

HERAT EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE PLAN AFGHANISTAN

IMMEDIATE HUMANITARIAN
RESPONSE NEEDS
OCTOBER 2023 - MARCH 2024



About

This Emergency Response Plan is consolidated by OCHA on behalf of the Humanitarian Country Team and partners to address immediate humanitarian needs due to the earthquake. It covers the period from October 2023 to March 2024. All targeted population groups and activities have already been planned for in 2023 HRP projections. The activities and requirements presented in the emergency appeal therefore remain a sub-set of the 2023 HRP.

PHOTO ON COVER

Herat October 2023

Photo: OCHA

The designations employed and the presentation of material in the report do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

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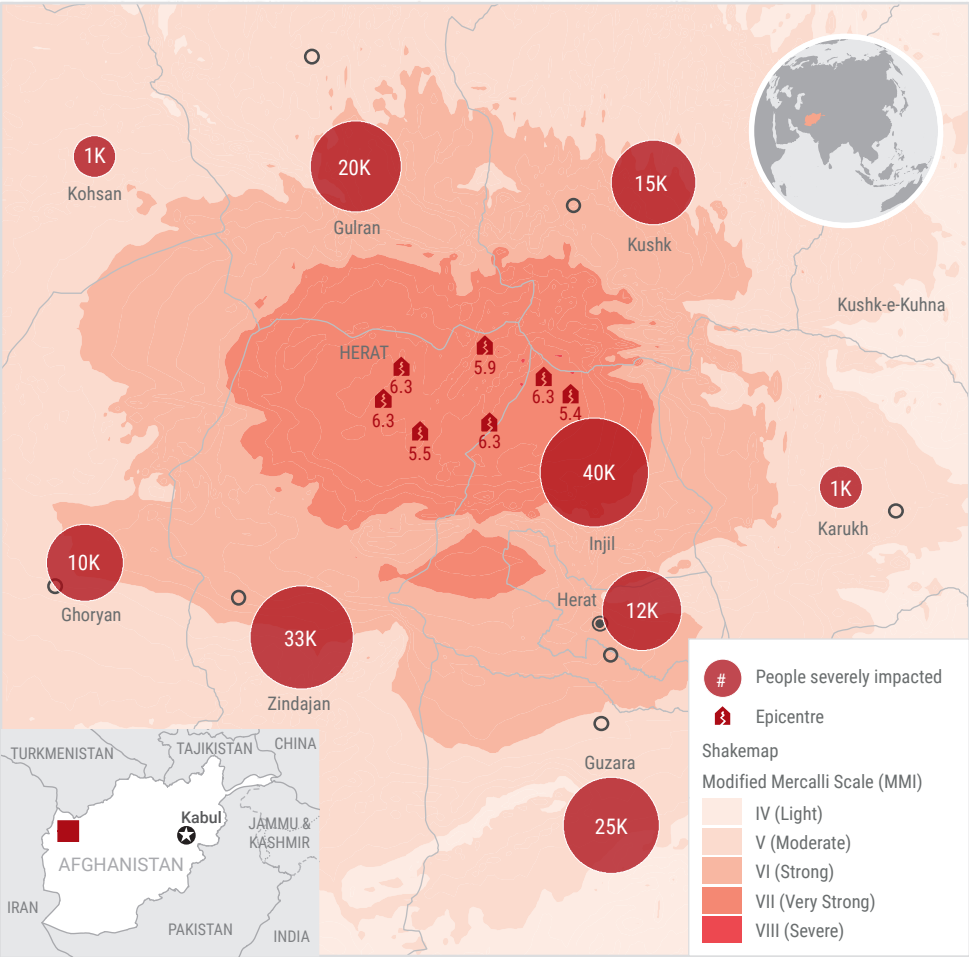
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AFGHANISTAN HERAT EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE PLAN

SUMMARY OF EMERGENCY NEEDS, PLANNED REACH AND FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

OCT 2023 – MAR 2024
ISSUED OCT 2023

Between 7 and 15 October, four powerful (6.3 magnitude) earthquakes struck Herat Province, western Afghanistan resulting in wide-scale destruction across more than 300 villages. In addition to loss of life and injury, the earthquakes – which struck several villages multiple times – destroyed critical civilian infrastructure, including homes, health facilities, schools, and water networks. These earthquakes have left thousands of already-vulnerable families in urgent need of humanitarian assistance, with shelter, food, and water and sanitation needs particularly high. This multi-sectoral Herat Earthquake Response Plan targets approximately 114,000 people living in high intensity impact areas (MMI 6+) with a focus on those whose homes were severely damaged or destroyed.* A total of USD \$93.6 million is required to rapidly deliver life-saving response activities and support early recovery efforts over the next six months (October 2023 – March 2024).



