

SITUATION UPDATE



International Medical Corps staff members assess affected areas in the Sholgara district of Balkh province.

On Monday, November 3, just before 1:00 a.m. local time, a powerful earthquake struck northern Afghanistan near the border of Balkh and Samangan provinces. The quake, which registered a magnitude of 6.3 and occurred at a depth of 28 kilometers, was felt across various parts of Afghanistan and in neighboring countries, including Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan.

According to OCHA, preliminary reports indicate that at least 20 people died (nine in Balkh and 11 in Samangan), while at least 945 have been injured (616 in Balkh and 329 in Samangan). These figures may rise as assessments and search-and-rescue efforts continue. Almost 100 houses have been destroyed, including more than 50 homes in Khulm district, Samangan province.

On the morning of November 3, Provincial Disaster Management Committees (PDMCs) convened to assess the impact and coordinate immediate response efforts with the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) and humanitarian partners. According to OCHA, five assessment teams have been deployed in Balkh and four in Samangan for rapid verification of damage and initial needs.

In Balkh province, the most affected districts include Charkent, Chemtal, Keshendeh, Marmul, Mazar-e-Sharif and Sholgara. In Samangan province, the hardest-hit districts are Feroz Nakhchir, Hazrat-e-Sultan and Khulm. In Mir Kalan village, Khulm district, approximately 50 homes were destroyed. Additional damage was reported in villages including Rahmat Abad, Faqir Abad, and Qush Mahala in Feroz Nakhchir district.

According to the WHO Health Cluster, continued support is urgently needed to help Balkh Regional Hospital, Samangan Provincial Hospital and Khulm District Hospital manage the high influx of injured patients. These facilities require additional medical supplies and emergency personnel to sustain lifesaving services. A comprehensive assessment across all affected districts is urgently needed to determine the full scale of damage, health risks and humanitarian needs. Strong and coordinated regional and national efforts are also essential to ensure that displaced families have timely access to shelter, clean water and food assistance, alongside continued health and psychosocial support.

International Medical Corps Response

International Medical Corps has been serving communities in northern Afghanistan for more than two decades, with active programs in the provinces of Baghlan, Balkh, Faryab, Jawzjan and Samangan. International Medical Corps has consistently worked in the region to strengthen health systems and provide essential services to vulnerable communities.

FAST FACTS

- On November 3, a 6.3 magnitude earthquake struck northern Afghanistan, resulting in at least 20 deaths and 945 injuries across Balkh and Samangan provinces. Almost 100 homes have been destroyed and hospitals have been overwhelmed by the influx of casualties.

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 deployed two psychosocial support teams to Samangan, is preparing two more for Balkh and will be sending a mobile health team with a two-month supply of essential medicines to Samangan. We have mobilized 200 dignity kits (already distributing 20 in Feroz Nakhchir), and are procuring 200 winter relief packages. We also plan to distribute thousands of liters of clean drinking water in Balkh and Samangan.

In response to the recent earthquake, International Medical Corps swiftly mobilized two mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) teams to Khulm and Feroz Nakhchir districts in Samangan province to deliver critical services to affected individuals and families. An additional two teams are being prepared for deployment in Balkh province to expand the reach of MHPSS services.

To support the dignity and hygiene needs of affected women and girls, we have prepared 200 dignity kits (100 for Balkh and 100 for Samangan) for mobilization, and have distributed 20 kits in the Feroz Nakhchir district of Samangan province.

To address urgent health needs, we are preparing to deploy a mobile health team to earthquake-affected districts in Samangan that will be equipped with a two-month supply of 68 medical commodities—including essential medicines, basic medical supplies and necessary equipment—to deliver emergency primary healthcare services to affected populations.

International Medical Corps also will soon begin distributing 200 winter relief packages, including blankets, to help vulnerable families stay warm during the cold season. Additionally, we will distribute 4,500 liters of clean drinking water (2,250 liters in each province) to affected areas, supporting safe water access and preventing waterborne diseases.

All response efforts are being closely coordinated with key humanitarian platforms, including OCHA, the Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items Cluster, the Health Cluster, the MHPSS Technical Working Group, and provincial ANDMAs, to ensure a timely, effective and well-integrated humanitarian response.



Staff members prepare medical commodities for deployment in Samangan province.



Staff load dignity kits for distribution in Feroz Nakhchir district.