

Disaster Description

On August 31, 2025, at 11:47 PM local time (23:47 AFT / 19:17 UTC), a 6.0 magnitude earthquake struck southeastern Afghanistan near the border with Pakistan, with its epicenter approximately 27 km east-northeast of Momand Dara district, in Nangarhar and Nurgul district, Kunar. The quake occurred at a depth of 8–10 km, generating severe shaking across Kunar, Nangarhar, and Laghman provinces, as well as parts of Nuristan. Around more than 8,000 homes collapsed, and key road networks were disrupted, limiting immediate access for emergency responders. Thousands of families were displaced, and affected households are in urgent need of food, shelter, medical assistance, and safe drinking water.

The earthquake has caused over 6,200 people dead or injured across Kunar, Nangarhar, Laghman, and Nuristan provinces. The districts most severely impacted are Chawkay and Nurgal in Kunar Province and Darai-Nur in Nangarhar Province, where infrastructure damage has been extensive. An estimated more than 84,000 people are directly affected, many of whom require immediate humanitarian support. To address the crisis, 20 emergency assessment teams have been deployed to the hardest-hit areas, and relief agencies are working to restore access to essential services and provide urgent assistance to displaced families.

Impact

- Thousands are anticipated to be buried beneath collapsed buildings.
- In Kunar Province, at least 2,205 people were killed, and 3,640 others were injured.
- Significant casualties were reported in Nurgal District and other areas.
- At least over 8,000 homes collapsed, primarily made of mud and stone.
- Four villages were destroyed in Kunar, with many others severely damaged.
- In Mazar Dara, dozens were killed, nearly over 100 injured, and 95% of homes were destroyed.
- Roads, including those connecting Kunar to Jalalabad, were blocked by landslides.
- In Nangarhar Province, at least 20 people were killed and over 500 injured, with significant impact in Darai-Nur District.
- In Laghman Province, around 100 people were injured, with several homes damaged.

Calls for Funding

- Humanitarian agencies say they are responding to a major crisis in eastern Afghanistan, where the United Nations estimates thousands of people have been directly affected by the 31 August 2025 earthquake. Most of the people have died, and injured, and thousands more remain trapped under collapsed buildings.
- So far, international support has been limited," a spokesperson of Afghanistan's foreign office said.
- China and Canada stated that they are ready to provide disaster relief assistance "according to Afghanistan's needs and within its capacity," while the Australia, United Arab Emirates, India, Iran, the European Union, the United Kingdom, and Switzerland have pledged or sent emergency aid, including tents, medical supplies, and food.
- In a post on X, U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres said the UN mission in Afghanistan is preparing to assist communities devastated by the quake.
- Humanitarian officials and local residents also noted that many villages are still highly vulnerable, and heavy rains and landslides in affected areas are slowing relief and recovery efforts.

