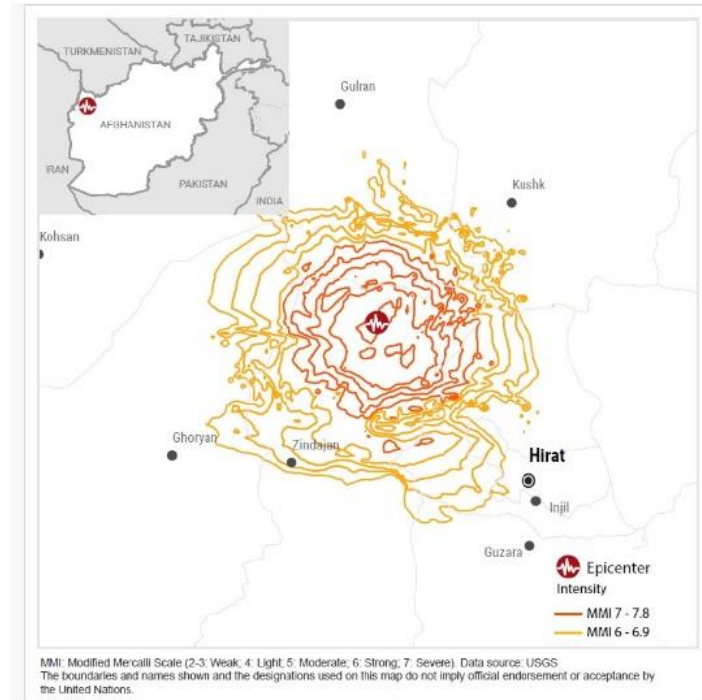


Highlights

- On 7 October 2023 at around 11.00 local time, a 6.3 magnitude earthquake struck 40km west of Herat City in Herat Province, western Afghanistan. Several aftershocks have occurred since, with the initial quake felt in neighbouring Badghis and Farah provinces.
- Initial assessments indicate that as many as 100 people have been killed across eight villages in Zindajan Province, Herat Province – Mahal Wardkah (20), Dasht Hows (15), Bahadorzai (14), Zoryan (13), Koshkak (12), Sar Boland (11), Sanjab (8), and Hilalzai (7), with a further 500 people injured – although unconfirmed reports suggest this figure may be closer to 320 people. Additionally, 465 houses are reported to have been destroyed and 135 damaged.
- In total, 4,200 people (600 families) are assessed to have been affected to date, including 1,400 IDPs (300 families). Mahal Wadakah is understood to be the worst affected village. Additionally, an estimated 300 families (2,100 people) are reported to have been displaced to Herat City where they are living in abandoned buildings.
- Partners and local authorities anticipate the number of casualties to increase as search and rescue efforts continue amid reports that some people may be trapped under collapsed buildings.
- In response, humanitarian partners have initiated relief efforts, deploying medical and trauma support to regional hospitals, as well as emergency shelter / non-food items (ES/NFI), food assistance and other supplies to the affected areas. Ongoing priority needs include ES/NFIs, food assistance, emergency healthcare and WASH support, including hygiene kits.



Humanitarian Needs and Response

Humanitarian partners are coordinating with the de-facto authorities, including the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA), the Department of Refugees and Repatriation (DoRR), and the Herat Provincial Governor, with five emergency assessment teams deployed by IOM, DRC, WFP-RRAA, ARRA, IRC and HELP Germany as part of the initial response.

To date, 200 people are understood to be receiving emergency trauma care in Herat Provincial Hospital, where WHO have deployed three trauma kits sufficient to treat 150 surgeries. IOM and UNHCR will also provide emergency shelter support to 700 families, including 640 family tents, blankets and other NFIs such as kitchen sets. WFP will dispatch 2.1kg of high-energy biscuits for 710 affected households across several villages in Zindajan district, UNFPA will provide 1,300 dignity kits, while UNICEF will deploy an emergency WASH response team to Zindajan on 8 October. Acute Watery Diarrhoea outbreaks are of particular concern in the aftermath of earthquakes.

The Red Cross and Red Crescent have also mobilized response teams.

Coordination

OCHA is coordinating the emergency response on behalf of humanitarian partners with a preliminary Operational Coordination Team (OCT) meeting held on 7 October to take stock of the situation and map response capacity, with another meeting scheduled for 8 October to determine wider response and recovery efforts. A meeting was also held with the Provincial Governor, with OCHA Herat also in coordination with DoRR Herat.

To date, IOM has deployed four assessment teams that have set off to Zindajan district to guide response efforts.

REACH has also provided a households multi-sector rapid assessment tool that can be used where necessary.

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