



Research and resources for humanitarian response in real time

Research and resources to guide humanitarian response are not always at our fingertips at the moment we need them most – when a crisis hits. Working with our partners, we want to support the sector with at-a-glance information and links that can play a small part in **'closing the loop' between research and practice in real time.**

QUICK SNAPSHOT

Herat earthquakes¹:

- ▶ On 7 October 2023, a 6.3 magnitude earthquake struck Herat Province in western Afghanistan, which was followed by subsequent earthquakes on 11 October and 15 October (6.3 and 6.4 magnitude respectively).
- ▶ An estimated 175,000 across 9 districts have been affected, with 114,000 people in need of assistance. At least 1,482 people have died and over 2,100 people have been injured.
- ▶ The earthquakes have damaged housing and health facilities, with the onset of winter expected to worsen conditions.
- ▶ USD 93.6 million in funding is required for life-saving response activities and to support early recovery efforts between October 2023-March 2024, according to the [Herat Earthquake Response Plan](#).
- ▶ Prior to the earthquakes, the Afghanistan Humanitarian Response Plan was only 34% funded. Funding shortfalls have already led to reductions in the number of people targeted for food assistance and reduced rations, and funding for prepositioning of supplies before winter conditions set in.

Repatriation and deportation of Afghans from Pakistan²:

- ▶ On 26 September, the Government of Pakistan's Ministry of Interior (MoI) issued the "Illegal Foreigners' Repatriation Plan."
- ▶ On 3 October, a deadline of 1 November was set for undocumented foreign nationals to leave Pakistan, affecting more than 1.4 million Afghans living in Pakistan.
- ▶ Since 15 September, UNHCR and IOM report that 120,182 people have returned to Afghanistan via Torkham and Chaman border crossing points, with the most common reason for return being fear of arrest (86%).
- ▶ Since 1 January 2023, UNHCR and IOM estimate that 3,398 Proof of Registration (PoR) holders, Afghan Citizen Card (ACC) holders, and undocumented Afghan nationals have been arrested and detained, however figures are considered to underreported.

Sources: ['OCHA, Afghanistan: Herat Earthquake Response Situation Report No. 2 - As of 2 November 2023](#); [WHO & Health Cluster, Afghanistan Earthquakes in Herat Province, Health Situation Report No.11 \(27 October – 02 November 2023\)](#); [UNICEF, Afghanistan earthquakes leave children, families at risk \(accessed 7 November 2023\)](#); [OCHA, Afghanistan: Herat Earthquake Response Plan \(October 2023 - March 2024\)](#); [OCHA, Financial Tracking System: Afghanistan Humanitarian Response Plan 2023 \(as of 13 October 2023\)](#); [OCHA, Afghanistan: Humanitarian Update, July 2023](#).

² [UNHCR-IOM Pakistan Flash Update #3: Arrest and Detention/Flow Monitoring, 15 September to 28 October 2023](#); [IOM Pakistan, IOM and UNHCR urge Pakistan to Maintain Protection Space for Afghans in Need of Safety, 7 October 2023](#); [OHCHR, UN Special Rapporteurs urge Pakistan to stop planned mass deportation of Afghans, 17 October 2023](#); [OHCHR, Afghan nationals at risk of deportation from Pakistan, 27 October 2023](#).

"These earthquakes have struck some of the most vulnerable communities in Afghanistan – they have already been grappling with decades of conflicts and under-development. The affected communities have little resilience to cope with the multiple and simultaneous shocks, and especially with the cold winter coming, when households have limited food resources."

Daniel Peter Endres, acting UN Humanitarian Coordinator for Afghanistan, October 2023

"The recent surge of Afghans returning from Pakistan has overwhelmed our resources and the fragile infrastructure in Afghanistan. People arrive in a terrible condition, having often sold what little they had to pay for the journey. We are deeply concerned about their well-being as well as the strain it places on our already stretched humanitarian efforts."

Neil Turner, Country Director Afghanistan, Norwegian Refugee Council, October 2023

RESEARCH & RESOURCES

Lessons learned from the June 2022 earthquake response in Afghanistan:

- ▶ OCHA Afghanistan (Feb 2023). [Earthquake Response Lessons Learnt Exercise Final Report](#).

Other relevant sector-level research and resources:

- ▶ Holloway, K., Ullah, Z., Ahmadi, D. et al. (2022). [Climate Change, Conflict and Internal Displacement in Afghanistan](#). HPG case study. London: ODI
- ▶ Ground Truth Solutions & Salma Consulting. (2023). ["Only a Woman Can Understand Another Woman." Perceptions on Aid in Afghanistan After the Bans on Women Aid Workers.](#)
- ▶ HAG. (2023). [Challenges and Ways Forward in Supporting Local Leadership in Crisis Response in Afghanistan.](#)
- ▶ Gender in Humanitarian Action (GiHA) Working Group in Afghanistan (2023). [Gender Update #2: Earthquake in Herat Province \(19 October 2023\)](#)
- ▶ Ground Truth Solutions & Salma Consulting (2023). [Against the odds: Strengthening accountability to women and girls in Afghanistan.](#)
- ▶ HAG and GLOW Consultants. (2021). [Doing More for Less – Covid-19 and Localisation in Afghanistan and Pakistan.](#)
- ▶ International Federation of Red Cross Red Crescent Societies (2018). [Snapshot: Protection, Gender, Inclusion and Disaster Law.](#)

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT

Afghanistan Earthquake Appeals:

- ▶ [International Committee of the Red Cross](#)
- ▶ [Islamic Relief](#)
- ▶ [International Rescue Committee](#)
- ▶ [UNICEF](#)

For more information, please get in touch with us via info@humanitarianadvisorygroup.org