

# Paktika and Khost Earthquake

## UNFPA Response

June - September 2022







Amidst the political turmoil that Afghanistan is already dealing with following the Taliban takeover in 2021, the earthquake that shook the southeastern region on 22 June 2022 only further exposed the weakness of the country's health system, and the vulnerabilities of women, especially those who are pregnant.

To help mitigate the impact of the disaster on already suffering affected population, UNFPA worked with partners on the ground to ensure the delivery of life-saving reproductive and maternal health services to help keep pregnancies and childbirths safe in very challenging conditions. Three months since the earthquake, we have reached more than 105,000 people with life-saving services and information through various service delivery points.

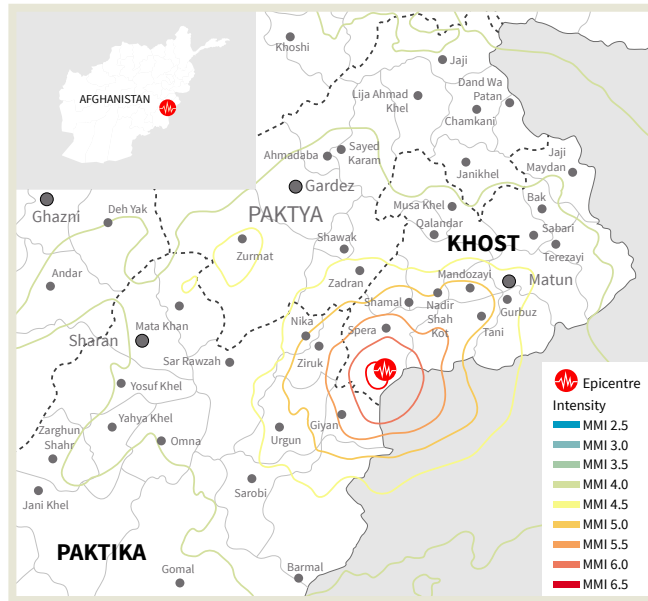
UNFPA acknowledges the support of our partners on the ground as well as donors who help us ensure that women and girls can access life-saving assistance and services vital to their health and well-being.



