

Situation Report #4

Country	AFGHANISTAN
Crisis	Earthquake
Covering period	13-16 October 2023
Crisis Location	Herat Province, Afghanistan
Date issued	17 October 2023
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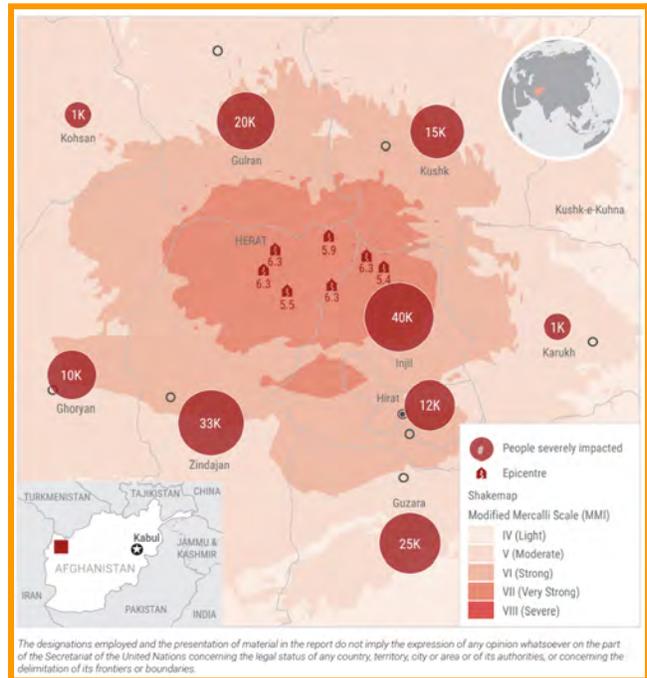


Thanks to the generous support of donors for supporting the UNFPA Humanitarian [Minimum Preparedness Actions](#). UNFPA was better prepared to respond to the Herat earthquake. UNFPA has prepositioned stocks of lifesaving kits in Herat, as well as prepared facilities to ensure reproductive health security commodities with standardized medical warehouse facilities, including solar panels. [Pictures: Stenly Sajow/UNFPA Afghanistan]

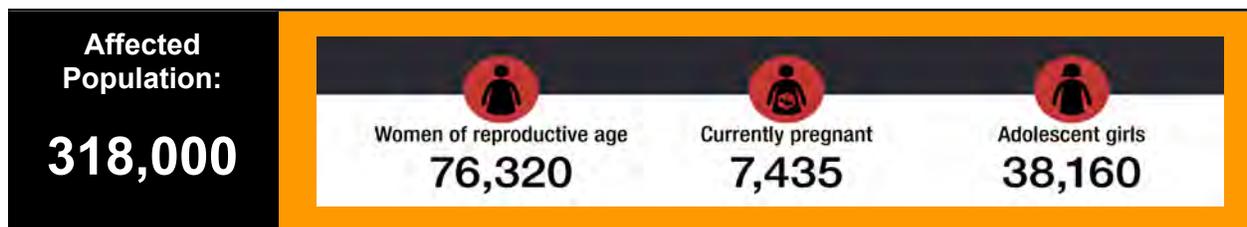
1. Situation overview

- The 6.3 magnitude earthquake on 7 October 2023, and another of the same magnitude on 11 October, have shaken Herat province in the western part of Afghanistan. Aftershocks continued until 14 October, leaving the local population in a persistent state of anxiety and fear.

- On 15 October, another tremor of 6.3 magnitude struck areas northeast of Herat City, the third earthquake to hit the province within a week. Two people died and over 150 were injured. The casualty count is not expected to significantly increase, as many residents have been living outdoors out of fear that their houses would collapse from the aftershocks. The earthquake caused varying degrees of damage to humanitarian facilities, residences and offices. So far, 7,165 families, or 43,395 individuals, have been directly impacted in the following districts: Injil (23,053 people affected), Kushk/Rabat-e-Sangai (8,541), Zindajan (7,523), Gulran (3,428), Kohsan (133) and Herat City (717).



- A rapid satellite imagery analysis conducted by the Global Shelter Cluster indicates around 21,282 structures have sustained damages as a consequence of the earthquake. **The extent of damage may increase as further analysis and assessments are conducted.** In addition, at least two hospitals – Herat Regional Hospital and Sakina Yakoubi Maternity Hospital – sustained minor damage to be assessed.



2. Humanitarian needs

- **Key priorities** include the need to immediately address healthcare needs, with a specific emphasis on **maternal and reproductive health, mental health and psychosocial support**. There is also an urgent need to provide emergency shelter and essential non-food items. Ongoing search and rescue operations are of paramount importance to assist those who might still be trapped beneath the debris, and rescue efforts are ongoing.
- **UN and humanitarian partners have deployed health and humanitarian teams to assess and respond to needs in the most affected areas.** In some areas, the number of volunteers to aid in debris removal and the preparation of mass graves significantly outnumbered the remaining residents, underscoring the magnitude of the disaster and the urgent need for assistance and support to affected communities.