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* The MMI measures the shaking intensity from an earthquake by considering its effects on people, objects, and buildings.

** All targeted population groups and activities have already been planned for in 2023 HRP projections. The activities and requirements presented in the emergency appeal therefore remain a sub-set of the 2023 HRP.

Key figures

PEOPLE IN NEED	PLANNED REACH	FUNDING REQUIRED
114k	114k	\$93.6m

Planned reach and requirements by sector

SECTOR	PEOPLE IN NEED	PLANNED REACH	REQUIREMENTS US\$
Education in Emergencies	13K	13K	1.8M
Emergency Shelter and NFI	94K	56K	40.3M
Food Security and Agriculture	106K	106K	24.3M
Health	114K	114K	7.9M
Nutrition	19K	19K	930K
Protection	114K	100K	8.4M
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	114K	114K	9.5M
Coord. and Common Services	-	-	492K
Total	114K	114K	93.6M

Overview

PEOPLE IN NEED	PLANNED REACH	% CHILDREN / ADULTS / ELDERLY	PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES	FEMALE-HEADED HOUSEHOLDS	REQUIREMENTS
114K	114K	48 49 3	17K	1K	\$93.6M

This multi-sectoral Herat Earthquake Response Plan requires approximately \$93.6 million to support 114,000 earthquake-affected people in Herat. Assistance is urgently required to address the critical, time-sensitive needs of the most vulnerable populations throughout the winter months in earthquake affected areas. In the immediate aftermath of the earthquakes, affected families are in urgent need of temporary shelter, food and cash assistance, safe water and WASH supplies, as well as emergency healthcare and protection. With the harsh winter months fast approaching, families will need transitional shelter assistance, winter clothing, warm blankets, and heating materials to avert exposure to extremely cold temperatures.

The humanitarian needs, response activities, and financial requirements outlined in this response plan will be absorbed into the 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), which already accounts for 150,000 people being affected by natural disasters this year. Prior to the earthquakes, 26,000 people had been impacted by floods so far in 2023. Should additional needs emerge, they will be incorporated into the forthcoming 2024 HRP. This earthquake response plan also acknowledges the important role that basic human needs actors will need to play in providing longer-term recovery support to affected households, and thus focuses on the provision of immediate, life-saving assistance.

Context and Needs Overview

Between 7 and 15 October, four powerful (6.3 magnitude) earthquakes struck Herat Province, affecting 1.6 million people with high intensity shaking (MMI 6+) and leaving at least 114,000 in urgent need of humanitarian assistance. Preliminary assessments show that the first two earthquakes on 7 and 11 October left 1,480 people dead and 1,950 wounded, with available satellite imagery indicating that 289 villages were very highly (11), highly (110) or moderately (168) impacted. An estimated 30 new villages across two districts were affected by the 15 October earthquake, with assessments ongoing.

To date, nearly 43,400 people across six districts are reported to be directly affected by the recent earthquakes, with Injil and Zinjadin districts worst affected. More than half of all earthquake-affected people are in Injil, with the majority of the more than 3,330 destroyed homes assessed to date located in Zinjadin. Schools, health facilities, and other infrastructure also impacted by the earthquakes, with 21,300 buildings estimated to have sustained damage. Following the earthquakes, families are living in the open, in makeshift

shelters, or in informal settlement sites, leaving them vulnerable to weather, health and other protection hazards.

The earthquakes have struck vulnerable communities – which are already grappling with decades of conflict and under-development – and left them with little resilience to cope with multiple simultaneous shocks. They come at the start of Afghanistan's lean season and immediately before winter, when households' food resources are most constrained or depleted. Extensive damage to water and sanitation points has raised concerns of disease outbreaks, particularly acute watery diarrhoea (AWD). Immediate investment into activities to detect and prevent the spread of AWD and other infectious diseases will be critical. With damage to schools and community-based education facilities, children need to safely resume education. Protection support is also needed, particularly for vulnerable groups such as women and children, the elderly, and people with disabilities.



