

Key Figures



Highlights

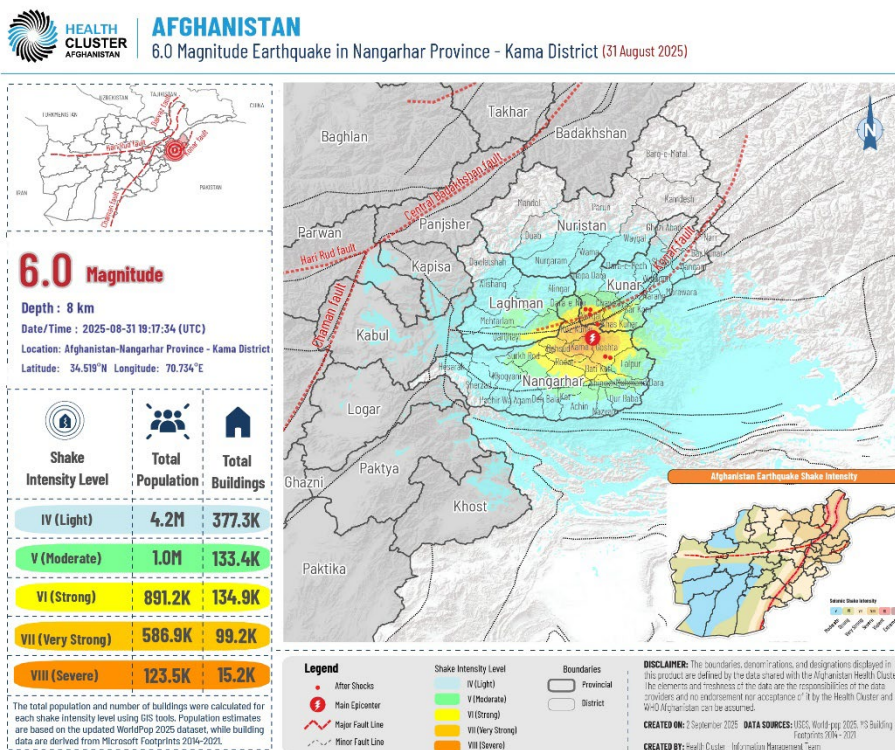
A magnitude **M6.0 earthquake** struck eastern Afghanistan, 11:48 PM (GMT +4.30) on 31 August 2025, with epicenter Kama in district, severely impacting communities across **Kunar, Laghman, Nangarhar, and Nuristan** provinces.

The earthquake occurred along the Kunar major fault line, the area historically categorized as high seismic risk with severe shake intensity levels.

Preliminary reports indicate widespread destruction of homes, public infrastructure, and critical services, particularly in rural and mountainous areas where building structures are highly vulnerable to seismic shocks. Given the shallow depth and proximity to populated areas, the earthquake caused major structural damage and casualties are anticipated.

Preliminary reports on 2 September indicate

- Over 1400 deaths
- Over 3,100 injuries, many in remote mountainous areas
- 5,400 homes destroyed
- **6.8 million people living in affected provinces**
- **Chawkay, Nurgal, and Dara-e-Nur districts** most impacted
- Also affected Alingar, Qargha in Laghman Province; Nurgal, Sawkai in Kunar Province
- **Health impact** on population significant including injuries in mountainous areas with challenges to access care
- **Service disruption:** increased needs, fragile system requires surge support. Many health facilities in affected districts are reported to be operating, but further updates are awaited
- **Access challenges** due to road closures and geographic constraints



Health Cluster response

As of 05:00 PM (GMT +4.30) 1 September 2025, 20 mobile Health Teams, CHWs, static health facilities, Nangarhar Regional Hospital, Kunar Provincial Hospital are providing health services; emergency medicine kits, ambulances, and staff sent.

Health Cluster partners already responding

- Provincial Public Health Director, DoPH, HealthNet TPO, AADA, AYSO, WADAN, WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA

Health Cluster partners ready to deploy

- IRC, MMRCA, MSF, Mirwais Regional Hospital, CDC Department of DoPH, DoPH Stock Department, JACK, SCI, INTERSOS, OPHHCD, ARCS, private sector

Health Cluster Coordination meetings are occurring daily at the national and regional level.

