

# UN Women's Response to Herat Earthquake

## Overall Situation

On 7 October 2023, a magnitude-6.3 earthquake rocked Herat province, in Western Afghanistan, followed by aftershocks, particularly strong in early morning of 11 October, with magnitude 6.3, 5.4 and 5.0, as well as other smaller shocks.

### Herat province

Earthquakes magnitude:  
**6.3, 5.4** and **5.0**

Earthquake center:  
📍 Zindajan district

 **1,200** fatalities  **1,600** injured

 **Complete destruction** of homes



Reports suggest that:  
**Women and children make up most of the casualties** as men were out working when the earthquake struck

The aftershock on October 11th caused additional destruction in neighboring districts such as:

📍 Gorian 📍 Gulran 📍 Robot Sangi 📍 Injil


## Key Findings

Approximately, **400** villages  of Herat province have **been impacted by earthquakes** on 7, 11 and 15 October, and subsequent aftershocks.


In the assessed **178** villages!  **58%** of adult persons who lost their lives were **women**.


**60%** of injured persons were **women**.


**61%** of missing persons were **women**².


 Assessments estimate that **women-headed households** make up almost **10%** of the population in some districts³.

## Immediate Needs


 Safe shelter and WASH facilities (latrines, water points)


 Women specific Non-Food Items (NFIs) such as hygiene kits and clothes

 Cooking utensils and other NFIs delivered alongside food distributions

 Immediate psychosocial support, to complement other health interventions


## Risks

 Exclusion of women from beneficiary lists

 Limited access to information

 Women's health and protection concerns

 Women's displacement and loss of economic opportunities

 Women-headed households experience displacement challenges

¹ Preliminary data from Multi-Sectoral Rapid Assessment Form, as of 17 October 2023 (forthcoming)

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

## A. Emergency Response



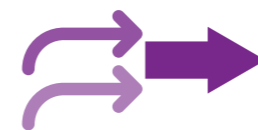
### Complement the emergency response with partners through:



Provision of individual and group psychosocial support (PSS) to up to **370 women**.



Distribution of Non-Food Items to up to **600 female beneficiaries** (winter clothes and shoes, hygiene kits, blankets)



### Direct contributions to the response



Provide local partners with **5 conex boxes** for the provision of safe and confidential PSS.



Roll out MultiPurpose Cash Assistance to **500 women-headed households** and most vulnerable HH in affected villages



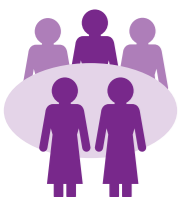
### Inclusive response: bringing women-led and women-focused organizations in the response



**Mobilizing** subnational GiHA WG members for participation in assessments and response



**Linking** subnational GiHA WG members with humanitarian coordination mechanisms including to ensure women organizations' participation in the cluster-led response



### Humanitarian Coordination



#### At subnational level:

GiHA WG representation in humanitarian coordination platforms and organization of joint field missions with clusters; leveraging local actors including members of the Women Advisory Group to the HCT



#### At national level:

Elevating field observations and recommendations to the Inter Cluster Coordination Team and the Humanitarian Country Team and participation in joint field missions



### Knowledge Products:



**Key messages** for engagement on the participation of women humanitarian workers across emergency response



**Gender alerts**



**Gender analysis** of earthquake response



### Advocacy and engagement with authorities for:



Women's participation across the response, in emergency and early recovery phases

Unimpeded operations of women-only spaces, for women to access assistance and services



### Documenting the impact of the earthquakes on women



Mobilizing local female journalists to collect stories of women affected by the earthquakes.

## B. Early Recovery and Resilience

▪ Livelihood opportunities for women by women

▪ Psychosocial support for women by women

▪ Social cohesion