

EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE IN EASTERN AFGHANISTAN



Boy injured in the earthquake, Kunar province - 07/09/2025 /WeWorld

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

SITUATION UPDATE

The 6+ magnitude earthquake that struck Nangarhar and Kunar provinces in eastern Afghanistan on 31 August claimed thousands of lives and caused widespread destruction of homes along the mountainous slopes and valleys. The quake was particularly destructive due to its shallow depth of 8-10 km, combined with the prevalence of poorly built houses made of dry masonry, stone and timber with minimal seismic resistance. **Heavy rainfall** in the preceding days had weakened the ground contributing to rock and landslides which compounded the earthquake's impact. The fact that the earthquake struck during the night, when entire families and their children were at home, is a major factor in the **high casualty toll**. The disaster's scale, in a **remote and impoverished area** that has received **370,000 returnees** from Pakistan and Iran since January this year, **many being children and women**, has exacerbated severe humanitarian needs that far exceed local capacities.

Reports indicate at least **2,205 people killed** (including 731 children), **3,360 injured**, **6,500 houses destroyed or severely damaged**, with figures expected to rise. The earthquake and the following aftershocks has left thousands of affected families in urgent need of humanitarian assistance. Initial findings from the joint assessments have shown that more women and girls have been affected by the recent earthquakes than men and boys. In total, an estimated **498,800 people are in need of humanitarian assistance** (including **265,000 children**).

Assessed main needs for immediate assistance are provision of **emergency shelter** and **core relief items** (blankets, clothes, tools), as well as **distribution of food parcels**. Response efforts are hampered by challenging terrain, remote locations and roads blocked by debris. Most local access routes are obstructed by landslides or fallen boulders, delaying the delivery of aid. Mountain roads and passes between district centres were cut off in the immediate aftermath. **Many communities remain still isolated**, reachable only by helicopter or 3-5-hour treks by rescuers.

KEY DATA

+ 2,200

FATALITIES

731

BEING CHILDREN

+ 3,360

INJURED

+ 6,500

HOMES DESTROYED

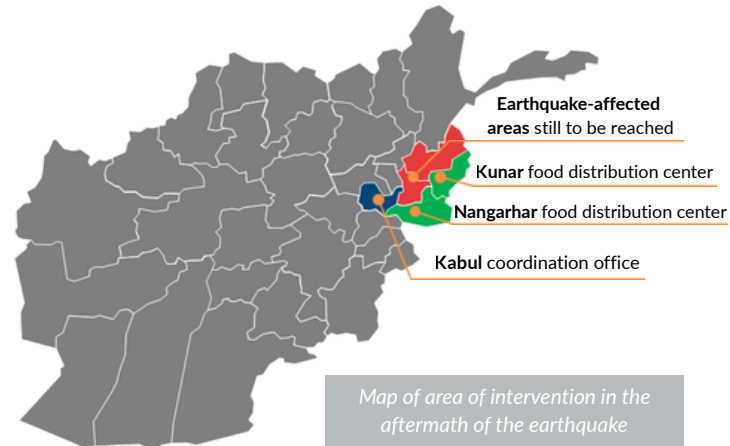
WEWORLD INTERVENTION

The earthquake hit Afghanistan at a time when people were already facing unimaginable hardship—forced returns from neighbouring countries, a worsening drought, and shrinking humanitarian support. For families barely surviving, the threat to life is growing. With winter on the horizon, needs are rising fast, but resources are running low. WeWorld is doing all it can, but this is more than an earthquake emergency: it's a struggle against multiple crises colliding at once.

WeWorld, in collaboration with its national partner NCRO, began **distributing ready-to-eat meals** to affected people just in the aftermath of the earthquake. In total **10,500 meals were distributed**, especially women and children were supported. WeWorld and its partner maintain a strong presence in the eastern region, and can rely on well-equipped and active offices in various Provinces.



Food distribution operations, Kunar province - 07/09/2025 /WeWorld



Map of area of intervention in the aftermath of the earthquake

WeWorld and its partner are actively participating to the emergency responses need assessments conducted by humanitarian partners in coordination with relevant coordination bodies. Through the assessments core relief items were provided to affected people.

Foreseen activities include:

- Continuation of **emergency food distribution**, prioritizing women and children.
- Participation of a joint **need assessment** with other humanitarian actors, to design the humanitarian response, with particular attention to the specific vulnerabilities of women and children, especially girls, in line with WeWorld's overall approach in the country.
- **Scale up the lifesaving emergency response.**
- Set up the basis for a **medium-term humanitarian response.**

WeWorld needs support to expand its **meal distribution network** and scale up emergency response, so that also the most remote earthquake-affected areas can be reached by our intervention.

WEWORLD CONTACTS

Stefania Piccinelli
Head of International Programmes
stefania.piccinelli@weworld.it

Andrea Comollo
Head of Communication
andrea.comollo@weworld.it