

Situation Report #3

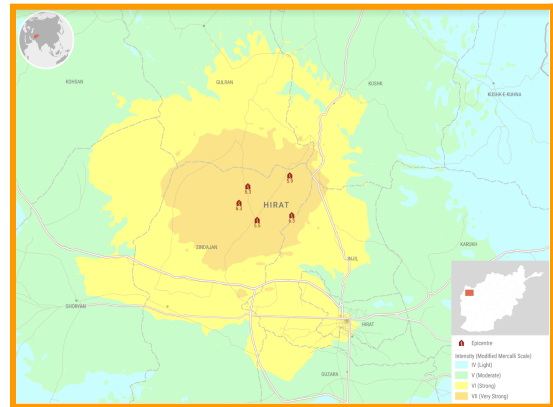
Country	AFGHANISTAN
Crisis	Earthquake
Covering period	11-12 October 2023
Crisis Location	Herat Province, Afghanistan
Date issued	12 October 2023
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Frontline humanitarian workers are bringing closer lifesaving maternal reproductive health and psychosocial support to the affected community [Picture: Arlene Alano/UNFPA]

1. Situation Overview

- On 7 October 2023, a 6.3 magnitude earthquake shook Herat province in western Afghanistan, and aftershocks continued until 11 October. Due to the persistent aftershocks, the estimated number of affected individuals has risen. As of 12 October, the Humanitarian Country Team estimates the total number of people in need at 318,000. Based on MISP calculation, it is estimated that out of the number of people in need, there are 76,320 women of reproductive age, including 7,435 who are currently pregnant. Moreover, around 38,160 adolescent girls 10 to 19 years old are also affected.



Search and rescue operations on the ground remain ongoing as the aftershocks continue. [Picture: Ghulam Yousofi/UNFPA]

2. Humanitarian Needs

- Key priorities in response to the earthquake in Herat include addressing urgent health needs, particularly maternal and reproductive health, mental health, and psychosocial support, as well as providing emergency shelter and essential non-food items. Ongoing search and rescue operations are crucial to assist individuals potentially trapped under debris, and these efforts continue.
- The approaching winter is expected to exacerbate the susceptibility of the affected communities, adding to their physical and psychological challenges. Frontline health personnel assisting the affected population are also part of the affected communities and require mental health and moral support, too.

3. Government, UN and other stakeholders' response

- Humanitarian partners on the ground are actively engaged in coordinating efforts with de facto authorities, which include the Provincial Governor, the Ministry of Economy, the Ministry of

Refugees and Repatriation, and the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA), along with their corresponding sub-national departments.

- The earthquake damage, coupled with concerns about persistent aftershocks, has led to the emergence of multiple informal settlements within Herat City. Humanitarian organizations and authorities are currently assessing the situation and expressing apprehension about the limited access to essential services.



The situation is also overwhelming in medical tents within the Herat Provincial Hospital ground where UNFPA's health staff provide lifesaving services around the clock. [Picture: Arlene Alano/UNFPA]

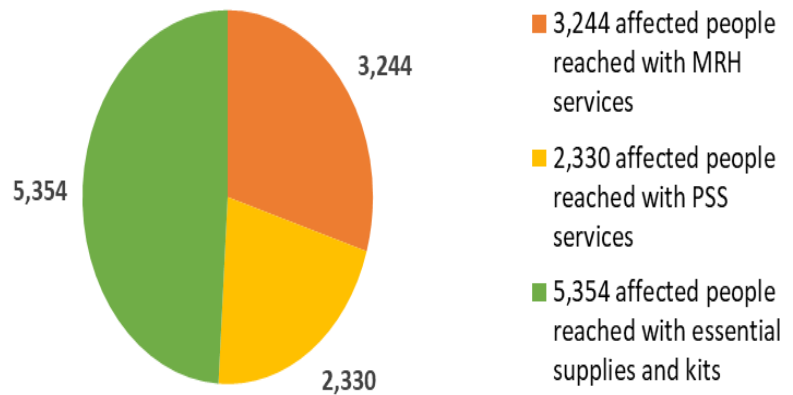
4. UNFPA Country Office Role

- UNFPA continues to address the immediate **maternal and reproductive health (MRH)** needs, and support for **gender-based violence/psychosocial support (GBV/PSS)** needs of the affected population.