Humanitarian partners are coordinating with the de-facto authorities (DfA), including the Provincial Governor, the Ministry of Economy, the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation, and the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA), as well as their respective departments at the sub-national level. UN and NGO agencies have mobilized relief items to affected areas and are concurrently conducting multi-sectoral needs assessments. Initial relief assistance provided includes emergency shelter and basic household items; provision of trauma care, referrals to the medical facilities, provision of the medical kits/supplies and equipment, as well as mental health and psychosocial support services; therapeutic and supplementary feeding for those acutely malnourished, as well as malnutrition screenings; dignity kits; water trucking, latrine construction, and hygiene kits; as well as food commodities and cash packages.

Methodology

The impact of the earthquake and the scale of needs has been determined through a combination of analysis of the overlapping shaking exposure from the three earthquakes with a focus on areas affected by strong (MMI 6) and very strong (MMI 7) shaking. This was compared with the number of mud/brick houses that were most vulnerable to collapse to understand the overall exposure. Data from real time satellite imagery that showed the extent of damage (moderate, high, severe) in specific villages was then used to prioritize on the ground assessments. Based on the assessments completed as of 16 October, the number of people impacted has been projected. Assessments and additional satellite analysis from the third earthquake are ongoing as of 16 October and this response plan may be updated to reflect updated figures as the extent and severity of damage in all affected areas is verified.

Response by Sector

Education

PEOPLE IN NEED	PLANNED REACH	% CHILDREN / ADULTS / ELDERLY	FEMALE-HEADED HOUSEHOLDS	REQUIREMENTS
13k	13k	100 0 0	-	\$1.8m

Overall, nearly 13,000 children will be targeted with emergency education assistance to ensure children can continue to go to school despite the earthquakes. The earthquakes destroyed at least 21 schools, as well as an estimated 70 community-based education facilities. Immediate needs include setting up 500 tents to create temporary learning spaces and replacing teaching and learning materials—such as textbooks, teaching and learning kits, and recreation kits. In the longer term, the education cluster will reconstruct and rehabilitate more than 20 destroyed schools to ensure children are able to safely access education.

ACTIVITY	PLANNED REACH (# OF PEOPLE)	UNIT COST (US\$)	REQUIREMENTS (US\$)
Purchase and installation of High Performance Tents	500	\$850	\$425,000
Student kits (1 kit is used by 20 students)	640	\$85	\$54,400
Teacher kits	500	\$14	\$7,000
Floor mats	500	\$60	\$30,000
White boards	1,000	\$14	\$14,000
Hand-washing stations	500	\$80	\$40,000
School rehabilitation	30	\$35,000	\$1,050,000
Transportation/ storage/ logistics	1	\$199,500	\$199,500
Total:			\$1,819,900

Emergency Shelter and NFI

PEOPLE IN NEED	PLANNED REACH	% CHILDREN / ADULTS / ELDERLY	FEMALE-HEADED HOUSEHOLDS	REQUIREMENTS
94k	56k	48 49 3	400	\$40.2m

The earthquakes damaged or destroyed more than 7,165 homes across 9 districts, leaving at least 56,000 people in need of urgent shelter assistance and non-food items before the onset of winter. More than three quarters of destroyed homes are within two districts, while more than 21,300 buildings are damaged. The majority of affected homes were mud structures that are highly prone to earthquake damage, while a subsequent dust storm on 12 October destroyed several hundred tents. As a result, many families are in makeshift shelters or informal sites, with many afraid to return to their homes due to the persistent aftershocks. Affected households urgently need emergency shelter or rental support, as well as household items, and winter supplies like blankets, clothing, and heating materials. Reconstruction and technical support are also needed so families can repair damaged homes safely. Further, transitional and long term shelter support that is earthquake resistant will be needed for houses that are completely destroyed – this amounts to nearly half of the financial requirements for shelter.

ACTIVITY	PLANNED REACH (# OF PEOPLE)	UNIT COST (US\$)	REQUIREMENTS (US\$)
Technical damage assessment	8,000	\$10	\$108,000
Provision of debris removal kits	5,900	\$160	\$1,274,400
Provision of NFI / household items (NFIs)	8,000	\$131	\$1,414,800
Provision of emergency shelter repair toolkits	8,000	\$50	\$540,000
Provision of emergency shelters (including tents, 2 pc of plastic tarpaulin and graveling)	8,000	\$500	\$5,400,000

