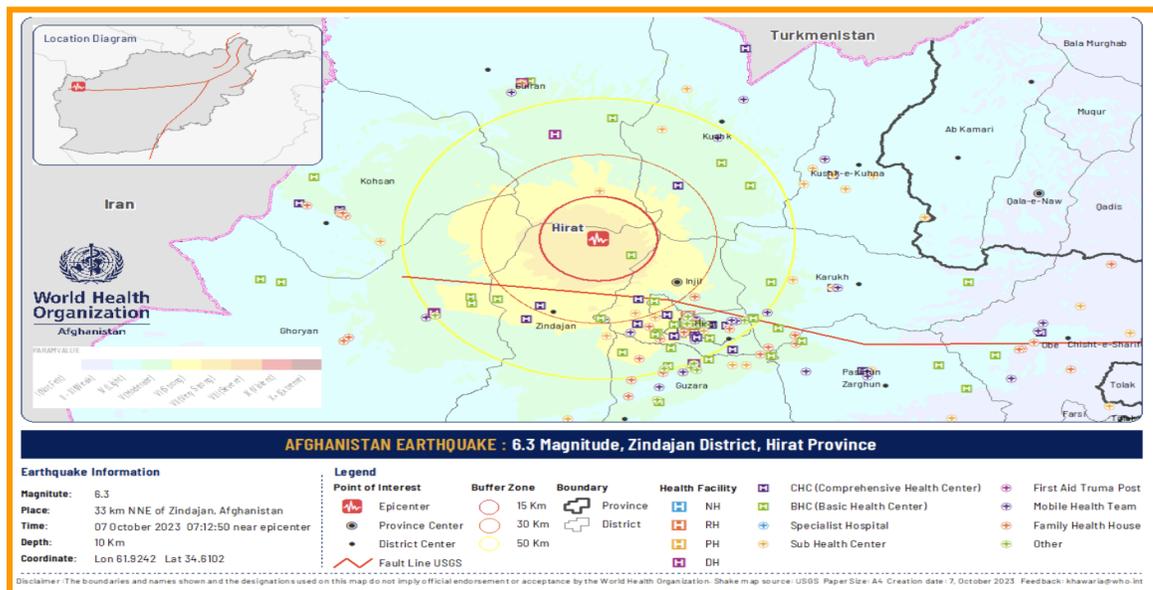


Situation Report #1

Country	AFGHANISTAN
Crisis	Earthquake
Covering period	07-08 October 2023
Crisis Location	Herat Province, Afghanistan
Date issued	8 October 2023
Contact Name(s)	Jaime Nadal Roig, Country Representative, a.i. nadal@unfpa.org Penninah Tomusange, Head of Area Office-Western Region tomusange@unfpa.org

1. Situation Overview

- On 7 October 2023, at approximately 11:03 a.m. local time, a seismic event of 6.3 magnitude occurred in the western region of Afghanistan. The earthquake epicenter was positioned 30 kilometers northeast of Zindajan District in Herat province, with a depth of 14 kilometers. Zindajan District is centrally within the province, about 45 kilometers from Herat City. Subsequently, Herat province experienced a series of eight aftershocks within a five-hour period, including tremors measuring 5.5 (at 11:19 a.m.), 6.3 (at 11:42 a.m.), and 5.9 (at 12:10 p.m.). Initial reports by OCHA indicate over 100 deaths and 500 injured, which are expected to rise in the coming days. A considerable number of houses have also been either destroyed or damaged, with at least 135 structures affected, according to reports.



- The number of affected people stands at 4,200, including 1,400 internally displaced persons who have sought refuge in Herat City, where they are currently residing in abandoned buildings. Search and rescue operations are ongoing, with concerns that more individuals might be trapped beneath collapsed structures.



Photographs of destroyed structures and affected people in the aftermath of the earthquake.

[Source: UNFPA's NGO partners]