Immediate health needs

- Scale up and provision of integrated Primary Health Care including reproductive health, MHPSS, trauma care, and physical rehabilitation services
- Provision of emergency medical kits and supplies including emergency health kits from WHO and UNICEF stocks
- Transportation and referral for injured individuals to reach health centers or higher-level care
- Integrated multi-sectoral response including WASH and shelter assistance
- Response to the outbreaks (i.e., ARI, measles, tetanus, CCHF, AWD)
- Strengthened coordination among front-line responders to prevent duplication and missed opportunities
- Rehabilitation of the damaged health facilities

Summary of the Situation

A magnitude M6.0 earthquake struck eastern Afghanistan late on August 31, epicenter in Kama district, about 30 km northeast of Jalalabad, with a shallow hypocenter of 8–10 km, intensifying its impact across neighboring provinces including Kunar, Laghman, Nuristan, and Kabul. Preliminary reports indicate over 800 deaths and around 2,000 injuries, mostly in remote mountainous areas with blocked access routes.

Approximately 12,000 people are directly affected, with Chawkay, Nurgal, and Dara-e-Nur districts most impacted, while other districts in Kunar, Laghman, and Nangarhar provinces have also suffered significant

casualties and damage. Figures are expected to rise as search and rescue operations continue.

Within minutes of the earthquake, the Health Cluster at national and regional level were mobilized and Provincial Public Health Director (PPHD) and departments, HealthNet TPO (HERP Implementer), and partners swiftly mobilized health emergency response teams to the most affected districts Alingar and Qarghaye in Laghman province, and Nurgal and Sawkai in Kunar province.

Nangarhar Regional Hospital and Kunar Provincial Hospital have declared emergencies and mobilized all staff as well as health facilities in the districts instructed to remain open to receive injured.

Humanitarian context

Decades of war and internal conflict have left Afghanistan's health system fragmented and severely under-resourced. The involuntary return of refugees from neighboring countries, widespread displacement and multiple disease outbreaks have compounded these public health challenges, with over 22.9 million people requiring urgent support in 2025.

- **Health Cluster People in Need (PIN, HNRP 2025):** 14.2 million
- **Health Cluster People targeted for humanitarian health assistance (HNRP 2025):** 9.2 million
- **Funds requested (HNRP 2025):** 279 million USD and **received** 57.8 million USD
- **Total number of IDPs** 3.9M in 2024
- **Total number of returnees** 1.6M in 2025

Pre-earthquake situation, humanitarian needs, and response

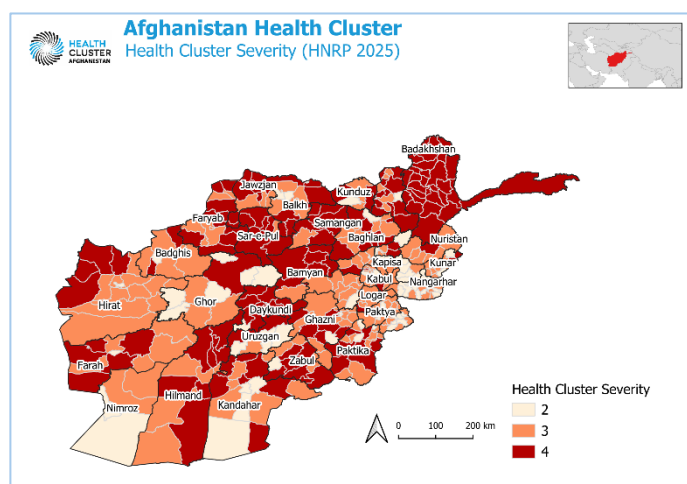
Table to show humanitarian needs and health cluster reach prior to the earthquake in the affected areas

	Kunar	Laghman	Nangarhar		Nuristan
Total population	1,252,432	918,160	3,408,138		349,249
Health PIN	368,773	49,046	337,380		102,769
Health People Targeted	226,503	24,523	168,693		56,955
No. Health Cluster partners*	14	15	20		8
No. HF supported by Health Cluster partners*	55	51	134		36
Total No. of Health Facilities**	109	115	259		99

