

AFGHANISTAN EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE



Aftermath of the earthquake in Kunar province - 01/09/2025 /WeWorld

This Flash Update was prepared by WeWorld in collaboration with NCRO.

SITUATION UPDATE

On the night of August 31st, a **6.0 magnitude earthquake struck southeastern Afghanistan**, shaking the provinces of Kunar, Nangarhar, and Laghman near the Pakistan border. The quake, at a shallow depth of 8–10 km, caused widespread destruction mainly in remote mountainous areas. Key roads are blocked, isolating affected communities.

Families urgently need humanitarian assistance following the earthquake. Women and girls, already facing restricted access to services, are particularly vulnerable - struggling to reach aid, healthcare, and safe shelter. **Needs of women and children require targeted attention**, especially in a context where, according to the ChildFund Alliance World Index 2024, a girl born in Afghanistan today may wait over two centuries to see her rights fully realised.

Accessibility challenges remain as many roads leading to affected areas are blocked; assessment teams often need to walk 4–5 hours.

Many injured people are being evacuated by air to hospitals, while government forces are engaged in road clearance.

Initial reports from the Operational Coordination Team, coordinating the response in the country, indicate over **800 fatalities** and more than **2,200 injuries** across Kunar, Nangarhar, and Laghman provinces. Kunar is the hardest hit, with the majority of casualties. Dara-e-Noor (Nangarhar) and Alingar, Mehtarlam, and Qarghaie (Laghman) are among the most affected districts.

There is currently no confirmed data on missing persons. The death and injury toll may rise as assessments continue and access to affected areas remains challenging.

Based on early reports indicating the most urgent needs, the initial response will focus on Nurgul and Chowkai districts (in Kunar province) and Dara-e-Noor district.

KEY DATA

+ 800
FATALITIES

+ 2,200
INJURIES

across Kunar, Nangarhar, and
Laghman provinces

WEWORLD INTERVENTION

Afghanistan remains a crisis-prone country, where **frequent natural hazards**—such as floods, droughts, and earthquakes—are compounded by chronic food insecurity and a prolonged political crisis that continues to weaken essential services and community resilience.

WeWorld was present in the country since 2002 focusing primarily on Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), prioritising the most vulnerable groups, including women-headed households, children, persons with disabilities, and internally displaced persons (IDPs) or returnees.

In response to the devastating earthquakes that impacted Herat province in October 2023, with the financial support of ChildFund Alliance, WeWorld implemented an emergency response to support vulnerable families in areas exposed to extreme weather.

NEXT STEPS

World is working closely with its Afghan partner NCRO to conduct field assessments. Data is still being collected, and figures are being updated as access improves, and more information becomes available.

The humanitarian response will be designed based on assessed needs, with **particular attention to the specific vulnerabilities of women and children**, especially girls, in line with WeWorld's overall approach in the country.

WeWorld's recent research *Her Future at Risk*, highlights how the restriction of women's freedoms in the country exacerbates the humanitarian situation, perpetuating a cycle of vulnerability that leaves countless women and girls without access to the resources they need to survive and opportunities to contribute to their future.

This Flash Update was prepared by WeWorld in collaboration with **NCRO**, which has a team already on the ground and **will deploy an additional team tomorrow to assess urgent needs**. WeWorld staff are also en route to the affected areas.

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USEFUL LINKS

- [OCHA, Afghanistan Flash Update #1: : Earthquake in Nangarhar Province, 1 September 2025](#)
- [ARCS & IFRC, Earthquake in Southeastern Afghanistan, 1 September 2025](#)
- [WeWorld, Her Future at Risk. The Cost of Humanitarian Crises on Women and Girls, 5 March 2025](#)