Summary: Progress in Numbers



10,928 Affected People Reached with MRH and PSS Services

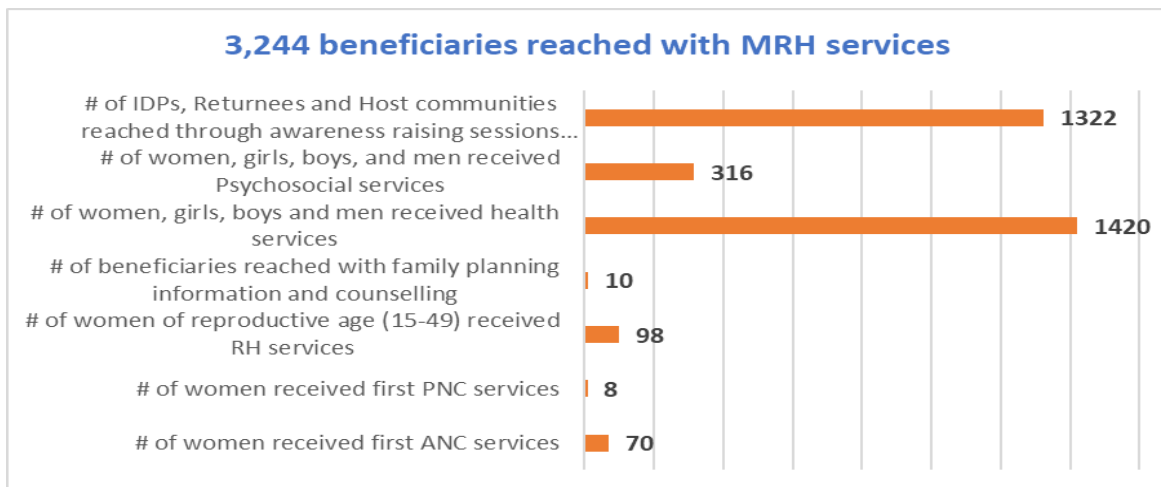


To date, UNFPA and its NGO partners have reached 10,928 affected people with maternal and reproductive health and psychosocial support services, as well as distribution of essential supplies and kits.

A. Provision of lifesaving services:

Maternal and reproductive health

- Eight Mobile Health Teams (MHTs) managed by AADA and HNTPO have been providing reproductive health services to the women and girls in Zindajan District and Herat City. During the reporting period, the MHTs reached 70 women for antenatal care, eight women for postnatal care, 98 women for reproductive health information, 10 people with family planning information and counselling, 1,420 people with health services, 316 people for psychosocial support services, and 1,322 people with awareness raising on health. A total of 3,244 affected people accessed lifesaving maternal and reproductive health services.

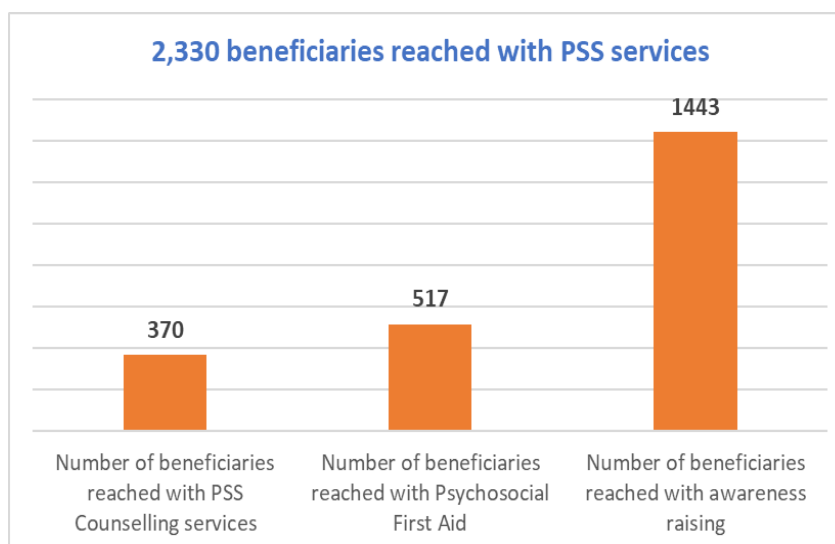




An adolescent girl with a winter blanket received from UNFPA watching over her family's belongings at the Herat Regional Hospital grounds. (Photo: Arlene Alano/UNFPA Afghanistan)

Psychosocial support services

- CARE International deployed eight teams to support assessments in affected districts, along with other actors in coordination with the UNFPA Herat Area Office. The counsellors provided psychological first aid to affected individuals in Zindajan, Kohsan and Herat City.
- HealthNetTPO deployed three teams to provide psychosocial support and psychological first aid to earthquake-affected women and girls in Ansare camp. They are also involved in assessment on the ground for identifying the psychosocial needs of affected communities in coordination with the UNFPA Herat Area Office.
- 2,330 beneficiaries have been reached with lifesaving psychosocial support services. Out of the total, 517 received psychological first aid, 370 received psychosocial counselling and 1,443 received awareness about available services.

