

SITUATION UPDATE



International Medical Corps staff members visit an earthquake-affected house in Samangan province.

On November 3, a 6.3-magnitude earthquake struck northern Afghanistan. According to an IOM report, 2,527 families were affected across five provinces, with Balkh and Samangan provinces experiencing the highest impact. Kunduz, Jawzjan and Sari Pul provinces were also affected, though to a lesser extent. The earthquake resulted in 25 deaths and 970 injuries, as well as the destruction of more than 2,500 houses.

This disaster compounds existing challenges in Afghanistan, including widespread economic hardship and the return of more than 2.2 million people from Iran and Pakistan since January. With winter approaching, many affected people remain without safe shelter, highlighting the urgent need for humanitarian assistance. According to round two of IOM's Afghanistan Climate Vulnerability Assessment, the affected districts in Samangan and Balkh provinces were already hosting approximately 220,300 displaced people, all in highly vulnerable conditions.

According to IOM, immediate needs include shelter and winterization support (tents, heating, blankets, etc.), debris removal, clean drinking water, sanitation and hygiene services, emergency healthcare, trauma kits, ambulance services, psychological support, referrals for critical patients, dignity kits for women and girls, assistive devices for persons with disabilities and multi-purpose cash assistance for the most vulnerable households.

International Medical Corps Response

International Medical Corps has supported communities in northern Afghanistan for more than 20 years, operating programs in the provinces of Baghlan, Balkh, Faryab, Jawzjan and Samangan. Throughout this time, we have focused on strengthening health systems and providing essential services to vulnerable populations, ensuring access to healthcare and psychosocial support during crises.

Following the recent earthquake, International Medical Corps rapidly mobilized mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) teams to affected areas. On November 4, we deployed an MHPSS team to Feroz Nakhchir district in Samangan province, where the team provided psychological first aid and psychosocial support to 15 women and girls, conducted awareness sessions for 82 women and girls, and distributed 20 dignity kits. On November 6, the MHPSS team reached the Hazrat Sultan district of Samangan province, delivering 10 counseling sessions and 50 awareness sessions, and distributing 162 liters of clean drinking water, 10 blankets and 20 dignity kits. On the same day, another team deployed to Sholgara district in Balkh province, where they conducted 12 counseling sessions, two

FAST FACTS

- On November 3, a 6.3-magnitude earthquake struck northern Afghanistan, affecting more than 2,500 families across five provinces, causing 25 deaths and 970 injuries, and destroying more than 2,500 houses. Balkh and Samangan provinces, which were hardest-hit, face urgent needs for shelter, clean water, healthcare, dignity kits and winterization support.

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 deployed four mobile teams providing healthcare supplies and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) to affected communities in Balkh and Samangan provinces. To date, we have delivered 116 MHPSS counseling sessions, conducted awareness sessions for 695 people, organized 23 focus-group discussions, and distributed 1,890 liters of clean water, 220 dignity kits and 30 winter blankets to vulnerable families in earthquake-affected areas.

focus group discussions (FGDs) with six women and girls in each group, and awareness sessions for 40 women and girls. They also distributed 20 dignity kits, along with 180 liters of clean drinking water.

On November 7, the emergency response team in Samangan provided four counseling sessions and awareness sessions for 50 people, and distributed 20 dignity kits, 10 blankets and 180 liters of clean water. On November 8, in Balkh province, one of our teams worked in Jalo Zai village, Sholgara district, conducting awareness sessions for 65 women and 20 men, distributing 20 dignity kits and 180 liters of clean water, and organizing five FGDs—three with women (35 participants) and two with men (9 participants). They also provided 14 individual counseling sessions. Another team operated in Poshte Baghcha village, Marmol district, Balkh province, delivering two awareness sessions for 30 men and 43 women, distributing 20 dignity kits and 180 liters of clean water, conducting three FGDs (each including 28 women and girls and seven men) and providing eight counseling sessions. In Samangan, the team served the Tangi village in Khulm district, delivering six counseling sessions, conducting 50 awareness activities and distributing 108 liters of clean water, 20 dignity kits and 10 blankets.

On November 9, in Samangan, we deployed an MHPSS team to Rahmat Abad village in Feroz Nakhchir district that conducted seven counseling sessions and 30 awareness activities, and distributed 20 dignity kits. In Balkh, the team returned to Jalo Zai village, Sholgara district, to conduct awareness sessions for 58 women and 38 men, distribute 20 dignity kits and 540 liters of clean water, organize six FGDs (four with women, totaling 36 participants, and two with men, totaling 13 participants), and provide 15 counseling sessions (12 women and three men).

On November 10, in Balkh province, we delivered awareness sessions to 130 women and 25 men, distributed 20 dignity kits and 360 liters of clean water, organized seven FGDs (four with women, totaling 45 participants, and three with men, totaling 25 participants), and conducted 14 counseling sessions for women. In Samangan, we worked in Aybak (Larghan village), providing three counseling sessions and 45 awareness activities, and distributing 20 dignity kits. In Hazrat Sultan (Gargari village), we delivered eight counseling sessions and 35 awareness activities, and distributed 20 dignity kits.

We continue to work closely with OCHA, the Shelter and Non-Food Items Cluster, the Health Cluster, the MHPSS Technical Working Group and provincial offices of the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority to ensure timely, effective and integrated humanitarian assistance addressing immediate health and psychosocial needs.



International Medical Corps staff members conduct an awareness-raising session and distribute dignity kits to women in earthquake-affected areas.



An International Medical Corps staff member conducts an MHPSS counseling sessions with a woman affected by the earthquake.