Afghanistan.

As of 13 November, 31 agencies had been involved in assessment and 25 agencies in earthquake response activities. More than 67,000 people had received some form of assistance. With 12 percent of quake-affected villages remaining un-assessed due to physical and security related



Afghanistan earthquake: Overview of affected families. Source: IOM, AGCHO, GAUL, USGS

A number of countries, including Turkmenistan, Pakistan, China, India, Korea, Russia, Qatar, Iran, the United Kingdom, the United States, Kazakhstan and Japan have pledged their support and assistance following the earthquake.

“Many people were assisted by extended family and friends and there were no known cases of affected people outdoors without shelter. However, in some cases, there were four families sharing a single room and this raised concerns.”

– Nihan Erodgan, UNOCHA regional disaster response advisor

access constraints, and on-going response activities, that number can be expected to increase.

Mobility health kits that had been prepositioned to World Health Organization offices proved useful in the provision of medical aid during the disaster response. Most casualties were treated at local health facilities although some of the more serious trauma cases had to be transported to provincial and regional hospitals. Several schools, health facilities and government buildings, including a prison in Takhar Province, were damaged and will require repair.

The National Disaster Management Committee, chaired by Afghanistan’s Chief Executive Officer, Dr Abdullah Abdullah, approved the release of AFN 51 million for the response effort and the funds were deposited into the accounts of affected provinces on 8 November. The two most severely-affected districts in Badakhshan Province, Jorm and Yamgan, will be prioritised for cash assistance from the Government. The UN’s Humanitarian Coordinator in Afghanistan has directed an allocation of nearly US\$3 million from the Common Humanitarian Fund and UN Agencies have submitted earthquake related proposals for some US\$7 million of UN Central Emergency Response Fund rapid response funds.

Government, HCT identify priorities

The UN’s Humanitarian Country Team has collaborated closely with ANDMA (chaired by Wais Barmak who was also recently appointed as State Minister for Disaster Management and Humanitarian Affairs), setting the provision of emergency shelter and non-food items (ES/NFI) as well as food were identified as strategic priorities for the humanitarian earthquake response.

The emergency necessitated the redeployment of OCHA personnel near to the epicentre in Fayzabad, with Nihan Erodgan, a regional disaster response advisor from UNOCHA’s Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa, providing surge capacity support.



Nangarhar reported the second highest number of fatalities and injuries. A team assesses the damage in this photo. Photo credit: IOM

The Afghanistan culture of hospitality and the tendency of Afghans to welcome family members into their homes, particularly during hard times, enhanced the resiliency of affected communities and their capacity to cope following the disaster. “Many people were assisted by extended family and friends and there were no known cases of affected people outdoors without shelter. However, in some cases, there were four families sharing a single room and this raised concerns,” said Erodgan.

Urgent need for shelter solutions as winter approaches

With winter approaching and snow already falling in some quake-affected areas, a significant need has emerged for emergency shelter solutions to ensure families who have lost their homes have access to accommodation through the winter months until the spring when they can rebuild their homes. Aid agencies are in a race against time to provide adequate supplies before extreme winter weather blocks overland access to affected areas. In fact, access to quake-affected areas due to the rugged topography, insecurity and early onset of winter weather has posed a significant challenge in carrying out assessment and response activities. Armed conflict also continues to be a major constraint in many provinces, with highway insecurity delaying the delivery of relief.

For the latest information and Situation Report, visit the Humanitarian Response website for Afghanistan: <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/afghanistan>. To receive email notifications of the latest updates and other OCHA information products, sign-up [here](#).

FUNDING OF HRP

417 million
requested (US\$)

59% funded

Eighteen applications for funding from a US\$3 allocation of the CHF were received and reviewed on a rolling basis, with technical assistance from an Emergency Shelter/Non-Food Items Cluster Coordinator from the UN Refugee Agency in Geneva, so that funds may be dispatched quickly to respond to urgent needs.

UN funds to address complex emergencies

Allocation of up to \$3 million from CHF for earthquake response

Humanitarian partners who are concurrently responding to the 26 October Afghanistan earthquake and the post-conflict Kunduz environment have faced difficult resource allocation decisions. As a result of these two complex emergencies, following the earthquake, the Humanitarian Coordinator directed an allocation of nearly US\$3 million from the Afghanistan Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF) to ensure families who have lost their homes and/or are at risk of exposure and related morbidity a receive timely support to access appropriate accommodation solutions and winterization inputs essential to their security, safety, health and well-being during winter.

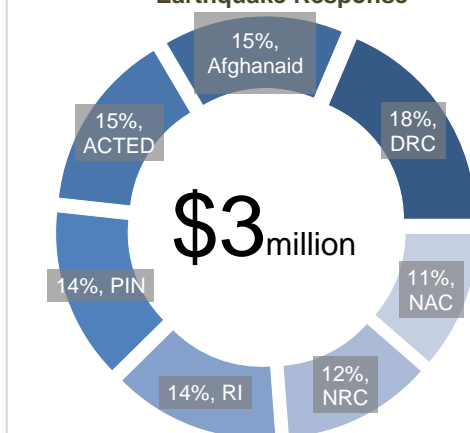
An emergency shelter response plan has been agreed, with input from humanitarian partners, whereby eligible activities to be funded by the CHF will include the following: cash assistance of \$60 for up to five months to designated "Category A" families who have no accommodation and/or a one-time upfront payment of US\$150 for winterization kits or supplies to repair homes; cash assistance of \$60 per month for up to five months to designated "Category A" families who are living with a host and/or a one-time payment of US\$80 to cover non-food items; cash assistance of US\$60 for up to five months to designated "Category A" families who are renting accommodation and/or a one-time payment of US\$80 to cover non-food items; and, a one-time payment of US\$150 to the most vulnerable designated "Category B" families. Distributions of the funds are to begin as soon as possible and no later than 1 December. An estimated 5,000 families are expected to receive emergency shelter assistance.

