



*7 October 2023*

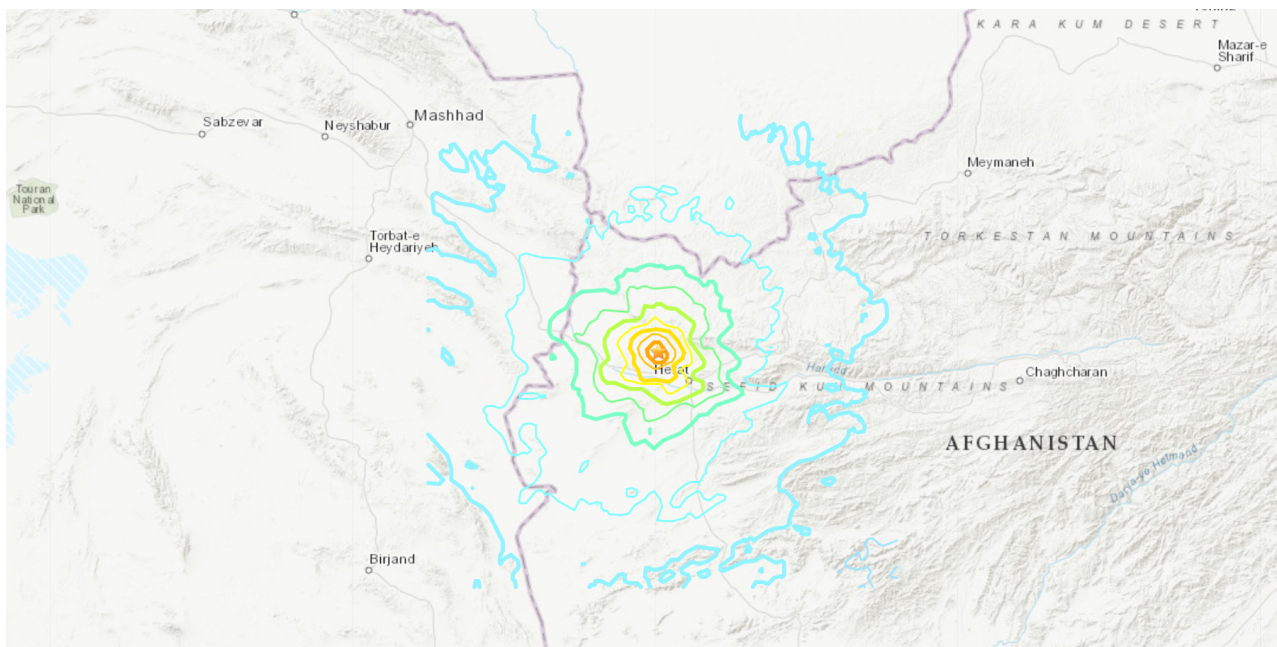
# **IBC Afghanistan Earthquake Response**

## **Flash Appeal**

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

On October 7, 2023, a magnitude 6.3 earthquake struck near Herat, Afghanistan, resulting from thrust faulting at shallow depths near the western end of the Hindu Kush mountain range. Preceding this event, a similar magnitude 6.3 earthquake occurred approximately 30 minutes earlier. Both earthquakes occurred along fault planes oriented east-west, with a dip either to the north or south. These seismic activities took place within the Eurasia plate, situated in an intracontinental mountain belt.<sup>1</sup>

The frequent occurrence of earthquakes in Afghanistan and its surrounding regions is attributed to the intricate and active interactions among the Arabian, Eurasia, and Indian plates. The seismicity in the western and central regions of Afghanistan is primarily influenced by the northward movement of the Arabian plate relative to the Eurasia plate.



This earthquake resulted in at least 18 confirmed deaths and 90 reported injuries. The epicenter was located 24.8 miles northwest of Herat, the region's largest city. The quake, lasting over an hour, triggered panic among residents who fled buildings, with reports of landslides and people trapped under rubble. An aftershock measuring 5.5 magnitude followed the initial quake<sup>2</sup>.

Residents in Herat described the terrifying experience as walls cracked, plaster fell, and some buildings partially collapsed. Communication networks were disrupted, leaving individuals anxiously unable to contact their families. Public health officials fear the current casualty figures may rise as more information becomes available. The public health director of Herat province expressed concerns about the potential for a higher death toll, citing reports of individuals buried under debris.

<sup>1</sup> <https://earthquake.usgs.gov/earthquakes/eventpage/us6000ldpm/executive>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/oct/07/western-afghanistan-hit-by-series-of-powerful-earthquakes>

Difficulties in obtaining precise details persist due to disrupted telephone connections in the affected areas. Social media videos depict scenes of hundreds of people gathered in the streets, while fears of additional earthquakes linger.

This earthquake follows a series of seismic events, including a magnitude 5.9 quake near Herat. Afghanistan has a history of earthquakes, frequently experiencing seismic activity in the Hindu Kush mountain range. In June 2022, a powerful earthquake in eastern Afghanistan claimed over 1,000 lives and injured around 1,500, marking the deadliest quake in the country in two decades.

The earthquake compounds Afghanistan's existing humanitarian crisis, exacerbated by the withdrawal of foreign aid since the Taliban's return to power in 2021. The region is grappling with multiple challenges, making relief efforts more complex amid the ongoing struggles of the affected population.

### **Emergency Needs**

In the aftermath of the October 7th earthquake near Herat, Afghanistan, the urgent needs of the affected region are manifold and pressing. The seismic event has left communities grappling with immediate necessities such as shelter, as numerous buildings have suffered damage or collapse. Essential supplies, including food, clean water, and medical assistance, are paramount to address the immediate humanitarian crisis.

The resilience and strength of the people in Heart Afghanistan will undoubtedly play a pivotal role in rebuilding their lives, but external support and resources are vital for a swift and effective response to this challenging situation. Local NGOs and movements have initiated their field activities. For instance, the World Health Organization announced that they have dispatched urgent medical assistance reinforcements to hospitals in Herat and declared their intention to further increase aid contributions. However, the essential general requirements in the region are as follows:

- Emergency Food and Nutrition Aid
- Shelter Support such as Tents and Bedding
- Urgent Healthcare Services
- Emergency Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Initiatives

### **IBC's Emergency Response**

Since 2021, the International Blue Crescent Relief and Development Foundation (IBC) has been actively meeting the needs of the Afghan community, partnering with local partners in the region following the change in regime. Drawing on its vast experience in responding to earthquake emergencies and recovery situations in Turkey, Iran, Pakistan, and Indonesia, IBC has efficiently deployed its emergency response team to Marrakesh. The team is presently

engaged in on-site assessments to pinpoint specific areas in urgent need of response and intervention.

IBC focuses on the needs of the remote areas of the Herat province, Zinda Jan district. Priority will be given to food, drinking water, medical and hygiene kits distribution, and tents and blankets.

**IBC's average budget for the emergency response is outlined as follows:**

Food relief (5000 persons = 1000 families)	126,500 USD
Shelter (250 Tents)	80,000 USD
Personal salaries (3 persons)	4,125 USD
Transportation for relief items (Truck rental) (2 trucks)	5,000 USD
Others, administrative/ logistics ...	100,000 USD
<b>Total</b>	<b>315,625 USD</b>

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