

## Herat Earthquake Situation Report #10

<b>Country</b>	<b>AFGHANISTAN</b>
<b>Crisis</b>	Herat Earthquake (7 October 2023)
<b>Covering period</b>	16 January to 15 March 2024
<b>Crisis location</b>	Herat Province, Afghanistan
<b>Date issued</b>	27 March 2024
<b>Contact persons</b>	<p>Kwabena Asante-Ntiamoah Country Representative <a href="mailto:asante-ntiamoah@unfpa.org">asante-ntiamoah@unfpa.org</a></p> <p>Penninah Tomusange Kyoyagala Head of Area Office-Western Region <a href="mailto:tomusange@unfpa.org">tomusange@unfpa.org</a></p>



*A midwife providing postnatal care to a mother and her newborn after a safe delivery in the NaibRafi Basic Health Center of Zindajan district in Herat. (Photo: UNFPA Afghanistan/Jamshid Qazizadah)*

## 1. Situation overview

- Most of the earthquake-affected people remain in urgent need of humanitarian assistance and are settling back into their communities and recovering from the shock of the disaster. The harsh winter characterized by unprecedented heavy snowfall in Herat has not made the situation better. Humanitarian teams on the ground continued to provide essential services such as shelter, healthcare, relief items, water and sanitation. As we move into the early recovery phase, the recent Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) report has estimated the needs at US\$78.9 million, with the health sector requiring \$7.9 million for restoration and service delivery in the nine affected districts.



*A woman displaced by the earthquake leaves her family's tent shelter for the NaibRafi Basic Health Center for follow-up psychosocial counseling services. (Photo: UNFPA Afghanistan/Jamshid Qazizadah)*

- The [UNFPA Herat Earthquake Response Appeal](#), aligned with the interagency plan, has appealed for an **\$11.6 million** funding to scale up current interventions, replenish emergency stocks and continue lifesaving maternal and reproductive health and psychosocial support services for the affected population until June 2024. To date, UNFPA has mobilized \$1.5 million for the response.



## 2. Humanitarian needs

- At least 69,000 vulnerable people, mostly women, girls, adolescents and children, are still in urgent need of protection assistance.
- More than 100,000 people remain in need of health services. Close to 2,000 people sustained injuries during the earthquakes.
- According to the PDNA report, 86 health facilities and one regional hospital were damaged – the majority of which are public facilities. As a result, there is a continued need for emergency health services through Mobile Health Teams and Basic Health Centers to cover the existing service gaps, including primary healthcare and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS).

## 3. Government, UN and other stakeholders' response

- Since the first health response interventions on 7 October 2023 until 31 January 2024, Health Cluster partners provided health services to 145,684 people in six districts, namely: Zindajan (84,318), Injil (18,093), Kushk (14,666), Herat City (9,850), Kohsan (10,784), and Gulran (7,973). Among the beneficiaries, 120,934 individuals received primary health care services, including maternal and reproductive health and MHPSS. Over the past four months, the Protection Cluster has reached more than 27,000 women and girls with psychosocial support services and provision of Dignity Kits; 112,000 children have benefited from child-friendly activities; and 20,605 women reached with cash assistance and legal counselling.
- Since the start of the response in October 2023, 443,791 people have received the full WASH package consisting of hygiene kits and community-led latrine construction in the villages affected by the earthquake.
- Education Cluster partners are integrating the Education in Emergency program into the Child-Friendly Space services. Over the past four months, 5,000 children have been reached through this intervention.