**Dr. Aleksandar Sasha Bodiroza**

Country Representative  
UNFPA Afghanistan

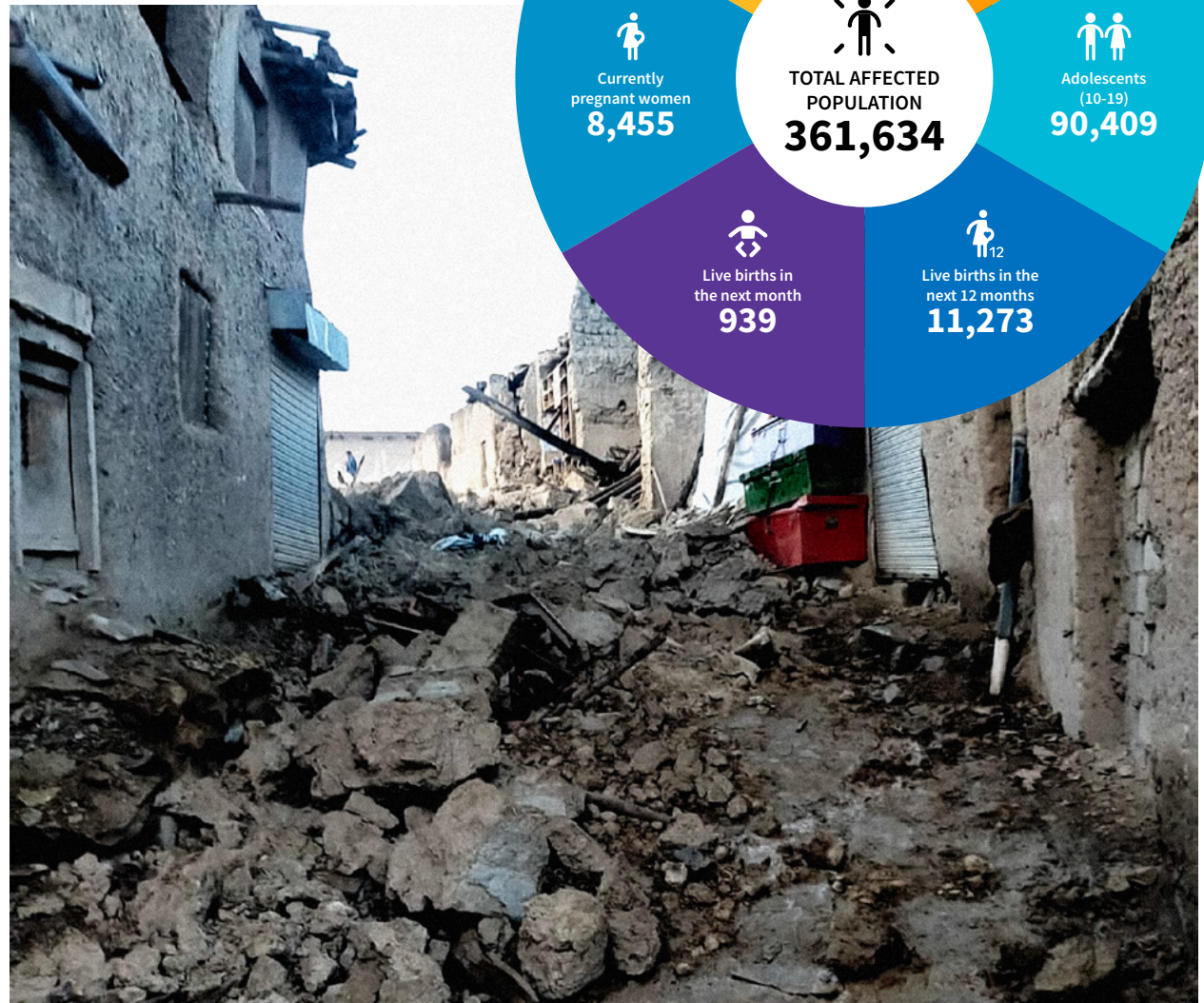
# Background



**T**HE 5.9 MAGNITUDE EARTHQUAKE on 22 June 2022 led to wide-scale destruction in Paktika and Khost provinces resulting in over 1,000 deaths and nearly 3,000 injuries. Thousands of people including pregnant women, adolescent girls and young people were exposed to further harm as a result of the destruction of homes and critical infrastructure.

Humanitarian actors immediately responded and scaled-up their interventions to respond to the growing needs.

Pregnant women remain in need of lifesaving services for safe delivery; hence, the provision of lifesaving reproductive health and protection services remains a priority for UNFPA in Afghanistan.



# UNFPA Lifesaving Interventions

## Service delivery points mobilized



MHT

5

Mobile Health Teams



2

Static Health Facilities



FHH

2

Family Health Houses



PSSMOT

2

Psychosocial Mobile Outreach Teams

## Beneficiaries reached: (June- September)

### SERVICES:



54

deliveries assisted by skilled birth attendants



1,440

pregnant women received antenatal care



753

women received postnatal care



686

individuals received Clean Delivery Kits



754

women received family planning services and information



2,868

people reached with SRH information



2,738

people reached with psychosocial support services



15,020

people participated in SRH awareness raising sessions

## Supplies:



2,856

women received Dignity Kits



10,000

individuals from women-headed households benefited from 2,000 Winterizations Kits



68,000

people benefitted from 28 Emergency RH Kits



## Meeting Basic Lifesaving Maternal and Reproductive Health Needs



### KEY INTERVENTIONS:



#### Family Health Houses (FHH):

Two FHHs in Paktika withstood the earthquake and were able to continue providing life saving sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services. The FHH is a community-based health facility led by a midwife from the same community providing essential Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) services and has an established referral system with higher level health facilities.