Eighteen applications for funding were received and reviewed on a rolling basis, with technical assistance from an Emergency Shelter/Non-Food Items Cluster Coordinator from the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) in Geneva, so that funds may be dispatched quickly to respond to urgent needs.

CERF proposals submitted to respond to two emergencies

These activities are to be complemented by interventions funded by the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) Rapid Response Fund. The UN Central CERF Rapid Response initially was opened to kick-start the humanitarian response to the Kunduz post-conflict crisis with proposals to provide emergency health care.

2015 2nd Reserve Allocation by Organisations
Earthquake Response



Cluster (Requesting Agency)	Project Title	Total Project Requirement (US\$)	Amount received to date (US\$)	Amount requested from CERF (US\$)
Food Security and Agriculture (WFP)	Protracted relief and recovery operation for response to earthquake and Kunduz crisis.	10,000,000	-	3,397,588
Protection - GBV (UNFPA)	Addressing the immediate needs of GBV survivors and women and girls at risk in the conflict affected area of Kunduz.	3,500,000	60,000	349,535
Health (WHO)	Respond to urgent needs arising from Kunduz crisis.	3,000,000	-	1,545,984
Food Security and Agriculture (FAO)	Emergency assistance to protect and restore agriculture and livestock in the earthquake-affected provinces of Nangarhar and Kunar.	866,504	257,902	608,602
Total		17,366,504	317,902	5,901,709

Figures are subject to change; updated data to be provided in the next month's Humanitarian Bulletin.

The CERF subsequently was widened to allow proposals from several UN agencies for approximately USD\$6 million of activities aimed at addressing disaster-related needs related to emergency reproductive health; protection and restoration of agriculture and livestock; stoves and fuel; and, cash for food and food.

Proposals were developed to complement activities funded under the second Standard Allocation of the CHF for 2015, finalized on 26 October, with US\$8 million to be distributed across all clusters for the North and North East regions. The majority of second Standard Allocation interventions have a strategic focus on unprotected families that have been affected by armed conflict. In addition to a funding update, next month's Humanitarian Bulletin will have further details about the re-establishment of the UN's humanitarian presence in Kunduz.

UNICEF supports treatment of malnutrition

Funding from CHF helps address nutritional needs of Afghan children

Two-year-old Samiullha sits in his mother's arms and giggles shyly, hiding behind the scarf of his 24-year-old mother, Marzia. He is now on his way to good health but just a month ago he was severely acutely malnourished as a result of poor nutrition and diarrhea in his impoverished home in Wardak Province.

Samiullha lives with his mother, grandfather and uncle, in an area where jobs are rare and seasonal changes impact significantly on the ability of families to maintain an adequate diet. Samiullha's father used to sell vegetables, but in an effort to increase his earnings he left for the United Arab Emirates three months ago. His family hasn't heard from him since.

The family home does not have a kitchen, safe water or a proper toilet. "My brother-in-law brings water in a barrel from a long distance for drinking and other uses," said Marzia,

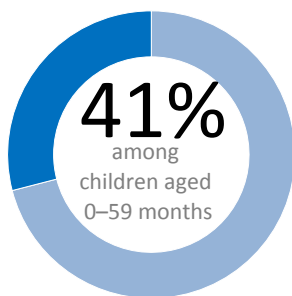
"I cook in a corner of our corridor." Their dire living conditions are compounded by their limited income. Marzia has been unable to afford the variety of foods required to provide micronutrients sufficient for her son's growth and development. "He had diarrhea and was very sick," said Marzia, "but due to lack of money I could not take him to the doctor. After almost one month he was getting worse, so I borrowed money and took him to the nearest health centre."

The doctors advised Marzia to take her sick child to Indira Gandhi hospital, which provides specialized treatment for severe acute malnutrition with support from the Underweight malnutrition affects a quarter of Afghan children

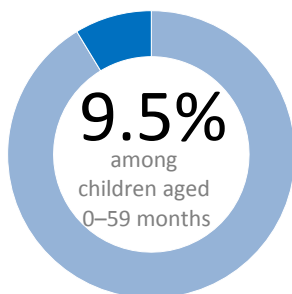
Data from the 2013 Afghanistan National Nutrition Survey revealed chronic malnutrition rates of 40.9 per cent among children aged 0–59 months, and acute malnutrition rates of 9.5 per cent. Underweight malnutrition affects approximately 25 per cent of young Afghan children.

Funding from the Common Humanitarian Fund, among other donors, allows UNICEF to support the treatment of severe acute malnutrition at the Indira Gandhi Children's Hospital in Kabul, and in other village hospitals and community-based health centres in Afghanistan.

Chronic Malnutrition



Acute Malnutrition



"He had diarrhea and was very sick, but due to lack of money I could not take him to the doctor. After almost one month, he was getting worse, so I borrowed

money and took him to the nearest health centre.

– Mother of two-year-old Samiullha



Two-year-old Samiullha grins widely during UNICEF-supported in-patient treatment for severe acute malnutrition at Indira Gandhi Children's Hospital in Kabul, Afghanistan. Photo credit: UNICEF Afghanistan/Sohaila Khaliov