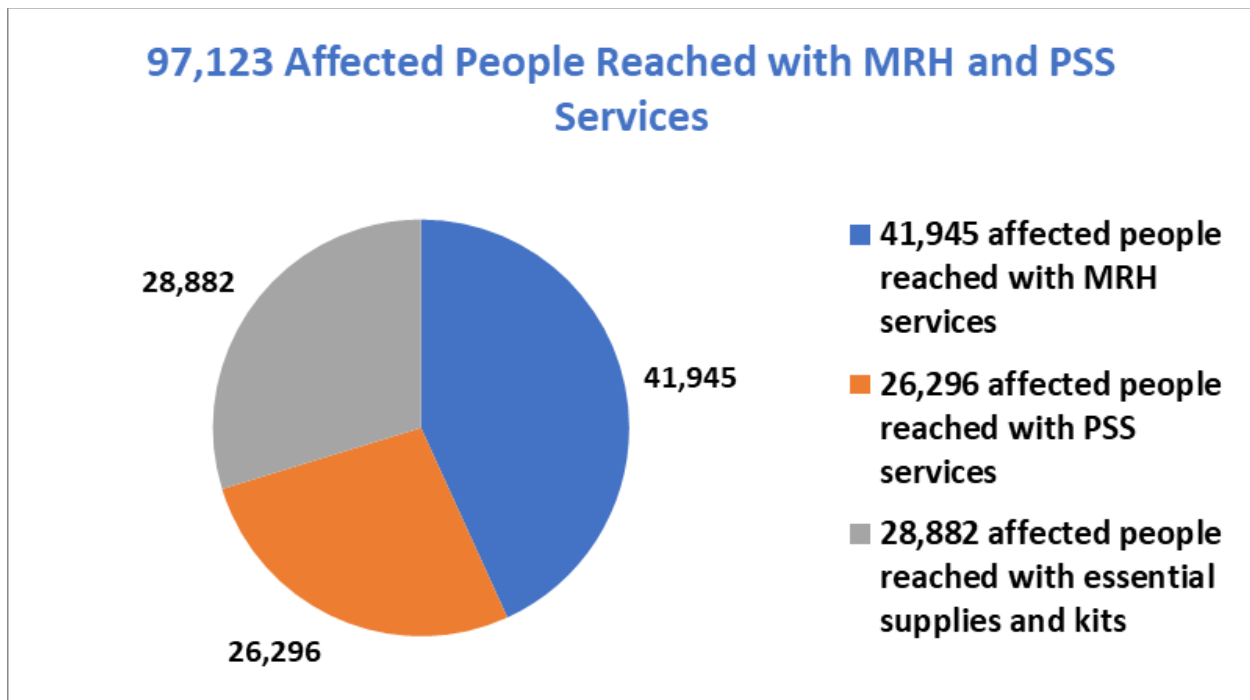
## 4. Security

- The security situation in the area is relatively stable but unpredictable. The extension of the operational radius to Islam Qala remains effective.
- The security threat information received on 7 January 2024 from the provincial de facto General Directorate of Intelligence about a planned improvised explosive device attack targeting de facto authority installations and AIB Bank has been downgraded.
- There has been a notable increase in road traffic accidents in the Western Region, particularly in Herat province, resulting in civilian injuries and fatalities.
- Criminal activities remain high and are characterized by incidents such as armed robberies, burglaries, and theft.

## 5. UNFPA Country Office role

- Maternal and reproductive health services through Mobile Health Teams (MHTs) reached 33,895 people in Zindajan district. Services include family planning, maternal health, psychosocial support, child health, nutrition and treatment of sexually transmitted infections.
- UNFPA and its NGO partner rolled out a new initiative to expand the psychosocial support intervention to vulnerable women and adolescent girls. A Psychosocial Support Team (PSS Team), recently trained and deployed to the affected communities, reached 555 women and girls, including 79 for individual counselling, 302 for group counselling, and 174 for awareness on psychosocial support services.