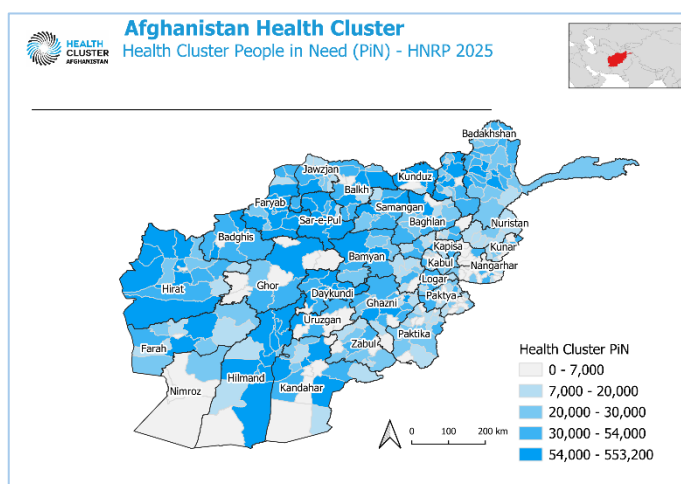
*as reported in Health Cluster 4W July 2025 <https://afghanistan.healthcluster.org/>

**includes HER / DoPHs health facilities (HeRAMS Nov 2024 <https://herams.org/project/59>)

Pre-earthquake situation Health Cluster Severity and PiN - HNRP 2025



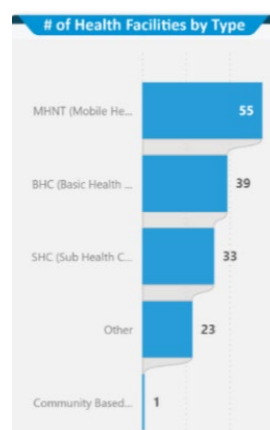
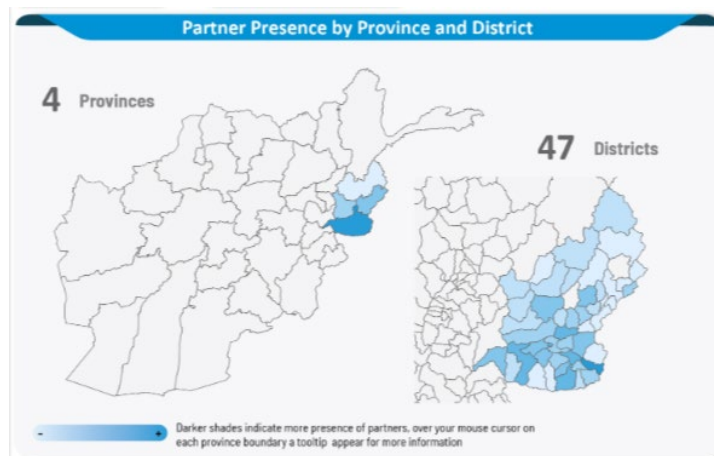
Health Cluster Severity – HNRP 2025



Health Cluster People in Need– HNRP 2025

Pre-earthquake partner presence

In earthquake-affected areas of Kunar, Nangarhar, Nuristan, Laghman



Partner List	
Reporting Organizations	Implementing Partners
ARCS	ARCS
HealthNet TPO	HealthNet TPO
IOM	IOM
IRC	IRC
OPHA	OPHA
PU-AMI	PU-AMI
SCI	SCI
TDH	TDH
UNFPA	AADA
UNFPA	AYSO
UNFPA	MOVE
WCC	WCC
WHO	AYSO
WHO	HealthNet TPO
WHO	HEWAD
WHO	WADAN
WHO	WHO

*as reported in Health Cluster 4W 2025 see dashboard to explore further at <https://afghanistan.healthcluster.org/>

Response Actions

Many Health Cluster partners have already deployed mobile health and nutrition teams in response to the earthquake.

