



**Earthquakes in the Kunar, Nangarhar, and
Laghman Provinces, Afghanistan 2025**

Joint Rapid Recovery Needs Assessment

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY | October 2025





FOREWORD

The devastating earthquakes that struck eastern Afghanistan on 31 August 2025 have left deep scars on lives, livelihoods, and critical infrastructure across Kunar, Nangarhar, and Laghman provinces. In the face of immense loss, the resilience and determination of affected communities stand as a testament to Afghanistan's enduring strength.

This Joint Rapid Recovery Needs Assessment (JRRNA), undertaken by the United Nations, the World Bank, the European Union, and the Asian Development Bank, provides an evidence-based overview of the damages, losses, and recovery needs arising from the disaster. It offers an essential foundation for collective recovery planning: one that rebuilds what has been lost and does so in a way that is safer, more inclusive, and more resilient to future shocks.

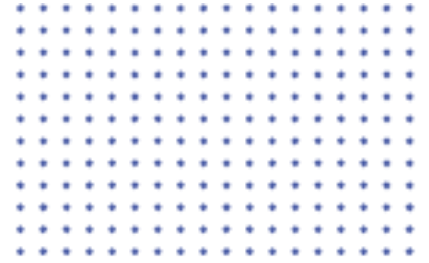
The report underscores the urgent need to support resilient recovery, restore livelihoods, and rebuild homes and essential services, with a particular focus on the needs of women, children, and the most vulnerable groups. The United Nations and its partners remain committed to working alongside national and local actors, communities, and international partners to translate these findings into tangible recovery and resilience outcomes.

Through collaboration, local leadership, and sustained support, Afghanistan can emerge from this tragedy stronger, more united, and better equipped to face the challenges ahead.

Mr. Indrika Ratwatte

Deputy Special Representative for Afghanistan with the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator

KEY HIGHLIGHTS



On August 31, 2025, a series of **6.0-magnitude earthquakes struck Kunar, Nangarhar, and Laghman provinces in eastern Afghanistan**. The earthquakes rank among the deadliest in the country’s history: **1,992 people lost their lives** (including 1,022 women), **3,631 people sustained injuries** (including 1,830 women), and more than **8,300 houses were destroyed** or severely damaged.

A Joint Rapid Recovery Needs Assessment (JRRNA) was conducted from mid-September to the end of October 2025 by the United Nations System in Afghanistan, the European Union, the Asian Development Bank, and the World Bank to provide a credible, time-bound, and evidence-based assessment of the damages, losses, and recovery needs across key sectors.

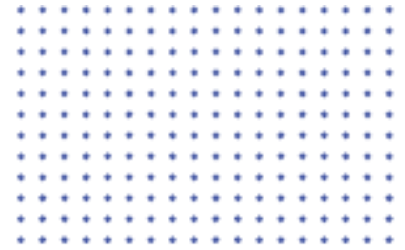
The earthquakes and subsequent aftershocks have inflicted an **estimated US\$86.6 million in damages and losses** across 10 assessed districts. **Recovery and reconstruction needs are projected at US\$128.8 million over three years.**¹

- **Housing** is the worst-affected sector, with more than 6,200 homes completely collapsed and over 2,000 severely damaged, displacing thousands of households across the three provinces. As many **micro-enterprises** are operated from within homes, the destruction of housing has disrupted livelihoods and reduced household income. Recovery efforts should prioritize an owner-driven reconstruction approach that incorporates hazard-resistant designs, supported by technical assistance, training for local builders, and targeted assistance for women-headed households. Housing recovery needs are estimated at US\$54 million.
- **Critical infrastructure and basic services** have been severely affected, reducing access to healthcare, disrupting learning, and increasing risks for already vulnerable groups. The earthquake damaged 22 health facilities and 80 schools (of which 8 fully collapsed). Recovery efforts should prioritize the rapid restoration of healthcare services (estimated at US\$10 million) and safe learning environments (estimated at US\$14 million).
- **Agriculture, livestock, and home-based micro enterprises** are the backbone of the local economies in the affected areas. Meeting the estimated US\$23 million recovery needs in the productive sectors is vital to restore crops, livestock, and irrigation systems, and to rehabilitate damaged micro, small, and medium enterprises in carpentry, tailoring, and food processing.
- **Water, energy and transport systems** also suffered significant disruption: damaged water points and sanitation facilities have increased disease risks; household-level and micro-grid energy systems have been lost; and damaged rural roads have restricted access to markets, services, and relief. Recovery needs across these sectors are estimated at US\$19.1 million. Poor pre-existing road conditions pose a significant risk to recovery across sectors by limiting access.

Importantly, **women and girls** were disproportionately affected, accounting for more than half of all deaths, injuries, and missing persons. It will be absolutely vital to engage women in the design and implementation of recovery activities in culturally appropriate ways and to prioritise support to women-headed households. Recovery programming will also need to include measures to enable women staff to participate in implementation, including by providing adequate transport and mahram arrangements.

All **recovery activities** will be guided by principles of local leadership and community ownership, conflict sensitivity, gender-responsive and disability-inclusive programming, particularly in areas hosting displaced and returnee families. A build back better approach is needed to ensure that restored systems are safer, more sustainable, and better prepared for future shocks. A coordinated recovery approach is essential to avoid disjointed interventions that could result in duplicated efforts, gaps in support, and ultimately erosion of community trust and long-term resilience.