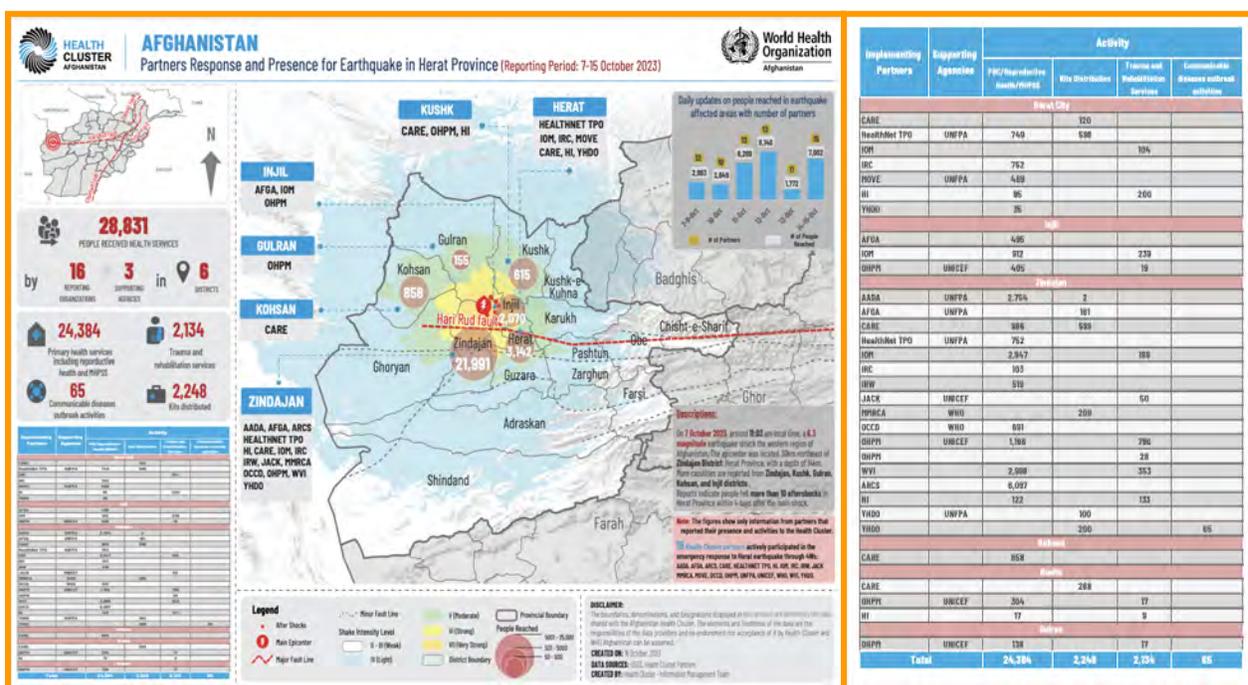
UNFPA lifesaving commodities, along with reproductive health and psychosocial support services, are on the ground to meet the urgent needs of the affected populations [Picture: Arlene Alano/UNFPA Afghanistan]

3. Government, UN and other stakeholders' response

- Local authorities and humanitarian actors continue to provide emergency response, which includes the deployment of medical, referral, and trauma teams to the regional

hospital and delivering emergency shelter, essential non-food items, food, and other essential provisions to the impacted regions.

- Health partners are collaborating closely with local health authorities to intensify response efforts, addressing both the immediate and long-term needs of the earthquake survivors. To date, Health Cluster partners have reached 21,829 people from various districts, including Zindajan (17,687), Injil (1,804), Kohsan (205), Herat City (1,720), Kushk (336) and Gulran (77) through 35 mobile health and nutrition teams and specialized Mobile Health Teams from various organizations to provide lifesaving health care services, including maternal and reproductive health and psychosocial support services.



UNFPA and its NGO partners are part of the Health Cluster, and are the main providers of lifesaving maternal and reproductive health care services on the ground [Source: Health Cluster]

4. UNFPA Country Office role

- UNFPA has taken significant steps to help those affected by the earthquake by supplying four tents and nine mobile prefabricated containers. The containers serve as mobile health units and are equipped to deliver a comprehensive range of lifesaving maternal and reproductive health services and psychosocial support. This is especially critical in areas where access to healthcare facilities may be limited. In this context, frontline midwives are paramount in ensuring safe motherhood. They are actively working to