**Summary: Progress in numbers from 7 October 2023 to 15 March 2024**

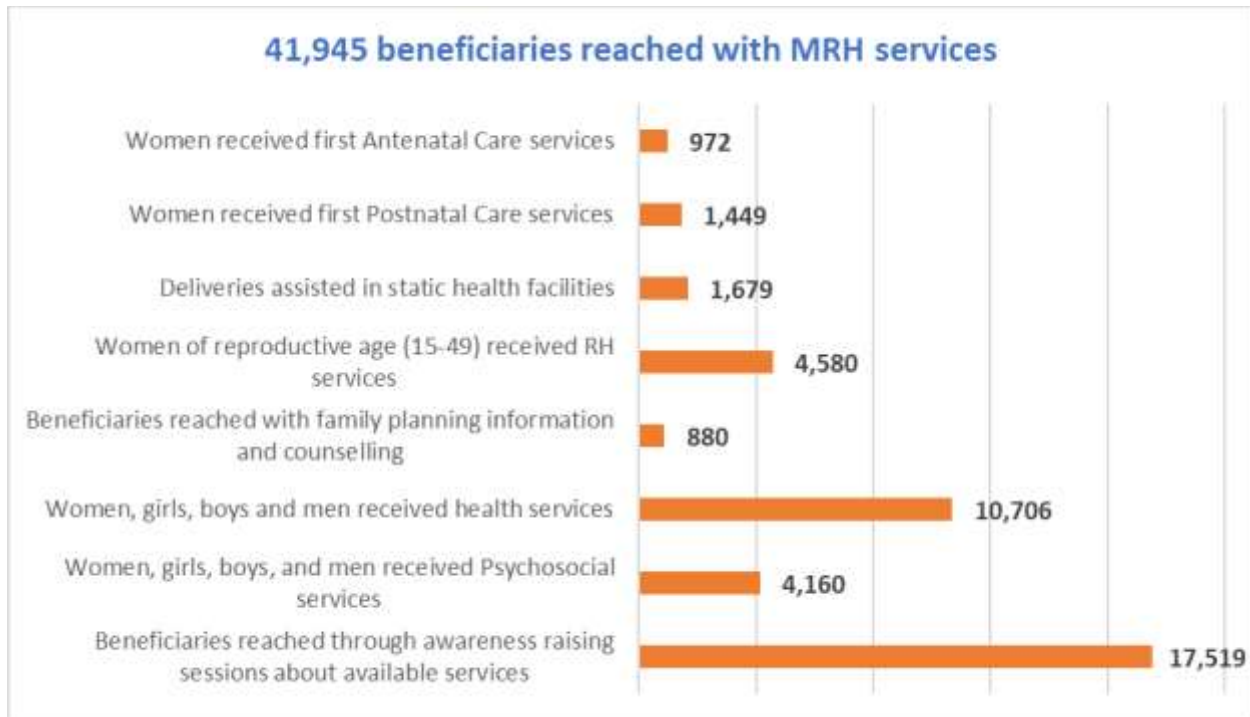


**Since 7 October 2023, UNFPA and its NGO partners have reached 97,123 affected people with maternal, reproductive health and psychosocial support services, as well as distribution of essential reproductive health supplies and kits.**

## A. Provision of lifesaving services

### Maternal and reproductive health:

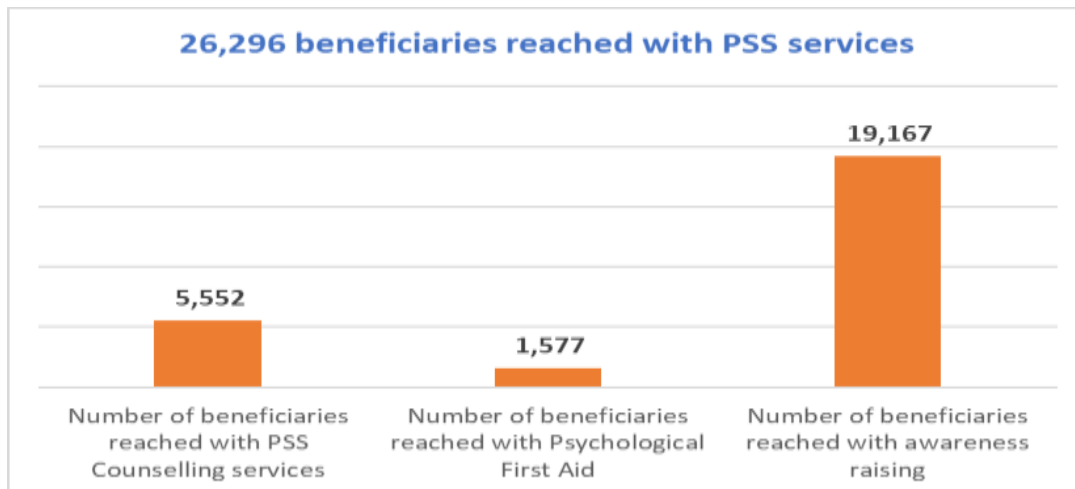
- UNFPA, through its implementing partner, has reached 41,945 people with lifesaving maternal and reproductive health services through two static health facilities in Zindajan district.



### Psychosocial support services:

- 26,296 affected people have been reached with lifesaving psychosocial support services.** Out of the total, **1,577** received psychosocial first aid, **5,552** received psychosocial counselling, and **19,167** received awareness about available services. The services have been provided through two static health facilities and three mobile PSS Teams composed of six female counselors deployed in the three districts of Robot Sangi, Injil and Zindajan.





- To ensure quality service is provided to women and adolescent girls, UNFPA conducted a two-day psychosocial support training to the six counselors who are part of the PSS Team.
- UNFPA provided cash to 350 vulnerable female-headed households identified in the earthquake-affected communities. Each household received \$168 cash assistance to support, promote and enhance the well-being of women and adolescent girls with regards to their health, mental health, self-esteem and dignity. Prior to the implementation of cash assistance for earthquake-affected vulnerable female-headed households, UNFPA and CARE initiated a community discussion with women and adolescent girls about the risks in providing cash assistance and how best to set up the process, delivering and providing awareness around the use of the services.
- 16 youth volunteers (8 females, 8 males) for the Last Mile Assurance supported the supply chain process in the earthquake response.