ACTIVITY	PLANNED REACH (# OF PEOPLE)	UNIT COST (US\$)	REQUIREMENTS (US\$)
Provision of tent winterization kits	8,000	\$152	\$1,641,600
Provision of blankets	8,000	\$57	\$615,600
Provision of heating / fuel	8,000	\$200	\$2,160,000
Provision of winter clothing	8,000	\$74	\$799,200
Provision of temporary rental assistance (3 months) for displaced families with fully damaged houses.	2,000	\$165	\$445,500
Management of 3 service hubs in Herat including wet feeding, information sharing, staffing, administration related services.	3	\$165,000	\$668,250
CCCM Mobile teams for 3 months	6	\$72,000	\$583,200
Support establish committee including personal, equipment, transport and training	350	\$2,500	\$1,181,250
Providing access to transitional shelter solutions for people who have lost their homes (individuals with severely and completely damaged houses), incorporating seismic resistant measures during construction.	5,900	\$2,620	\$20,868,300
Providing access to shelter minor and major repair assistance (through cash for shelter or in-kind), incorporating seismic resistant measures during construction.	2,100	\$655	\$1,856,925
Provide cash for rent assistance for displaced families with fully damaged houses	400	\$660	\$356,400

ACTIVITY	PLANNED REACH (# OF PEOPLE)	UNIT COST (US\$)	REQUIREMENTS (US\$)
Support to responders (partners, local authorities, and communities) through meaningful coordination and building technical capacities (owner-driven construction and built back better and safer)	1	\$250,000	\$337,500
Total:			\$40,250,925

Food Security and Agriculture

PEOPLE IN NEED	PLANNED REACH	% CHILDREN / ADULTS / ELDERLY	FEMALE-HEADED HOUSEHOLDS	REQUIREMENTS
106K	106K	48 49 3	759	\$24.3M

More than 106,000 people require food security and agriculture assistance following the earthquakes, which have reduced families' ability to access food and adversely impacted their livelihoods. Food assistance has been identified as a priority, with families in need of hot meals, high energy biscuits, mixed food commodities, and cash. Further, many households lost winter supplies for livestock as a result of the earthquakes and require animal feed and other support.

ACTIVITY	PLANNED REACH (# OF PEOPLE)	UNIT COST (US\$)	REQUIREMENTS (US\$)
Provide unconditional, nutrition-sensitive food assistance to vulnerable people	106,304	\$77.35	\$8,222,689
Provide conditional, nutrition-sensitive and gender-transformative livelihood support to vulnerable people	25,725	\$49.16	\$1,264,705

ACTIVITY	PLANNED REACH (# OF PEOPLE)	UNIT COST (US\$)	REQUIREMENTS (US\$)
Provide nutrition-specific assistance to vulnerable women, boys and girls to prevent and treat acute malnutrition.	73,500	\$125.06	\$9,191,792
Provide common beneficiary identity management services, pass-through Cash Transfer Services, supply chain, ICT, facilities and information management and provision services to partners to promote effective field operations	205,529	\$0.83	\$169,758
Provide emergency livestock protection assistance to vulnerable people	28,000	\$160.00	\$4,480,000
Provide conditional, short term income and critical irrigation services assistance to vulnerable people	14,000	\$70.00	\$980,000
Total:			\$24,308,944

Health

PEOPLE IN NEED	PLANNED REACH	% CHILDREN / ADULTS / ELDERLY	FEMALE-HEADED HOUSEHOLDS	REQUIREMENTS
114k	114k	48 49 3	-	\$7.9M

An estimated 114,000 people are in need of urgent health assistance following the earthquakes, which injured more than 1,800 people. At least 21 health facilities across nine districts were damaged, as well as damage to the Herat Regional Hospital, resulting in severe disruptions in access to health services for an estimated 580,000 people. The earthquakes generated needs for health services including trauma care and physical rehabilitation, as well as mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS). Further support is needed to provide medical supplies and equipment, provide essential primary health care services, and repair

damaged health facilities to ensure continued access to health services. The earthquakes also increased the risk of communicable diseases due to insufficient shelter and sanitation, raising the need for disease outbreak prevention, detection, and response. Overall, the Health Cluster will target 114,000 people directly with assistance, while working to restore critical services across the affected areas.

