

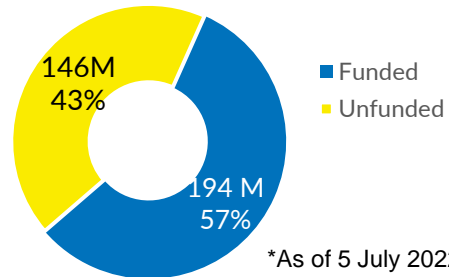
## UNHCR Afghanistan External Earthquake Update #4 – 7 August 2022

### Key Figures

- 1,000 people killed, including 250 children; 3,000 people injured, including 600 children.
- At least 70% of houses in the most impacted areas are damaged or destroyed.
- UNHCR has assisted 12,700 individuals with Shelter & non-food item kits (including tents), and dignity kits.
- 1,992 additional tents delivered to affected areas in the first week of August to provide emergency shelter for 14,000 additional people.
- UNHCR planning the construction of 2,300 earthquake-resilient homes in affected areas.

### USD 340.3 million

Requirements for UNHCR's Afghanistan Response in 2022



### Background

On 22 June 2022 a 5.9 magnitude earthquake struck vulnerable districts in Paktika and Khost provinces, south-eastern Afghanistan. **Over 1,000 people are estimated to have been killed, including 250 children**, while an additional 3,000 people were injured, among them 600 children. At least 1,500 homes are reported to have been damaged in Giyan district of Paktika province alone. Interagency teams including UNHCR were quickly on the ground to assess the situation. Findings from rapid assessments reaffirm the extensive damage to houses, absence of (and lack of access to) basic services such as water, education, health, electricity, access roads in remote locations, and lack of viable livelihood opportunities. It is estimated that at least 70% of the houses in the most impacted areas are damaged or destroyed, leaving many without shelter and sleeping in the open, prone to harsh weather, health and protection issues, and other hazards. **A US\$110.3 million multisectoral earthquake appeal released by OCHA (including the needs of UNHCR), targets 362,000 earthquake-affected people** across south-eastern Afghanistan with essential aid like emergency shelter support, food assistance, health support and protection.



A UNHCR assessment team walks through the rubble in a village in Spera District, Khost Province where some 100 families who were made homeless by the earthquake were provided with UNHCR tents, household supplies, and dignity kits. © UNHCR/Adnan Studio

## UNHCR Response

Following interagency assessments, UNHCR's immediate response involved the distribution of **1,600 shelter and non-food item (NFI) kits** (including tents) and **1,500 dignity kits** for vulnerable women and girls. The UNHCR response has already benefited a total of **12,700 affected individuals** in Khost and Pakitka provinces. While UNHCR and partners continued to implement their emergency response to the first earthquake, several aftershocks have been felt, and on 18 July a new 5.1 magnitude earthquake hit Spera district (only 3km from the epicentre of the June earthquake), also impacting Barmal, Giyan, and Zuruk districts, and causing further destruction. As of 4 August, **an additional 1,992 family tents** have been dispatched to support newly assessed families in Spera district.



Earthquake survivors take shelter in UNHCR tents and under plastic tarpaulins in a village in Spera District, Khost Province. UNHCR teams were on hand to provide families with urgently needed shelter materials, household items, and dignity kits for women and girls. © UNHCR/Mohammad Haroon

Following the response for immediate needs, UNHCR's priority is to support families who have lost their homes to erect up to **2,300 earthquake-resilient homes in the 16 villages most affected** by earthquakes – 2,000 in cooperation with partner AHDA, and 300 in conjunction with the Aga Khan Agency for Habitat. Following the identification of the sites, the next step is the removal of debris prior to the first phase of home construction which is expected to commence in August.

On 26 July UNHCR accompanied the Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary General/ Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator to Barmal and Giyan districts in Paktika province to review the humanitarian response effort and preparations for the construction of earthquake-resilient homes. **UNHCR's office in Gardez has supported the formation of community groups in 16 villages** in the same districts to facilitate good practices among residents as UNHCR rolls out its shelter response. The office also plans to establish **three small-scale community centres and implement protection outreach activities** in Barmal and Giyan districts, and in Spera District in Khost Province. This will ensure that affected populations including those with specific needs, as well as women and girls, have access to **protection services such as psychosocial support, information, counseling, referrals to necessary services, and support for persons with specific needs**. UNHCR has initiated **rapid assessments for 800 households** in affected areas, through our implementing partner, Watan Social and Technical Services Association (WSTA) – this is ongoing with 50 households already assessed in the first week of August.

**LINKS:** Global Focus: Afghanistan | Operational Data Portal: Afghanistan | Twitter: @UNHCRAFG | Facebook |

**CONTACTS:** Tom Winston Monboe – Associate Reporting Officer: [monboe@unhcr.org](mailto:monboe@unhcr.org)

**DONOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:** UNHCR Afghanistan is grateful for contributions from the below donors, as well as from private donors, foundations, & country-based pooled funds. UNHCR is grateful for unearmarked & softly earmarked funds, which allow us to respond in an agile manner, where the needs are greatest.