#### Mobile Health Teams (MHTs):

Five MHTs were mobilized to support the provision of RMNCAH services for the affected population in Gayan, Barmal, Nake, Urgun, and Zerak districts in Paktika. The MHTs provided antenatal care, postnatal care, family planning services, SRH awareness, as well as distribution of clean delivery kits and referral services.



**Static clinics:** Two clinics in Spera district of Khost province were accessible to the earthquake-affected people who needed reproductive health services. Pregnant women on their last trimester of pregnancy were referred to the nearest health facilities for safe deliveries.



**Inter-Agency Reproductive Health Kits (IARH):** The IARH Kits are a package of medical equipment, drugs and supplies to help maintain the functionality of health facilities to provide life-saving SRH services, referral hospitals that provide emergency obstetric and newborn care.

# GBV/Psychosocial Support (PSS) Services



## **PSS/Mobile Outreach Teams (MOTs):**

Two PSS MOTs were mobilized to provide PSS information and services to women and girls affected by the earthquake in the Spera district of Khost Province.



**Dignity Kits** were provided to support the access of women and girls to hygiene supplies including for menstruation during the emergency.



**Winterization Kits** aim to protect families - especially female headed households and women of reproductive age who lost their homes - from the extreme cold conditions. The Winterization Kits consist of blankets, tarpaulin sheets, sleeping mats, and jerrycans.





## Voices from the affected communities



When the earthquake took place, I was nine month pregnant. I was worried about my pregnancy. Soon after, my husband found out that there was a clinic (Mobile Health Team) established in our village and I went there straight away to check my condition. After a week, I gave birth to a healthy baby boy in this clinic. I really thank the health workers who tirelessly supported my village.”

- Woman from Spera District, Khost Province



We used to watch people suffering from health issues, especially at night time. Now we can go to the health facility (Mobile Health Clinic) near our house and we can bring our children when they get sick.

- Woman from Barmal District, Paktika Province



In the past there was no health facility in our village, and we had to go far away to access one. Now we have this health facility (Family Health House) in our village and we can come and see the midwives during day and night time”

- Elder woman from Omna District, Paktika Province

## UNFPA interventions on AAP, PSEA and Disability

UNFPA interventions were closely planned in consultation with the community members in the earthquake affected areas, including women and young people, to ensure that their needs were taken into consideration in response decision making processes. This was complemented by the regular engagement with the community structures such as community health shuras, elder groups and community mobilisers to support raising awareness of the UNFPA lifesaving interventions at local community level in order for affected communities to easily access the assistance available to them.

During the response, UNFPA received various **feedback from affected communities**, from appreciation of the health service provision which was a challenge in the past, to suggestions to improve the services linked to nutrition issues that was immediately coordinated with relevant humanitarian actors on the ground.

UNFPA also worked with implementing partners to ensure that communities are aware that there is no exchange required in accessing UNFPA services. UNFPA supports its implementing partners to promote channels for communities to raise complaints related to sexual exploitation and abuse by aid workers took place during the delivery of assistance.

Learning the profiles of the communities participating in UNFPA services who have disabilities, UNFPA is currently working to ensure that its services are disability-friendly.

## Humanitarian Access

Humanitarian actors continue to have access to Paktika and Khost without interference from de facto authorities. UNFPA facilitates access for NGO implementing partners to ensure that any anticipated risks of administrative or bureaucratic impediments are mitigated through engagement with de facto authorities.

## Security

The security situation in the earthquake-affected areas remains fluid but relatively calm. The security situation in the affected area remains relatively stable. Reportedly, a few additional checkpoints guarded by armed elements of the de facto authorities were established in the vicinity of the affected areas. A security “Operation Radius” that aims to guide the humanitarian interventions was established by the UN Security Management System (UNSMS) management for the humanitarian operation in Gayan and Barmal districts in Paktika, and Spera district and Khost City in Khost Province.





SUPPORTED BY:



From  
the People of Japan



Government of Iceland  
Ministry for Foreign Affairs



NEW ZEALAND  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE  
Manatū Aotearoa



USAID  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



UKaid  
FROM THE BRITISH PEOPLE

