



International Medical Corps staff members distribute supplies in Chalas village, Chawkay district.

Eastern Afghanistan is still suffering from the earthquake that occurred on August 31, and powerful aftershocks that followed it. According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs' joint humanitarian assessments, there have been 1,992 confirmed deaths and 3,631 injuries, while 8,489 families have been affected and 6,312 homes destroyed. The earthquakes, which were shallow and thus especially destructive, caused widespread damage to infrastructure and housing.

The worst-hit areas are Nurgal and Chawkay in Kunar, Dara-e-Nur in Nangarhar, and parts of Laghman. Damaged roads and rockslides have made access to the affected areas a challenge. According to the International Organization of Migration, at least 783 families have been displaced to temporary sites in the Shalt and Zere Baba areas of Nurgal district, where conditions remain unsafe and services are limited.

The crisis has placed immense pressure on healthcare services, with 21 health facilities damaged (two in Nangarhar and 19 in Kunar). These include sub-health centers, basic and comprehensive health centers, and district and provincial hospitals.

The World Health Organization reports that the health risks in temporary shelters are increasing due to overcrowding, poor sanitation and unsafe water. Disease surveillance teams have reported 2,142 infectious disease cases in Kunar province alone, including 1,355 cases of acute respiratory infections, 571 diarrheal diseases, 114 confirmed malaria cases and 102 suspected COVID-19 cases. The situation is especially difficult for the more than 11,600 pregnant women living in unsafe conditions, and for female health workers who face long commutes and lack safe accommodation. The absence of privacy in camps and health facilities further increases risks for women and girls.

International Medical Corps Response

International Medical Corps has been active in Afghanistan for more than 40 years, with more than 22 years of experience in Nangarhar and Nuristan. Our teams closely coordinate with local authorities and humanitarian partners, participating in coordination meetings to assess humanitarian needs in the affected areas and responding accordingly.

After the earthquake, our emergency response teams quickly launched relief efforts, including field visits, coordination activities and the delivery of emergency shelters, winter clothing kits and clean drinking water. We also delivered assistive devices for persons with disabilities to the Nangarhar regional office and prepared them for distribution. Our teams also joined key coordination groups—such as the Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items Team, Health Clusters and Operational Coordination Team—and conducted assessments in Chawkay and Nurgal districts to evaluate humanitarian needs and access routes.

FAST FACTS

- Humanitarian needs in the earthquake-affected areas in eastern Afghanistan remain critical. There have been 1,992 deaths, 3,631 people injured and 8,489 families displaced. More than 6,310 homes were destroyed, while the World Health Organization has reported that 21 health facilities in Kunar and Nangarhar were damaged.

OUR FOOTPRINT

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

OUR RESPONSE

- International Medical Corps has distributed 11,970 liters of clean water, 18 temporary shelters and 180 winterization kits to affected families, and provided psychological first aid training to 51 emergency health and protection frontline workers in Kunar province.

On September 9, International Medical Corps distributed 4,680 liters of drinking water to families in Chawkay and Badinzai villages, both located in Chawkay district of Kunar province.

On September 10 and 11, we conducted two days of training in psychological first aid (PFA) for frontline emergency health and protection workers in Kunar province, with 22 male participants from humanitarian organizations. A second round of PFA training began on September 14 for female frontline workers from other humanitarian organizations. International Medical Corps continues to support affected communities by providing immediate emotional support and access to proper care, while helping frontline workers to respond effectively and sustainably.



International Medical Corps provides PFA training to frontline emergency health and protection workers in Kunar province.