Deployed MHNTs to the affected communities on 1 September 2025			
District	Village	Number of MHNTs	Partners
Nurgal district	Different villages	5	ARCS
Nurgal	Different villages	2	AADA
Chawkai	Different villages	2	Move
Nurgal	Different villages	2	SCI
Nurgal	Different villages	1	WADAN
Chawkai	Different villages	1	AYSO
Chawkai	Different villages	3	HN-TPO
Nurgal	Different villages	4	HN-TPO

Key activity updates from partners

HealthNet TPO

- Rapid Response Teams (RRTs): 7 RRT sent to Nurgal district, including 2 from Laghman
- Essential medicines and supplies dispatched to affected areas
- Planned Distributions: 800 kits (including dignity kits and adolescent girls' kits) are being prepared for distribution
- Psychosocial Support (PSS): 3 teams to provide mental health and psychosocial services, focusing on women and children
- Health Facilities: All facilities operating in emergency mode, prioritizing trauma care
- Coordination: Active collaboration with PPHDs, ANDMA, Health Cluster, provincial authorities, and community leaders

AYSO

- 4 Mobile Health Teams (MHTs) deployed
- 2 fully equipped ambulances
- 50 AYSO volunteers who are actively engaged in relief efforts.
- 1,000 packages of ready meals.
- involved with sub national clusters in assessment teams

IRC

- IRC ready to deploy 1 MHNT to Kunar
- 3 health teams in Nangarhar, 2 in Laghman in Nangarhar ready to be re-routed to EQ affected areas

MMRCA:

- Supported by WHO, MMRCA implements the DATC project in Nangarhar,

- Deployed one team (doctors, nurses and a hospital manager) to Nangarhar regional hospital
- MMRCA can provide a team of psychosocial counselors for MHPSS in Nangarhar.

AADA, as IP of UNPFA and UNICEF,

- Kunar: 1 ambulance with medical staff, medicines, and supplies deployed from the Laghman Project funded by UNFPA
- Another ambulance from the Kunar UNFPA funded Project, already present in the province trapped in Sawki district due to a rockfall. The team is on standby and prepared to proceed to the affected area as soon as access is restored.
- Nangarhar: 2 ambulances with medical staff, medicines, and supplies deployed from the Nangarhar UNFPA-funded project
- Nuristan: 2 ambulances deployed from the Nuristan HER AF Project office based in Jalalabad. UNICEF funded
- UNPFA delivered 26 sets of inter-agency reproductive health kits to Fatima-Zuhara provincial hospital, Kunar provincial hospital, and Nangarhar regional hospital.

WADAN

- Norgal, Mazar Dara, Kunar province deployed 9 experienced team members (Male and female doctors, Nurses, Health workers) equipped with essential medicines and supplies to provide immediate medical care

DoPH/NDSR Department

- to give 10 emergency kits, 10 medical kits, 1 medical doctor, and 6 nurses.

DoPH Ambulance Center

- To provide 3 ambulances, each with one nurse and emergency kits

Mirwais Regional Hospital

- To deploy 2 ambulances and 10 medical staff (5 male, 5 female), and emergency medicines.

CDC Department of DoPH

- to contribute 1 nurse and malaria medicine kits.

DoPH Stock Department

- To provide 20 emergency kits.

WHO/WHE Team

- Provided emergency health kits through the national office and the NDSR department in the south.
- If needed, the team is also ready to support voluntarily on the ground.

UNICEF Main Office

- dispatched medicine for up to 3,000 clients through their IPs in the south if additional needs arise.

JACK/UNICEF IP

- will deploy 2 ambulances and 10 health staff (5 male, 5 female) and medicines.

IOM

- To deploy 2 mobile health teams with ambulances and medicines.

SCI

- To deploy 2 teams with 8 health staff (male and female), medicines.

INTERSOS

- will deploy 2 teams with 8 health staff (male and female) and sufficient medicines

AADA/UNFPA IP

- To deploy 1 team with 4 health staff and 4 IEHK kits

OPHCD

- will provide 1 team with 4 health staff, 5 tents, and 2,000 pieces of soap

ARCS

- will deploy 3 teams with 9 health staff and medicines

AHDS/WHO IP

- will provide trauma kits for emergency care

Private Sector (a few hospitals)

- will support with 4 ambulances, 13 medical staff, and sufficient medicines.

UNHCR

- requested to support with tents

MSF

- ready to deploy from Kunduz

Instant Aid

- will deploy 1 team with 5 health staff and medicines

Health Cluster

has requested all partners in the south region to remain on alert for potential deployment. A capacity assessment of partners will also be conducted.