ACTIVITY	PLANNED REACH (# OF PEOPLE)	UNIT COST (US\$)	REQUIREMENTS (US\$)
Provision of essential primary health care services including reproductive and child health and treatment of non-communicable diseases	114,000	\$17.40	\$1,983,600
Provision and support to MHPSS services	30,000	\$20	\$600,000
Procurement and distribution of medicines, medical supplies, diagnostics, equipment	1	\$1	\$2,000,000
Communicable diseases outbreak prevention, detection and response	15,000	\$30	\$450,000
Support trauma care and physical rehabilitation services	5,000	\$162	\$807,500
Rehabilitation of damaged primary health facilities	21	\$75,000	\$1,575,000
Rehabilitation of damaged hospital	1	\$500,000	\$500,000
Total:			\$7,916,100

Nutrition

PEOPLE IN NEED	PLANNED REACH	% CHILDREN / ADULTS / ELDERLY	FEMALE-HEADED HOUSEHOLDS	REQUIREMENTS
19k	19k	69 31 0	137	\$930k

In the wake of the earthquakes, more than 19,000 people are in need of nutrition services, with a particularly strong impact on children under the age of five. Although the full extent of this impact may not yet be visible, the disruption of essential health services and limited access to markets is making the nutrition situation worse. Compounding these concerns are psychosocial risks and the unsolicited distribution of Breast Milk Substitute (BMS), which may significantly affect infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices. The response activities in the nutrition sector include the detection and treatment of acute malnutrition in children under five and pregnant or lactating women (PLW). Additionally, immediate steps need to be taken to prevent acute malnutrition through the provision of supplementary food and essential micro-nutrients, accompanied by counselling on IYCF practices. There are notable gaps in the existing response, with services for treating moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) unavailable at some of the static and mobile service delivery points.

ACTIVITY	PLANNED REACH (# OF PEOPLE)	UNIT COST (US\$)	REQUIREMENTS (US\$)
Number of girls and boys aged 6-59 months with SAM who are admitted for treatment	958	\$79	\$75,682
Number of girls and boys aged 6-59 months with MAM who are admitted for treatment	3,920	\$32	\$125,440
Number of Pregnant and lactating women with AM who are admitted for treatment	2,955	\$85	\$251,175
Number of breastfeeding corners established	23	\$1,100	\$25,300
Number of service delivery points with SBC materials displayed	23	\$220	\$5,060

ACTIVITY	PLANNED REACH (# OF PEOPLE)	UNIT COST (US\$)	REQUIREMENTS (US\$)
Number of under-five girls and boys provided with specialized nutritious foods (BSFP)	8,311	\$32	\$265,952
Number of PLW provided with specialized nutritious foods (BSFP)	2,975	\$61	\$181,475
Total:			\$930,084

Protection

PEOPLE IN NEED	PLANNED REACH	% CHILDREN / ADULTS / ELDERLY	FEMALE-HEADED HOUSEHOLDS	REQUIREMENTS
114k	100k	55 44 1	814	\$8.4m

SUB-SECTOR	PEOPLE IN NEED	PLANNED REACH	REQUIREMENTS (US\$)
General Protection	114,000	28,500	\$1,607,400
Child Protection	114,000	67,634	\$3,064,120
Gender-Based Violence	67,146	57,242	\$3,279,587
Housing, Land and Property	59,166	15,787	\$434,085

A significant number of people, at least 69,000 people, urgently require protection assistance in the aftermath of the recent earthquakes in Herat Province, with a particular focus on the vulnerabilities of women and children. Notably, there are at least 245 unaccompanied children, resulting from the loss of parents, caregivers, or other family members. Children that are out-of-school due to the earthquake are prone to child protection risks until their education

needs are addressed. Furthermore, the temporary and limited shelters pose protection risks to the safety and security of women and girls. To address these pressing concerns, response activities entail the distribution of dignity kits, the provision of mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) to women, children, and men, cash assistance for protection, solar lighting, the establishment of child friendly spaces (CFS), support for lost identification (tazkiras), land and property rights and other interventions

General Protection

ACTIVITY	PLANNED REACH (# OF PEOPLE)	UNIT COST (US\$)	REQUIREMENTS (US\$)
Provision of lamps	2,850	\$64.00	\$182,400
Cash assistance to vulnerable	2,850	\$340.00	\$969,000
Legal counseling and documentation	2,850	\$30.00	\$85,500
Provision of Psycho-Social Support (PSS) counseling	2,850	\$30.00	\$85,500
Awareness, community based activities	28,500	\$10.00	\$285,000
Total:			\$1,607,400

Child Protection

ACTIVITY	PLANNED REACH (# OF PEOPLE)	UNIT COST (US\$)	REQUIREMENTS (US\$)
Activities at Child Friendly Spaces	54,834	\$30	\$1,645,020
Establishment of CFS	30	\$150	\$4,500
Referrals for Specialized MH services.	3,838	\$20	\$76,768
Case management; FTR	200	\$120	\$24,000
Case management; Alternative care	200	\$220	\$44,000