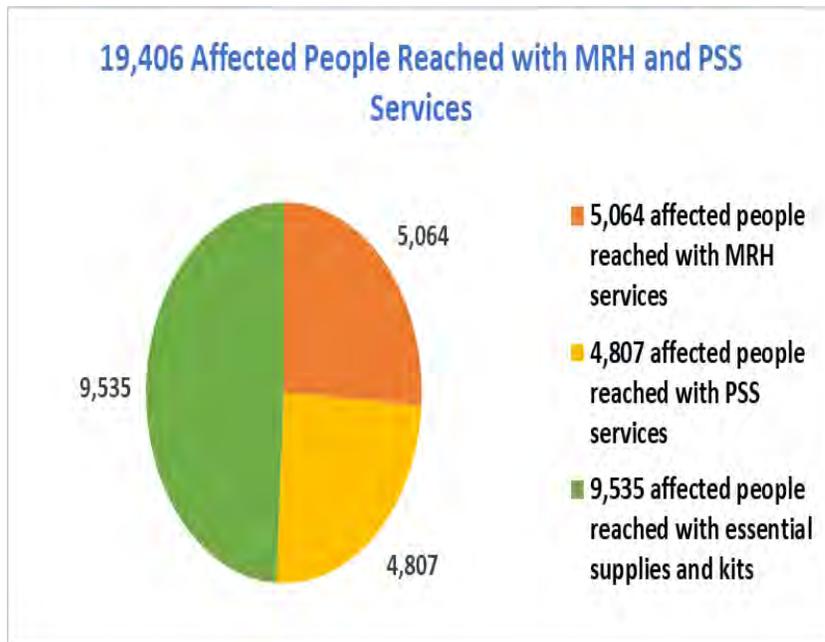
provide essential maternal and reproductive health services, thereby contributing to the well-being and safety of pregnant women, mothers and newborns in the challenging circumstances.

- To ensure hygiene and cater to the specific requirements of adolescent girls in the wake of the crisis, UNFPA has provided 3,600 Adolescent Girls Kits to those affected. These kits are designed to address adolescent girls' essential hygiene and health needs, offering hygiene supplies and items tailored to their particular age group, ensuring that they receive the necessary support and care.



[Left:](#) UNFPA's tent and mobile containers are being mobilized in the earthquake-affected areas.
[Above:](#) UNFPA's Adolescent Girl Kits have been distributed to affected adolescent girls.

Summary of assistance



To date, **UNFPA and its NGO partners have reached 19,406 affected people** with **maternal and reproductive health and psychosocial support services**, as well as **distribution of essential supplies and kits**.

Prepositioned supplies:

- **14,650 Dignity Kits:** 1,650 kits were available in Herat (850 with AFGA and 800 with HNTPO); another 1,000 kits reached Herat the previous week; 10,000 more expected to reach the region by the end of the week.
- **1,400 Mama & Baby Kits:** Available in Herat.
- **2,000 Individual Clean Delivery Kits:** Available in the Herat regional warehouse.
- **24,025 blankets:** Available in the Herat regional warehouse. As of 16 October, 4,412 have been distributed to women in the earthquake-affected areas.
- **27,617 tarpaulin sheets:** Prepositioned in the Herat regional warehouse. As of 16 October, a total of 3,291 have been distributed.
- **3,600 Adolescent Girl Kits:** Available in Herat City and ready for distribution.

Coordination:

- **Regional Humanitarian Team (RHT):** UNFPA, as the lead of the RHT in Herat continues to support UNOCHA's coordination efforts in the Western Region. The RHT has been crucial in ensuring that partners are convened to agree on common strategies to strengthen the response, ensure quality service delivery and avoid duplication of efforts.
- **GBV Sub-Cluster (GBVSC):** The Western Region GBVSC coordinates relief efforts of partners to assist affected communities. The sub-cluster oversees the distribution of Dignity Kits and the provision of psychosocial support in affected villages and shelters.
- **Adolescents and Youth Working Group (AYWG):** Youth-led groups such as YOLAN and the Y-PEER Network have mobilized approximately 40 youth volunteers to enhance community-level efforts, particularly in food distribution, and health services support.



As part of its inter-agency coordination, Y-PEER Network members provided several tents and food assistance to the affected populations in Herat City. (Photo: Y-PEER)

- **Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health in Emergency Working Group (RMNCAHiE):** The RMNCAHiE WG is working with the Health Cluster to better coordinate partners on the ground to ensure the availability of lifesaving maternal and reproductive health services in the affected areas.
- **Accountability to Affected Populations Working Group (AAPWG):** UNFPA, as the co-chair of AAPWG, has coordinated key messages with sectors to improve information access for women, girls, men and boys and vulnerable groups such as persons with disabilities impacted by the earthquakes. Coordination with partners to disseminate information through various formats/channels is being carried out.
- **PSEA Network:** UNFPA, as co-lead of the Afghanistan PSEA Network, is working with humanitarian partners to identify and address risks of sexual exploitation and abuse in the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

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