*Participants in the psychosocial support training in Herat presenting a group work output.  
(Photo: UNFPA Afghanistan/Jamshid Qazizadah)*

**APRO GBV Technical Advisor visit to Herat:** The APRO GBV Technical Advisor along with the GBViE Programme Specialist, UNFPA CO visited Herat from 3rd to 5th March 2024. The mission team met with the Herat area office and discussed the GBViE unit-related program progress, challenges, and the way forward in detail. The mission team visited the CERF-funded PSS teams in two locations of Injil district (Mirabad and Khwaja Sarbur villages) operated by CARE International in order to monitor the PSS service provision to earthquake-affected women and girls. The recommendations from the visit include requirement of technical support for the field teams and including CARE staff in UNFPA capacity-building initiatives.

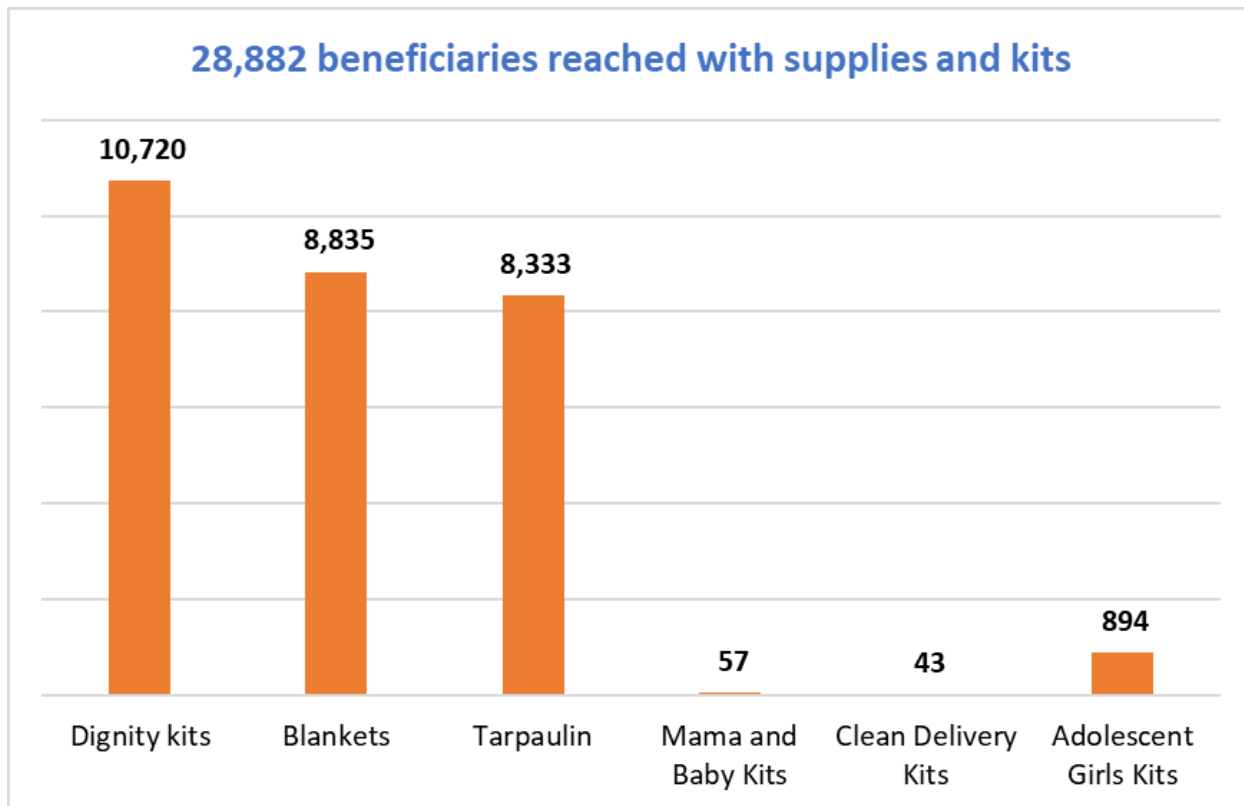
### Adolescents and youth:

