



# Afghanistan

## Earthquake in Herat Province

Health Situation Report No. 1

**7 October 2023**

Reporting period: from 11:00 to 21:00 on 7 October 2023

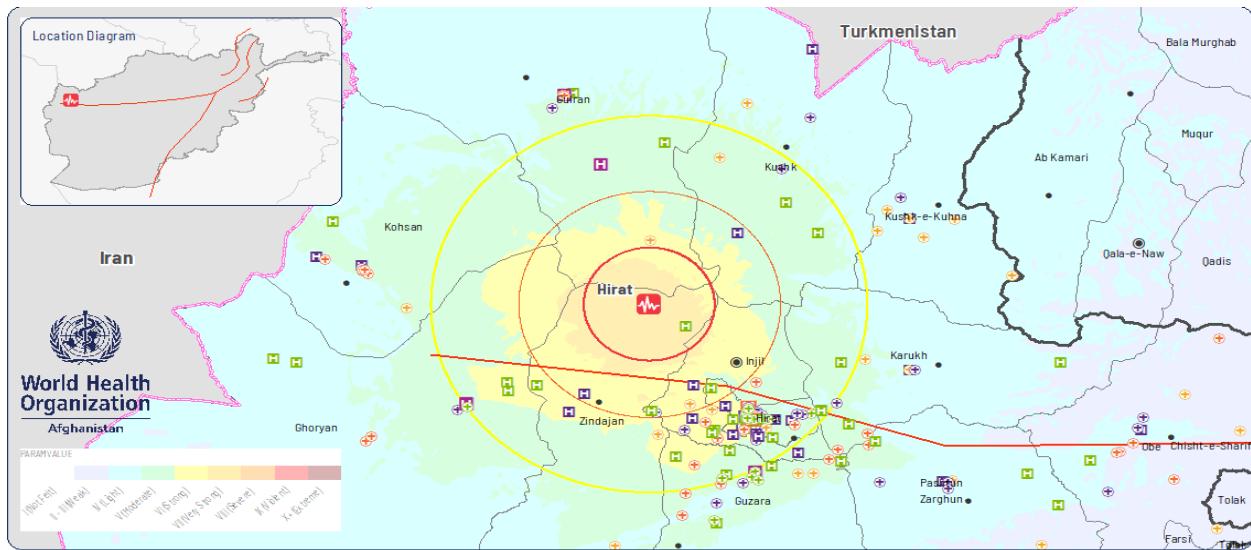
(Information in the report is based on available data as of reporting period)

### SITUATION OVERVIEW

On 7 October 2023, around 11:03 am local time, a **6.3 magnitude earthquake** struck the western region of Afghanistan. The epicenter was located 30km northeast of **Zinda Jan District, Herat Province**, with a depth of 14km.<sup>1</sup> Zinda Jan District is situated in the central part of Herat Province in Afghanistan and 45km away from Herat city. **At least eight aftershocks** hit Herat Province within five hours, including the ones with the magnitude of 5.5 (11:19 a.m.), 6.3 (11:42 a.m.), and 5.9 (12:10 p.m.).

As per the initial report (as of 7 October, 22:00 Kabul time), the most affected province is **Herat**, and mainly 12 villages in **Zinda Jan District**, and **Ghoryam District**, and a number of villages in **Gulran District** and **Kushak-e-Rabat Sanghi District**. According to OCHA Afghanistan, at least **100 people were killed** in eight villages of Zindajan District (Mahal Wardkah (20), Dasht Hows (15), Bahadorzai (14), Zoryan (13), Koshkak (12), Sar Boland (11), Sanjab (8), and Hilalzai (7)) and **500 were injured**, and many of them are in serious condition. More than **600 houses were partially or fully damaged**. At least **4,200 people (600 families) have been affected**, including 1,400 IPDs (300 families). Additionally, an estimated 300 families (2,100 people) are reported to have been displaced to Herat City. The number of casualties is expected to rise as search and rescue operations are ongoing throughout.

There are a total of 202 public health facilities in Herat Province, including one regional hospital (RH), four district hospitals (DHs), 24 comprehensive health centers (CHCs), 56 basic health centers (BHCs), 57 sub health centers (SHCs) and 37 mobile health teams (MHTs). More than 500 patients have been received in Herat Regional Hospital. A total of 10 MHTs have been deployed to those affected areas to provide first aid.



