

## The Herat Earthquake: Facts, Needs, Recommendations

### Methodology and Acknowledgment

In deep gratitude and utmost respect, we acknowledge the invaluable collaboration of medical personnel, humanitarian organizations, and human rights defenders, particularly the inspiring women representatives from Herat province. Their unwavering commitment to the betterment of their community has been the cornerstone of this paper. Together, we stand united in our mission to address the pressing healthcare and human rights issues that have profoundly affected the people of Herat, and their dedication serves as an enduring source of inspiration and hope for us all. We extend our heartfelt thanks for their selfless contributions, which have enriched this endeavor beyond measure.

### Facts

1. On October 7, 2023, a powerful earthquake struck Herat Province in western Afghanistan. According to the United States Geological Survey, the earthquake had a magnitude of 6.3<sup>1</sup>, causing considerable devastation and claiming more than 2,000 lives, with thousands of people affected in total.
2. According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), as of October 11, “11,066 people (1,835 families) have been affected across Zindajan (1,398 families), Gulran (295 families), Kushk / Rabat-e-Sangai (123), and Kohsan (19 families) districts. Informal reports estimate a further 6,000 people (1,000 families) have been affected in Injil district – the epicentre of this morning’s earthquake. Areas newly affected by today’s earthquake will also need to be assessed.”<sup>2</sup>
3. The assessment also shows that “1,714 homes across Zindajan (1,373), Gulran (295) and Kushk/Rabat-e-Sangai (46) districts are reported to have been completely destroyed in Saturday’s earthquake. Homes have also been severely and moderately damaged across Kushk/Rabat-e-Sangai (77), Zindajan (23) and Kohsan (19) districts”.<sup>3</sup>
4. The number of victims in some villages has not yet been determined, and the number of victims is likely to increase in view of this fact.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://rb.gy/kk8fz>

<sup>2</sup> <https://shorturl.at/jCGJZ>

<sup>3</sup> <https://shorturl.at/jCGJZ>

5. In the last 24 hours, the temperature in the region has dropped by almost 20 degrees Celsius and the area suffers from a very dusty weather, which makes people psychologically worried, expecting another round of earthquakes.
6. After the initial treatment, the injured were sent back to the districts and live in tents, which are not suitable for the rainy, dusty and windy weather. The children suffer the most, but especially the newborns are in a very difficult situation

### **Urgent Needs**

- **Food:** The survivors urgently need ready-made food.
- **Clothing:** Women and children, especially newborns, are in urgent need of clothing.
- **Heating:** Wood, coal, heather, tents and blankets are needed as the weather is very cold.
- **Mobile clinics:** A number of mobile clinics with immediate medical care with a female and male doctor and an ambulance is urgently needed.

### **Mid-term Needs**

- **Shelter:** they need houses because they have lost their house and everything in their lives and it will be very difficult for them to continue living in tents given the cold, dusty and rainy weather.
- **Utensils:** Survivors will also need basic cooking tools to cook for themselves once the state of emergency is over.

### **Recommendations**

1. We express our gratitude for the humanitarian aid provided by the international community, which has pledged its support to the victims of the earthquake, and we demand that the humanitarian organizations use this aid transparently and that the aid benefits the people on the ground in Herat Province.
2. The urgent relief supplies must reach the people as soon as possible, otherwise there will be a human catastrophe, especially for children and women.
3. Women and children should be the first priority in any humanitarian mission, as they are doubly affected, both by the act of God and by the act of the Taliban.