



UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

Earthquake in Nangarhar, Afghanistan

FLASH UPDATE

31 AUGUST – 2 SEPTEMBER 2025

Highlights

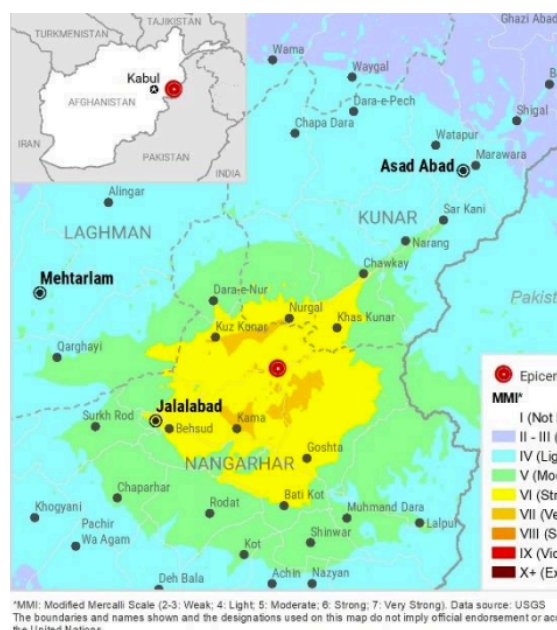
On 31 August 2025 at 11:47 p.m. local time, a magnitude 6 earthquake struck Eastern Afghanistan, with the epicentre at Kama district, 30 km northeast of Jalalabad City.

Initial reports indicate that the earthquake and several aftershocks affected Kunar, Laghman, Nangarhar and Nuristan provinces, with over 1,400 casualties reported so far. The tremors were also felt in the country's capital, Kabul.

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) estimates¹ that approximately 12,000 people are directly affected, with Chawkey and Nurgal districts in Kunar Province and Dara-e-Nur district in Nangarhar Province mostly affected.

Preliminary assessment of UNFPA-supported clinics in the affected areas shows that five Family Health Houses sustained minimal damage. Nine Mother and Child Health Centers, and six Psychosocial Counselling Centers in Nangarhar, Kunar and Laghman remain operational despite their proximity to the epicentre.

Afghanistan's de facto authorities launched an immediate response, mobilizing air and land assets to support emergency relief efforts. UNFPA is prioritizing the health and protection needs of women and girls as part of the broader humanitarian response.



¹ OCHA, 1 September 2025 ([source](#)).

Situation Overview



According to the initial assessment, no UNFPA staff or personnel have been injured. No casualties were reported by implementing partners, including the 2,500+ female service providers supported by UNFPA. Overall, UNFPA has 20 static facilities in the affected areas, consisting of five Family Health Houses, nine Mother and Child Health Centers and six Psychosocial Counselling Centers. While some are close to the epicentre, all have remained intact and are fully operational.

Humanitarian partners are coordinating with de facto authorities to conduct multisectoral rapid needs assessments and deploy emergency health, shelter, and protection services to the most affected districts in Kunar and Nangarhar provinces. UNFPA-supported mobile emergency response teams have been deployed to Kunar and Laghman provinces, supporting coordination and assessments on the provision of life-saving health services in the severely affected areas. In addition, a UNFPA-supported Emergency Response Team is in Kunar for an inter-agency rapid assessment to understand the evolving needs of women, girls, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups. Challenging road and topographical conditions of the affected areas are hindering initial response efforts, prompting humanitarian organizations to seek ways to mobilize additional air assets.

The UN Humanitarian Air Services (UNHAS) has scheduled additional flights from Kabul to Jalalabad to support the scaling up of personnel deployment and cargo shipment.

UNFPA Response

Reproductive health: UNFPA is among the first key responders to the earthquake response, immediately deploying four Mobile Health Teams with ambulance services. Upon reaching the affected areas, the team promptly provided lifesaving maternal and reproductive health services. Through the implementing partner, the Afghan Family Guidance Association (AFGA), 26 Inter-Agency Reproductive Health Kits are being dispatched to Kunar Provincial hospital and Nangarhar Regional Hospital, as well as other health centers in the four affected provinces, to support the provision of basic and comprehensive obstetric and newborn care services to 32,000 people.

Psychosocial support services: Psychosocial counsellors have been deployed as part of the mobile health teams to provide psychosocial support (PSS) services to the affected communities. Dignity kits from nationally prepositioned stocks have been dispatched to support

² Total estimated population of Earthquake affected districts that were hit with magnitude 6.0 with damaged mudhouses

³ Estimated figures are based on the Minimum Initial Services Package (MISP) for Sexual and Reproductive Health in Humanitarian Settings calculator.

the initial distribution efforts to affected individuals. Standby mobile teams have been identified with the capacity to provide trauma-informed PSS.

Gender-based violence (GBV) Area of Responsibility: UNFPA, as the lead in the GBV Area of Responsibility, is coordinating local and international partners to scale up provision of survivor-centered care through static, mobile health facilities and referral mechanisms.

Adolescents and Youth: Menstrual hygiene management kits have been dispatched to Kunar to support the menstrual hygiene needs of adolescent girls in earthquake-affected areas, coupled with psychosocial counselling services.

Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment (PSEAH): The PSEAH Network, led by UNFPA, is coordinating efforts informed by lessons from the 2023 Herat earthquake response. Immediate actions include sharing focal point and reporting information, distributing the code of conduct, and conducting pre-deployment briefings on core principles and reporting mechanisms. The Awaaz Hotline and PSEA helpline are being disseminated among partners to ensure coordination with GBV and child protection sub-clusters.

UNFPA is also developing a guidance note to support partners in integrating disability inclusion from the outset of the emergency response, in close collaboration with local organizations. A Community Engagement Officer has been deployed to strengthen direct engagement with affected communities.

UNFPA teams remain operational and continue to receive those in urgent need of care. The number of casualties is expected to rise as assessment teams reach affected areas and the broader humanitarian response scales up in the coming days and weeks.

For more information

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