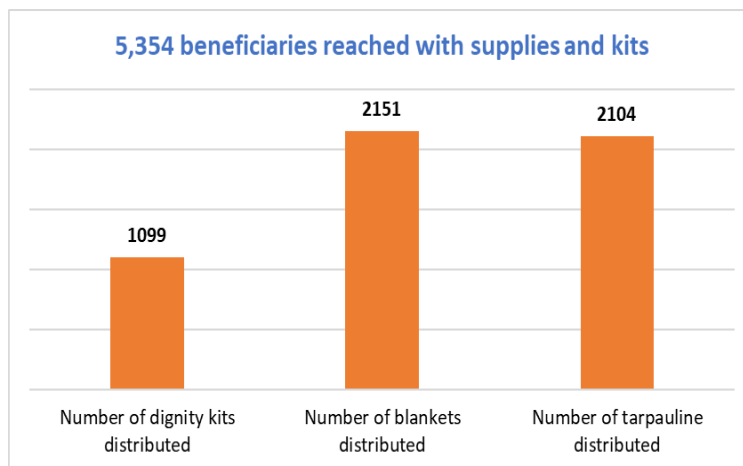


Earthquake in Herat Province of Afghanistan

B. Prepositioned stocks and distribution

- **6,650 Dignity Kits:** 1,650 kits were available in Herat (850 with AFGA and 800 with HNTPO); an additional 1,000 dignity kits have reached Herat. 4,000 more kits are expected to reach the region by the end of the week.
- **1,400 Mama & Baby Kits** are available in the Herat regional warehouse.
- **2,000 Individual Clean Delivery Kits** are available in the Herat regional warehouse with AFGA.
- **21,873 blankets** are available in the Herat regional warehouse.
- **25,513 tarpaulin sheets** are available in Herat regional warehouse
- **6,600 Adolescent Girl Kits:** 3,600 are expected to reach the AFGA warehouse in Herat by 12 October; 3,000 more are expected to reach Herat by early next week.

Life-saving supplies and kits:



C. Coordination



UNFPA Country Representative a.i. (middle) and UNFPA Herat Head of Office (right), who is also Chair of RHT, discuss with an NGO staff on the ground in Zindajan District. (Photo: Arlene Alano/UNFPA Afghanistan)

- **Regional Humanitarian Team (RHT):** UNFPA plays a pivotal role as the lead of the RHT for the Western Region, which operates under the wider Humanitarian Country Team. The Head of the

UNFPA Area Office in Herat directs humanitarian initiatives for the earthquake emergency response.

- **GBV Sub Cluster (GBVSC):** An ad hoc meeting was convened with partner organizations to gain insights into ongoing activities and identify areas requiring intervention. To date, services have been provided to all villages in the affected areas of Zindajan. The GBVSC has collaborated with partners in setting the number of people in need, targets, and budgeting for a comprehensive inter-agency flash appeal.
- **Adolescents and Youth Working Group (AYWG):** Most of the AYWG member organizations in Herat, including UNFPA, UNICEF, CARE International, AADA, YOLAN and AFGA, continue providing services for the affected communities, including adolescents and youth. Some of the partners have mobilized their youth volunteers to support food distribution and assistance in health-sector emergency response. Co-chairs of the AYWG have been coordinating emergency information sharing with all working group partners on a regular basis.
- **Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health in Emergency Working Group (RMNCAHiE):** The RMNCAHiE WG is working with the Health Cluster to better coordinate partners on the ground to ensure availability of lifesaving maternal and reproductive health services in the affected areas.
- **Accountability to Affected Populations Working Group (AAP WG):** The AAP WG (co-chaired by UNFPA) are mobilizing to gather inputs from various clusters and working groups on ensuring effective communication with the affected communities.
- **PSEA Network:** UNFPA joined OCHA and ICCT partners on the ground to conduct risk assessment and capacity building activities, based on lessons learned from similar emergencies. To ensure that PSEA Network response activities are outward-focused, coordination with the AAP Working Group on accountability activities such as community engagement, information sharing, and community feedback mechanisms will be finalized.



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