- In partnership with CARE, OHPM and AADA, 24 youth educators (12 females, 12 males) supported the provision of community awareness about self-protection, risk mitigation and emotional well-being of adolescents and youth during emergencies. Youth educators play a significant role in the distribution of Adolescent Girl Kits in UNFPA-supported Mother and Child Health Centers and Basic Health Centers. Six youth educators under AADA supported the Adolescent Girl Kits' distribution and awareness-raising on menstrual hygiene management in Nayeb Rafi and Gharmoshak villages of Zindajan district.
- 16 youth volunteers (8 females, 8 males) supported the supply chain process part of the earthquake response and the last mile assurance. The volunteers assisted in the joint assessment and distribution of non-medical commodities and the collection of data at distribution points. Eight volunteers, in collaboration with AFGA and HNTPO, supported the distribution of 3,400 Dignity Kits to affected women and girls in eight villages in Rubat Sangi and Injil districts.

## B. Prepositioned stocks and distribution

UNFPA reached 28,882 women and girls in the earthquake-affected areas through the distribution of the following supplies and kits that have been prepositioned in Herat province:

- **10,720** women of reproductive age supported with **Dignity Kits**: 4,321 kits available.
- **894** adolescent girls supported with **Adolescent Girl Kits (menstrual hygiene kit)**: 1,102 kits available.
- **57** new mothers supported with **Mama & Baby Kits**: 1,400 kits prepositioned.
- **43** pregnant women supported with **Clean Delivery Kits (individual)**: 2,000 kits available.
- **8,835** families received **blankets**: 24,025 blankets prepositioned.
- **8,333** families received **tarpaulin sheets**: 27,617 tarpaulins are available.



*Distribution of blankets, tarpaulin sheets and Dignity Kits for earthquake-affected women in Abjalil Village, Injil District. (Photo: UNFPA Afghanistan/Zaeem Abdul Rahman)*



## C. Coordination

- **Regional Humanitarian Team (RHT)**

UNFPA as the RHT lead for the Western Region continued to work closely with OCHA and other humanitarian actors to ensure that the humanitarian response is well-coordinated and harmonized. RHT members have been urged to continue efforts to meet the needs of earthquake-affected communities.

UNFPA actively participated in various coordination meetings including Health Cluster, Cash Working Group, and Operational Coordination Team, discussing joint monitoring visits to assess the response, continuing active surveillance activities and ensuring the availability of kits and supplies in health facilities in earthquake-affected areas.

- **GBV Sub-Cluster (GBVSC)**

The GBVSC continued to monitor and analyze the progress of the earthquake response by the partners and regularly communicated and coordinated to address the gaps in interventions, coverage and use of agreed standards while avoiding service duplication. A list of covered villages has been shared with partners, and a comprehensive presentation on reached targets and areas and the gaps has been provided during the monthly coordination meeting at the regional level. This serves to inform and guide partners in their ongoing efforts. GBVSC, through its partners, reached 41 percent of its target population (65,000) for the Herat Earthquake response. The GBVSC is regularly coordinating with partners to ensure responses are directed towards districts that are affected and yet gap remains in terms of providing much required support to affected population such as **providing wellbeing support to women and girls** (reached 27 per cent), **provision of Dignity Kits** (reached 29 per cent) and **providing multi-sectoral life saving activities** (reached 56 per cent). Currently, GBVSC is 20 percent funded for the Herat earthquake response.

- **Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)**

UNFPA recruited and deployed a PSEA and AAP officer to the Western Region with the aim of strengthening AAP and PSEA procedures, complaint and feedback mechanisms, raising awareness on interventions including key PSEA messages, supporting the region in developing and implementing an AAP and PSEA strategy, conduct PSEA risk assessments, and ensure that the implementation of AAP and PSEA work plan is informed by the community participation, contextually and culturally-appropriate and based on community need.

UNFPA conducted a training on accountable, protection-sensitive and inclusive programming to 31 UNFPA staff and implementing partners from the Western Region. The training aimed to ensure the partners have full capacity at regional level to roll out the national AAP/PSEA strategy. With such initiatives for regional teams, there will be a surge in consolidation of community voices to further inform the early recovery interventions for the Herat province.

## D. Communications and visibility

This reporting period encompassed the spotlight on the featured multimedia products emerging from the epicenter of the earthquake-affected region in Herat. These multimedia products were prominently shared across digital communication channels and social media platforms of the UN and its collaborating partners and local news agencies.



Some of this content was utilized in the APRO [brochure for the Afghanistan humanitarian appeal](#), while other multimedia content was repurposed for [social media assets designed by the regional office](#). Several multimedia products produced from the earthquake zone were also featured in recent reports focusing on the earthquake.