ACTIVITY	PLANNED REACH (# OF PEOPLE)	UNIT COST (US\$)	REQUIREMENTS (US\$)
Case management; Plus cash assistance	1,000	\$140	\$140,000
Case management; Registration.	2,000	\$50	\$100,000
Case management; Winter kits for children	10,000	\$90	\$900,000
CP information messaging & engagement	29,583	\$4	\$118,332
Capacity building for Humanitarian workers	100	\$85	\$8,500
Capacity building for Community volunteers	120	\$25	\$3,000
Total:			\$3,064,120

Gender-Based Violence

ACTIVITY	PLANNED REACH (# OF PEOPLE)	UNIT COST (US\$)	REQUIREMENTS (US\$)
Distribution of Dignity Kit: 55% of girls & 100% of women except elderly (-3%)	42,693	\$45	\$1,921,185
Wellbeing support for women and girls	29,412	\$27	\$794,124
Multi-sectoral response (including transportation cost)	11,021	\$32	\$564,278
Total:			\$3,279,587

Housing, Land and Property

ACTIVITY	PLANNED REACH (# OF PEOPLE)	UNIT COST (US\$)	REQUIREMENTS (US\$)
Information on HLP rights	15,000	\$11	\$165,000
Counseling on HLP rights	420	\$17	\$7,140
Legal assistance on HLP rights	665	\$33	\$21,945
Communal HLP Rights	15,000	\$16	\$240,000
Total:			\$434,085

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

PEOPLE IN NEED	PLANNED REACH	% CHILDREN / ADULTS / ELDERLY	FEMALE-HEADED HOUSEHOLDS	REQUIREMENTS
114k	114k	48 49 3	814	\$9.5M

A total of 114,000 people are estimated to have WASH needs as a result of the three earthquakes since 7 October. The earthquakes' impact has been particularly severe, leading to substantial damage to essential water points and sanitation facilities in the affected districts, increasing the potential for disease outbreaks. To address these urgent requirements, key response activities in the WASH sector include the provision of emergency water supply, the establishment of emergency latrines, and distribution of WASH kits with items such as bathing buckets, reservoirs, jerry cans, and soap bars.

ACTIVITY	PLANNED REACH (# OF PEOPLE)	UNIT COST (US\$)	REQUIREMENTS (US\$)
Provision of safe drinking water at community level (hand pumps, boreholes and wells rehabilitation or construction, water systems and networks rehabilitation and water trucking as last resort).	114,000	\$24	\$2,736,000
Provision of gender-appropriate emergency latrines and bathroom facilities.	114,000	\$17	\$1,938,000
Hygiene promotion messages, improved practices and essential WASH supplies.	114,000	\$6	\$684,000
Prepositioning and distribution of essential WASH NFIs	114,000	\$20	\$2,280,000
Provision WASH services in HCF	30,418	\$23	\$699,611
AWD Response	114,000	\$10	\$1,140,000
Total:			\$9,477,611

Coordination and Common Services

Support is required for common service spaces and accommodation, as some office buildings and facilities have been damaged, as well as for damage assessments for existing infrastructure in light of the repeated earthquakes and aftershocks. Costs for building and facility repair are still being assessed and are not included in this appeal. Additional support for Emergency Telecommunications (ETC), logistics, warehousing, UNHAS and other elements may be required as the situation evolves. Assessments are ongoing, but additional support for specialized or expanded assessments may be required.

Cross-cutting issues

The **Accountability to Affected People (AAP) Working Group** has developed key messages on where affected people can access humanitarian services and is working with local media and other channels to disseminate life-saving information. They are also working to collect feedback on the response from those receiving assistance. The **Gender in Humanitarian Action (GiHA) Working Group** is working to ensure that women are engaged in the response and are effectively reached, including through a Gender Alert highlighting key gender trends

relevant for the earthquake response, as well as key messages for engagement with authorities to support women staff's participation in the current response. Additionally, the **Disability Inclusion Working Group** has provided a technical Guidance Note for Emergency Assistance to support humanitarian actors with disability inclusive programming. Finally, the **PSEA Network** has established a joint emergency task force, which is leading a rapid SEA risk assessment and conducting training for first responders, as well as launching an Awaaz helpline for PSEA focal points to ensure access to referral pathways.



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