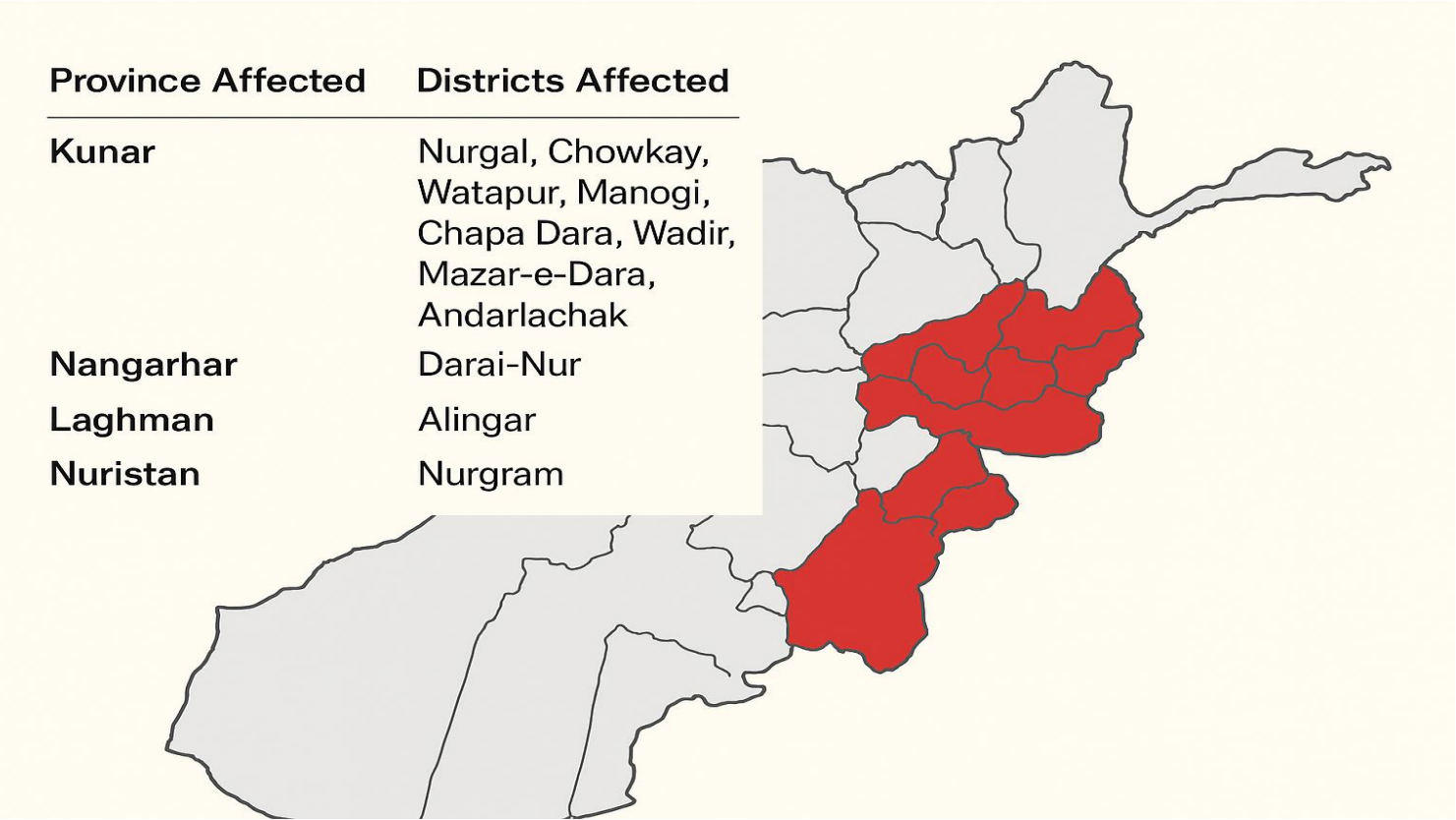
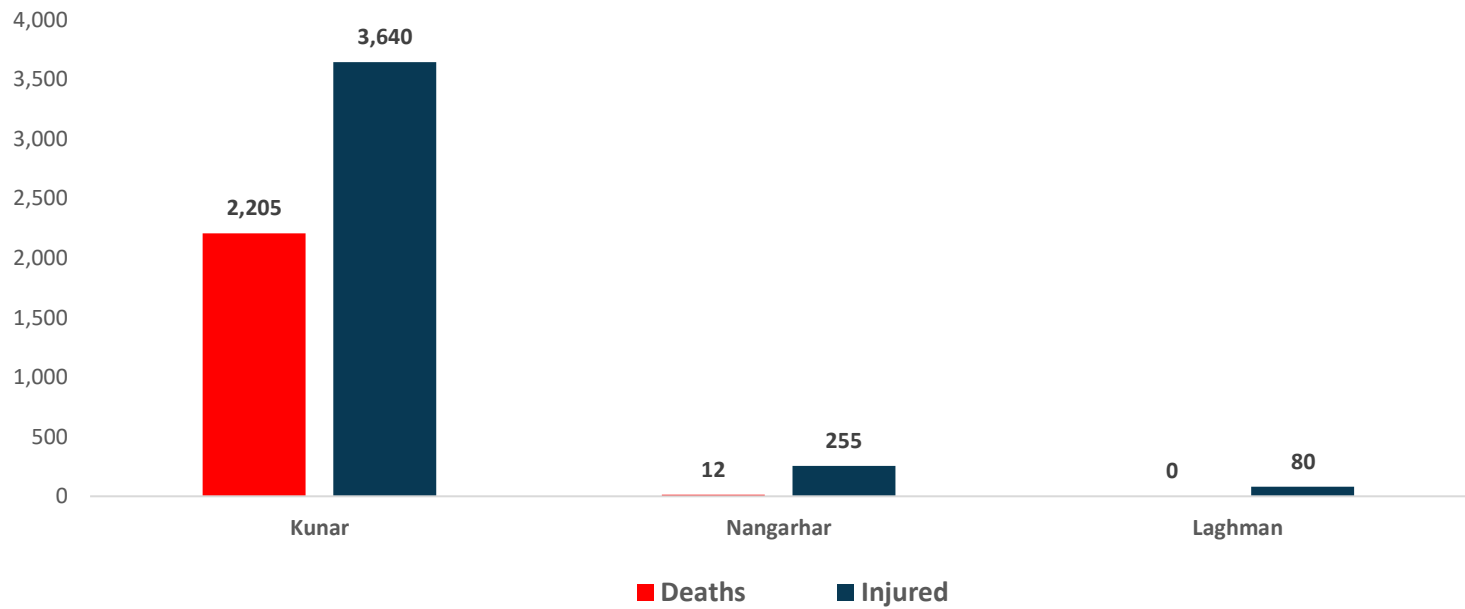
Sources

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Response

Hours after the earthquake, Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid announced that local officials and volunteers initiated rescue operations and provided aid. The region also faced flash flooding, which resulted in at least five fatalities. In response, the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) government allocated 100 million Afghanis (about \$1.5 million USD) and established a special committee led by Minister of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, Mohammad Younus Akhundzada. Due to limited resources, they requested assistance from international aid organizations, while volunteers in Nangarhar Province donated blood to help the injured. Medical support was rapidly mobilized, with helicopters transporting medical staff and casualties to hospitals, including 420 victims airlifted to Nangarhar Regional Hospital. The Afghan Ministry of Defense facilitated the transport of doctors and medical supplies to Kunar Province. The United Nations dispatched aid teams, while Iran offered medical supplies. India also provided 1,000 tents and 15 tons of food. Various organizations have continued coordinating humanitarian efforts to address the disaster's aftermath.

Earthquake Impact by Province



2,220+  
People killed



4000+  
People Injured



8000 + homes  
damaged/  
destroyed



Earthquake: Mw  
6.0, 8 km depth

International Aid



UN: aid teams,  
emergency funding



EU: 130 tonnes  
supplies, €1 million  
(\$1.2M)



India: 1,000 tents, 15  
tons of food



Iran: 80 tons flour &  
cooking oil



UK: £1 million aid via  
UNFPA & Red Cross



Australia: \$1 million  
through the AHF, led  
by the UN OCHA

Displaced and Affected Populations



Over 84,000 +  
Directly affected people



Over 1,000 +  
Displaced families