Health Cluster Coordination

National Health Cluster Emergency Meetings

- Will occur daily
- 1 September at 9:00 AM (GMT+4), the first national Health Cluster meeting for the earthquake response was conducted with over 100 partners and 65 agencies in attendance.

Regional Health Cluster Emergency Meetings

- Will occur daily
- 1 September at 2:00 PM, the first Regional Health Cluster meeting in the Eastern region (covering

Nangarhar, Kunar, Nuristan, Laghman provinces) for the earthquake response was held in the WHO office

- **HN-TPO** was assigned as the Co-Coordinator and lead on behalf of the Health Cluster to **manage field-level coordination**. They will
 - organize daily meetings,
 - map existing partners engaged in the response,
 - assess needs at the field level,
 - Share those needs with the Regional Health Cluster.

- **PU-AMI** will **support HN-TPO** as Co-coordinator, with daily data collection and reporting to the Regional Health Cluster.
- Health Cluster partners have reviewed and agreed on a list of indicators to be collected daily
- All partners responding to the emergency should coordinate with the Regional Health Cluster prior to deployment and share updates with Co-Coordinators from HealthNet TPO and PU-AMI
- Partners to share specific needs and challenges so they can be responded to accordingly.
- The lead agency, as a focal point on behalf of the health cluster(HN-TPO and PU-AMI), will do data collection from each of the health partners, and the **report will be shared with the Health Cluster at 03:00 PM daily.**
- The lead and co-lead (HN-TPO and PU-AMI) will conduct the meetings on a daily basis.

Key Information Sources

- Afghanistan Health Cluster Relief Web Response Website <https://afghanistan.healthcluster.org/>
- HeRAMS AFG Report <https://herams.org/project/59>
- Public Health Situation Analysis (PHSA) on 2025/08/29 <https://reliefweb.int/report/afghanistan/public-health-situation-analysis-afghanistan-04-august-2025>
- GDACS "M 6 in Afghanistan on 31 Aug 2025 19:17 UTC" <https://www.gdacs.org/report.aspx?eventid=1498339&episodeid=1658195&eventtype=EQ>
- GLIDE Event Record: <https://glidenumber.net/glide/public/search/details.jsp?glide=23607>
- UNOSAT SMCS Event 405: <https://smcs.unosat.org/event/405>
- INFORM Index AFG <https://web.jrc.ec.europa.eu/dashboard/embed/INFORMRISKCOUNTRYPROFILE2024/index.html?no-header=1&v-vISO3=AFG&no-scroll=1>
- UNHCR Open Data Portal – Afghanistan <https://data.unhcr.org/en/country/afg>
- HDX Afghanistan Dataset: <https://data.humdata.org/group/afg>
- USGSM 5.2 - 34 km NE of Jalālābād, Afghanistan: <https://earthquake.usgs.gov/earthquakes/eventpage/us7000qt8u/executive>

Contact information

Web: https://afghanistan.healthcluster.org/	
Afghanistan Health Cluster Focal Points	Global Health Cluster Support
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Michael Lukwiya – Health Cluster Coordinator lukwiyam@who.int • Dr. Mohammadullah DAURAN, Health Cluster Support Coordinator Dauranm@who.int • Hassibullah Fakhri – Health Cluster Information Management Officer fakhrih@who.int • Khan Mohammad Habib – Subnational Health Cluster Coordinator - Nangarhar khabib@who.int • Regional HCC for Eastern Region (Kunar, Nangarhar, Nuristan, Laghman) • Field health cluster focal point HealthNet TPO (please specify the district and insert contact email) • Field health cluster focal point PU-AMI (please specify the district and insert contact email) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eba Al-muna Pasha – Officer in Charge pashae@who.int • Luis Hernando Aguilar – Senior IMO aguilarl@who.int • Antoni Ros Martinez – IMO anmartinez@who.int



Health Facility operated by HC Partner



Medical transportation operated by HC Partners



Transportation supplies in the affected area by Health Net TPO



WHO staff and partners in the region



Internal displaced population in Nurgal district of Kunar province due to the earthquake