**AFGHANISTAN EARTHQUAKE : 6.3 Magnitude, Zindajan District, Hirat Province**

#### Earthquake Information

**Magnitude:** 6.3  
**Place:** 33 km NNE of Zindajan, Afghanistan  
**Time:** 07 October 2023 07:12:50 near epicenter  
**Depth:** 10 Km  
**Coordinate:** Lon 61.9242 Lat 34.6102

#### Legend

- |                 |       |          |    |                                   |                      |
|-----------------|-------|----------|----|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Epicenter       | 15 Km | Province | NH | CHC (Comprehensive Health Center) | First Aid Truma Post |
| Province Center | 30 Km | District | RH | BHC (Basic Health Center)         | Mobile Health Team   |
| District Center | 50 Km |          | PH | Specialist Hospital               | Family Health House  |
| Fault Line USGS |       |          | DH | Sub Health Center                 | Other                |

Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the World Health Organization. Shake map source: USGS. Paper Size: A4. Creation date: 7, October 2023. Feedback: khawar@who.int

<sup>1</sup> The United States Geological Survey (USGS). <https://www.usgs.gov/>

## PRELIMINARY HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

In coordination with the health authorities, the World Health Organization (WHO) Country Office in Kabul and the WHO Field Office in Herat rapidly mobilized resources and extended immediate life-saving support for the affected population.

WHO and Health Cluster partners are on the ground and working in the affected areas to assess the health needs and provide emergency support, including the following: conducting assessments in health facilities; deployment of health teams; and delivering health emergency and surgical kits, medical supplies, and equipment.

By the time of reporting, more than **300 casualties** were received at the regional hospital (Herat 650-bed hospital). After the first tremors, the hospital immediately activated the **Mass Casualty Management (MCM) plan** for the preparation of receipt of the victims, including proper triage, mobilization of staff, and collection of supplies. WHO conducted a MCM training in September 2023 at this hospital.

WHO has rapidly delivered a total of **55 kits of different models to the regional hospital**, including Trauma and Emergency Surgery Kit (TESK), Interagency Emergency Health Kit (IEHK) and dressing materials enough to provide medical care to 550 injured patient. To prepare for further increase of causality in the affected population, WHO has prepared for immediate dispatch from WHO Herat warehouse, including TESK, cholera kits, measles kits and Interagency Emergency Health Kit (IEHK).

In Herat province, WHO is supporting six PHC facilities (BHCs) and three MHTs, Sakina Yacobi Hospital, and a 100-bed infectious Disease Hospital in Herat in collaboration with its health partners. **Three WHO-supported MHTs** have been deployed to the affected villages in Zinda Jan District, the epicenter of the earthquake. A 100-bed infectious Disease Hospital has allocated its healthcare staff to the regional hospital to support the response and provided food for 500 patients there. Sakina Yacobi Hospital has been reported to be partially damaged.

In addition, 12 ambulances were sent to Zinda Jan District and Ghorian District to evacuate casualties to the regional and other hospitals.



Photo 1: WHO immediately delivered 55 kits of medicine and medical supplies to the regional hospital.



Photo 2: The regional hospital in Herat receiving casualties.



Photo 3: More than 600 houses have been fully and partially damaged.

## NEEDS AND GAPS

- The exact numbers of casualties and houses/premises destroyed are still not fully confirmed. Rapid assessments are needed to identify both casualties and capacity in coordination with the authorities and stakeholders.
- **Logistic challenges** are hindering operations. Zinda Jan District (located 45 km away from Herat City), Gulran District (located 170 km from Herat city), and Kohsan District (located 130 km from Herat City) are remote areas requiring aerial support for case referrals. While search and rescue operations remain ongoing, casualties in these areas have not yet been fully identified.
- **Most houses remain fragile**, being made from mud and stones. Some people whose houses were damaged may remain in temporary shelters.
- **Cold weather** intensifies the vulnerability of the affected people, especially those evacuated. The poor conditions with limited water and congested space will contribute to an increased incidence and severity of respiratory infections. Preparedness for any potential ancillary health threats, such as disease outbreaks (measles and ARI) must be in place.



Photo 4: WHO-supported MHTs being deployed in the affected villages in Zinda Jan District.



Photo 5: Herat ambulances transferring the victims to the hospitals.

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