Earthquake in Herat Province of Afghanistan

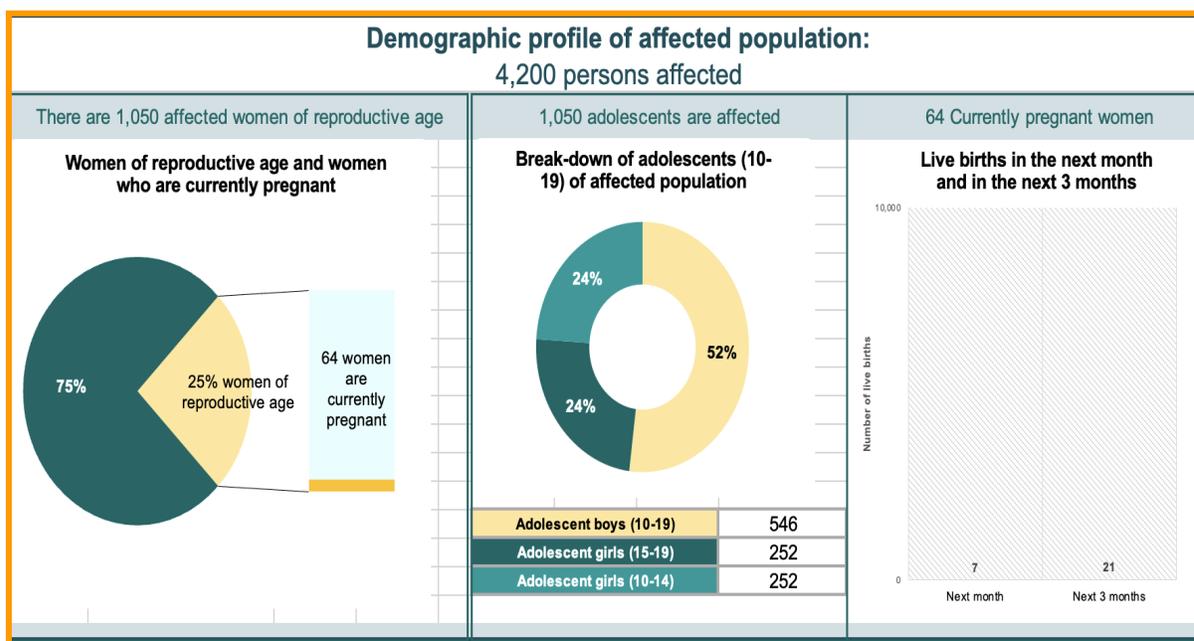
2. Humanitarian Needs

- The immediate priorities are to address the urgent needs for emergency healthcare, including maternal and reproductive health, protection, psychosocial support, emergency shelter and non-food items, food, water, sanitation, and hygiene, including hygiene and dignity kits. Given the ongoing search and rescue operations and the potential for an increased number of casualties, the situation remains dynamic, and further support will be necessary to aid the affected communities in their recovery.

3. Government, UN and other stakeholders' response

- Humanitarian organizations and local authorities have launched relief efforts, including deploying medical and trauma teams to regional hospitals and providing emergency shelter, non-food items, food assistance, and other essential supplies to the affected areas.

4. UNFPA Country Office role



Based on the MISP calculation of 4,200 affected population as of 8 October 2023, it is estimated that there are 1,050 affected women of reproductive age, including 64 who are currently pregnant. Moreover, around 1,050 adolescent boys and girls are also affected.

To address the immediate maternal and reproductive health needs and support for the psychosocial needs of the affected population, UNFPA and its NGO partners have been providing the following:

I. Provision of lifesaving services:

Maternal and reproductive health

- Deployed three Mobile Health Teams to reach people in the earthquake-affected areas in Jibhrail, Zindajan and Shindani districts.
- Deployed additional staff from four Basic Health Centres to support medical services in Herat Regional Hospital.

Psychosocial support

- Deployed five psychosocial support counsellors to the temporary shelters in Jibhrail, Zindajan and Shindani districts.
- Distributed 160 Dignity Kits to affected women and girls in Jibhrail, Zindajan and Shindani districts.

II. Prepositioned Stocks:

- **4,190 Dignity Kits:** 1,650 kits available in Herat; 1,000 Dignity Kits expected to reach the region within the week.
- **24,025 blankets:** All available in Herat regional warehouse
- **27,617 tarpaulin sheets:** All available in Herat regional warehouse
- **1,400 Mama & Baby Kits:** All available in Herat.
- **2,000 individual Clean Delivery Kits:** All available in Kabul and ready to be dispatched.



With winter drawing near, blankets and tarpaulin sheets are prepared for distribution among affected women and girls, as a supplement to the Non-Food Item relief efforts. [Photo: UNFPA]

III. Coordination:

- **Regional Humanitarian Team (RHT):** UNFPA leads the RHT for the Western Region, which falls under the umbrella of Humanitarian Country Team. The UNFPA Head of Area Office in Herat leads the overall regional humanitarian coordination for the earthquake emergency response.
- **Adolescent and Youth Working Group (AYWG):** The AYWG is collaborating with OCHA and the UNFPA Western Region office to respond to the emergency. While most of the AYWG partners are on standby to deploy their youth educators, other partners reported that their youth educators/volunteers are working with youth-led civil society organizations in the collection, assembly and distribution of aid for the earthquake-affected population.
- **GBV Sub Cluster (GBVSC):** The GBVSC is in contact with partners on the ground through its regional coordinator based in Herat and with OCHA for the coordination of the needs on the ground. The GBVSC at the national level is supporting the coordination efforts of OCHA and liaising with the regional coordinator on the ground for support and guidance.
- **Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health in Emergency (RMNCAHiE) Working Group:** The RMNCAHiE WG is working with the Health Cluster to coordinate partners on the ground to ensure the availability of lifesaving maternal and reproductive health services in the affected areas.