

SITUATION UPDATE



International Medical Corps distributed winterization kits to earthquake-affected communities in Herat province, Afghanistan.

On October 15, 2023, a 6.3 magnitude earthquake hit Afghanistan following two deadly quakes on October 7 and 10. The quake struck in the morning when residents of Herat had returned to their homes after spending days outdoors fearing aftershocks. According to OCHA, due to the three earthquakes, 1,384 people have died, 1,853 were injured and thousands have displaced. The series of quakes has leveled entire villages, burying families and leaving thousands homeless as winter approaches. According to UNICEF, more than 90% of those who died in the previous quakes were women and children. The earthquakes have caused widespread humanitarian needs, including shelter, food, health, protection, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and livelihoods. Families displaced by the earthquakes are in crowded temporary shelters with limited water. The potential increase of infectious diseases in the aftermath of the earthquakes is of concern.

International Medical Corps Response

International Medical Corps is coordinating with humanitarian actors, including UN agencies, NGOs, and the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA), to plan and implement a collective and effective response to the deadly earthquakes. Our team delivered the first batch of relief items, including winterization kits, to people in the Zindajan district of Herat province. The winterization kits will help 210 families whose belongings have been lost and buried under heaps of rubble cope with the onset of harsh winter conditions.

In collaboration with the International Organization for Migration and the World Health Organization, International Medical Corps is providing psychological first aid (PFA) training for 15 member organizations of the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) Technical Working Group in western Afghanistan. The training will equip 150 participants with the skills and knowledge to provide PFA to earthquake-affected people who need psychosocial support. In the coming days, our priority is to provide lifesaving services, including health, MHPSS, shelter, WASH, protection, and non-food items (NFI) to the affected people in Zindajan and Injil districts of Herat province. We are also taking all necessary measures to ensure the safety and well-being of our staff and partners on the ground.

FAST FACTS

- 1,384 people have died, 1,853 were injured and thousands displaced
- The worst-affected area is the Zindajan district of Herat province
- Humanitarian needs include shelter, food, health, protection, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and livelihoods

OUR FOOTPRINT

- International Medical Corps has been operating in Afghanistan since 1984. Our main activities include providing primary and secondary healthcare, training, health education, emergency response, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), nutrition services, protection services, community empowerment, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services.

OUR RESPONSE

- We are coordinating with humanitarian actors to implement an effective response
- We delivered our first batch of relief items, including winterization kits, to Zindajan district, the most significantly affected area