

Alert note**Afghanistan Earthquake response – 12th October 2023**

The **alert note** is intended to alert all ACT Alliance members to an emerging emergency situation. It provides basic information to inform decision making within the Alliance regarding possible response options and it also forms the ‘immediate assessment’ of the situation and needs in the affected areas. An alert note should be completed **as soon as it becomes obvious there is a humanitarian emergency**.

The information in the alert note should be kept **short and concise**. Where you do not have information to address a question identified below simply state that the information is not currently available. You will not be expected to have all the information detailed below in the early stages of an emergency.

The alert note should be completed by the forum and sent to the Regional Humanitarian Programme Officer for review and circulation, with a copy to the Regional Representative.

Completed by: Waqas Muhammad – HPO - ACT secretariat

Date completed: 12th October 2023

Forum: Afghanistan

Type of emergency: Earthquake response

Date of emergency (if rapid onset): 7th October 2023

Note: Please write your inputs below each section heading. Text in red guides you on the information required under each heading.

1. The nature of the emergency

On October 7th around 11 am a 6.3 magnitude of earthquake hit the western Afghanistan Herat province followed by number of aftershocks felt even after two days of the earthquake.

2. The impact and scale of the emergency *(please include your source of information)*

According to the OCHA flash update # 3 and the assessment conducted by CAID in Afghanistan To date, it is estimated 12,110 people (1,730 families) have been affected by the earthquake across five districts of Herat Province—Gulran (95 families), Injil (150 families), Khosan (60 families), Kushk (Robat-e-Sangai) (30 families) and Zindajan (1,395 families). The number of affected households is expected to rise as assessments are continuing in Gulran, Injil, Khosan and Kushk districts.

The epicentre of the earthquake – Zindajan district – is the worst-affected area with 1,294 deaths, 1,688 injuries and 100 percent of homes destroyed. A further 485 people (191 men and 294 women) are reported to be missing. Six schools are also reported to have been destroyed in the district, along with three early child development centres, and two community-based education classes serving 60 children; eight schools have also been partially damaged.

Additionally, 33 unaccompanied minors, 17 unaccompanied elderly, and 53 female-headed households have been identified.

In addition to Zindajan district, satellite imagery from UNOSAT indicates extreme-levels of levels of destruction in Injil districts, Herat Province. Both districts experienced the highest intensity shaking (7+) according to the Modified Mercalli Intensity scale (MMI).

3. Local and national capacity

ACT Alliance members Christian Aid, Community World Services Asia, Hungarian inter Church, Norwegian Church Aid and Cordaid are currently on the ground and planning to provide support.

Members in Afghanistan are extending support in the affected areas with available emergency funds and through ongoing projects in the affected areas or in the near by provinces.

The district administration shifted People including unaccompanied minors, elderly, female-headed households those house fully damages and lost livelihood are shifted to Herat city on 7th and 8th October and provided assistance.

UNOCHA office in Afghanistan is coordinating the overall response and provide coordination platforms to NGO and UN agencies. The Humanitarian coordinator shifted USD 5 million from the Afghanistan humanitarian fund to support the earthquake affected population.

The Humanitarian country team meanwhile is drafting the appeal for the response.

4. Key needs and gaps

According to the initial assessment conducted by government, OCHA and CAID the priority needs are;

- a. Emergency shelter (tents, as well as longer-term solutions to withstand winter),
- b. non-food items (tarpaulins, blankets, clothes, and kitchen sets etc.),
- c. WASH (latrines, potable water and storage containers),
- d. food assistance and protection.
- e. Children are particularly vulnerable and have suffered severe psychological distress from the earthquake requiring mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS).

Please indicate whether you are considering:

	Indicate your intention with an X below
Rapid Response Fund (<i>intended for small and medium scale emergencies</i>)	
Appeal (<i>intended for large scale emergencies</i>)	X

If you indicate an intention to launch an appeal, the secretariat will activate an Emergency Steering Committee meeting within two working days on receipt of this alert.

Capacity details of forum members with the intention to respond are given below.

ACT Member	Geographical focus	Sectors of expertise	Support required	Estimated Budget range
CWSA	Afghanistan	Health, WASH, Education, Cash assistance, NFIs and Cash distributions	Funds to provide immediate support	USD 1,200,000
HIA	Afghanistan	Food & NFIs, Cash assistance	Funds to provide immediate support	USD 500,000
CAID	Afghanistan	WASH, Education, Cash assistance, NFIs and Cash distributions	Funds to provide immediate support	USD 1,300,000

5. Potential responses

ACT Alliance members have been serving the Afghan communities since 1980 and have offices all over the country.

Between CA, CWSA and HIA we have close to 300 well trained staff that are supporting country wide operations, including this earthquake.

ACT members in Afghanistan adhere to all ACT policies and protocols.

ACT members are planning to develop an appeal focusing the below different sectors highlighted in the need assessment reports and beneficiary feedbacks.

CWSA:

- Shelter
- Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA)
- Winterization Kits
- Quality & Accountability Resources & Training

HIA:

- Emergency NFI – household kits
- Emergency food/unconditional cash based support (MPCA)
- livelihood restoration (later phase)

CAID:

- Emergency shelter - CAID will go for semi-permanent and temporary houses. Guidelines of clusters for construction and repair will be followed
- WASH support – There will be 3 areas of work 1) Latrine and bathing facility (Construction and Repair), 2) Water supply, 3) Hygiene promotion .
- Community Capacity Building - Formation of Wash community, Inter-Intra community dialogue-mediation, Life skill training for women

ACT Members are planning to launch an appeal for a period of 18 months focusing not only emergencies but recovery and rehabilitation activities. Specific activities on building resilience will be added to the appeal reduce the impact of disaster on the lives of the people.