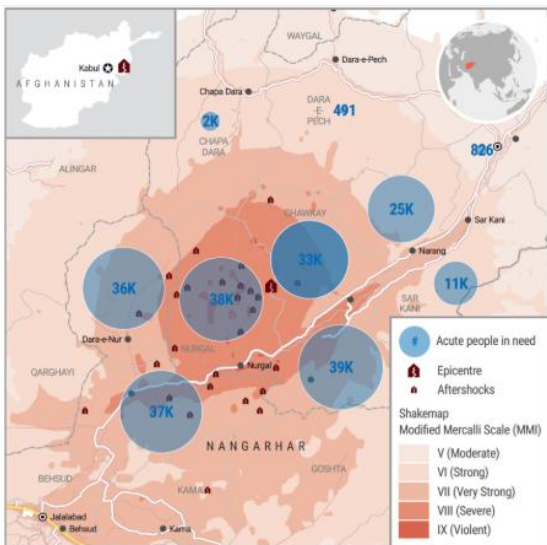
INTRODUCTION



On **August 31, 2025**, at 23:47 local time, a 6.0 magnitude earthquake struck the eastern region of Afghanistan. Following the earthquakes, the United Nations (UN), with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as PDNA Technical Lead, the European Union (EU), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), and the World Bank (WB) and launched a Joint Rapid Recovery Needs Assessment (JRRNA)² with the overall participation of 14 international organizations³. The JRRNA was launched to quickly generate a reliable, evidence-based assessment of damages, losses, and recovery needs in the most affected provinces of eastern Afghanistan, guiding recovery planning. This report captures the findings of the JRRNA.

Disaster events

Followed by aftershocks on 2 and 4 September, the earthquake caused considerable destruction across the **Kunar, Nangarhar and Laghman provinces** in Eastern Afghanistan. The epicentre was located in Nurgal District, approximately 45 km north of Jalalabad and 12 km north of Nurgal City. The earthquake was particularly destructive due to its shallow depth of 8-10 km, combined with the prevalence of houses made of dry masonry, stone and timber in mountainous topography with minimal seismic resistance. Heavy rainfall in the preceding days had weakened the ground, contributing to rock and landslides, which compounded the earthquake's impact, as did its timing during the night, when most people were at home and asleep or resting.



The earthquakes rank among the deadliest in Afghanistan's history. More than **1,992 people lost their lives** (1,022 women), 3,631 people sustained injuries (1,830 women), and more than **8,200 houses were destroyed or severely damaged**.⁴

The JRRNA estimates that **more than 56,000 families were affected**. An overwhelming majority of these families are located in the Kunar province.

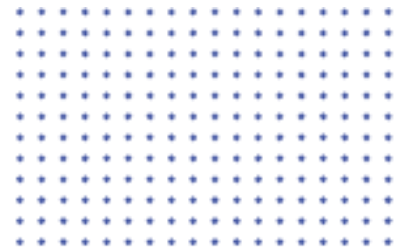
The most affected districts include Nurgal, Chawkey, Khas Kunar, Narang, Sarkani, Chapa Dara, Dara-e-Pech and Watapur (Kunar province); Dara-e-Nur (Nangarhar province) and Alingar (Laghman province).

Image source: OCHA Afghanistan.

Humanitarian response

The Afghanistan Eastern Region Earthquake Response Plan, led by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), has estimated humanitarian assistance needs at **US\$139.6 million** to meet the critical, time-sensitive needs of the most affected and vulnerable populations from September to December 2025. Almost **half a million (498,800) people require humanitarian assistance**, with the coordinated response targeting approximately 456,000 people in high-intensity impact areas (MMI 5+). The sectors identified with the highest needs in dollar amounts are Emergency Shelter & NFI (\$49.8m) and Food Security and Agriculture (\$32.4m), followed by WASH (\$18.8m). **Humanitarian relief has reached at least 141,000 people** with different forms of targeted support, including food assistance, non-food items (NFIs), winter clothing and blankets, health services and/or safe water supplies.⁵ The scale of the disaster requires strategic coordination to effectively link and transition from humanitarian response to early recovery, building back better, and helping people resume their disrupted lives.

JRRNA OBJECTIVES, SCOPE AND TIMELINE



The **objective** of the JRRNA was to produce a credible, time-bound, evidence-based assessment of the damages, losses, and recovery needs across key sectors in the three affected provinces of Kunar, Nangarhar and Laghman to inform resilient recovery interventions⁶ in the aftermath of the 31 August 2025 earthquakes that can take forward and complement the humanitarian response efforts.

The **geographical scope** of the JRRNA encompassed 10 districts, as follows: Nurgal, Chawkay, Khas Kunar, Narang, Sarkani, Chapa Dara, Dara-e-Pech, Watapur (Kunar Province), Dara-e-Nur (Nangarhar Province), and Alingar (Laghman Province).

The **sectoral scope** of the JRRNA encompassed analysis of human impact and the following eight sectors: Health; Education; WASH; Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation; Commerce, Industry and Livelihoods; Transport, Energy, and Housing. The **timeline** of the JRRNA spanned from its initiation on 22 September 2025 to the finalisation of its results at the end of October 2025.

The earthquakes that struck eastern Afghanistan on August 31, 2025, and subsequent aftershocks have inflicted an estimated US\$86.8 million in damages and losses across 10 assessed districts in Kunar, Nangarhar, and Laghman provinces.

Damages: US\$ 68.7 million

Losses: US\$ 18.1 million

Needs: US\$ 128.8 million

Recovery and reconstruction needs are US\$128.8 million over three years, with US\$59 million required for early recovery interventions in the first 12 months to prevent a slide into deeper poverty and protracted displacement.

Note: Losses were calculated for 5 out of the 8 sectors (Housing, Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, WASH, Energy, Commerce, Industry, and Livelihoods).

The highest requirements are in the social sectors (62% of total needs), followed by productive sectors (20%), infrastructure sectors (15%) and human impact (3%).

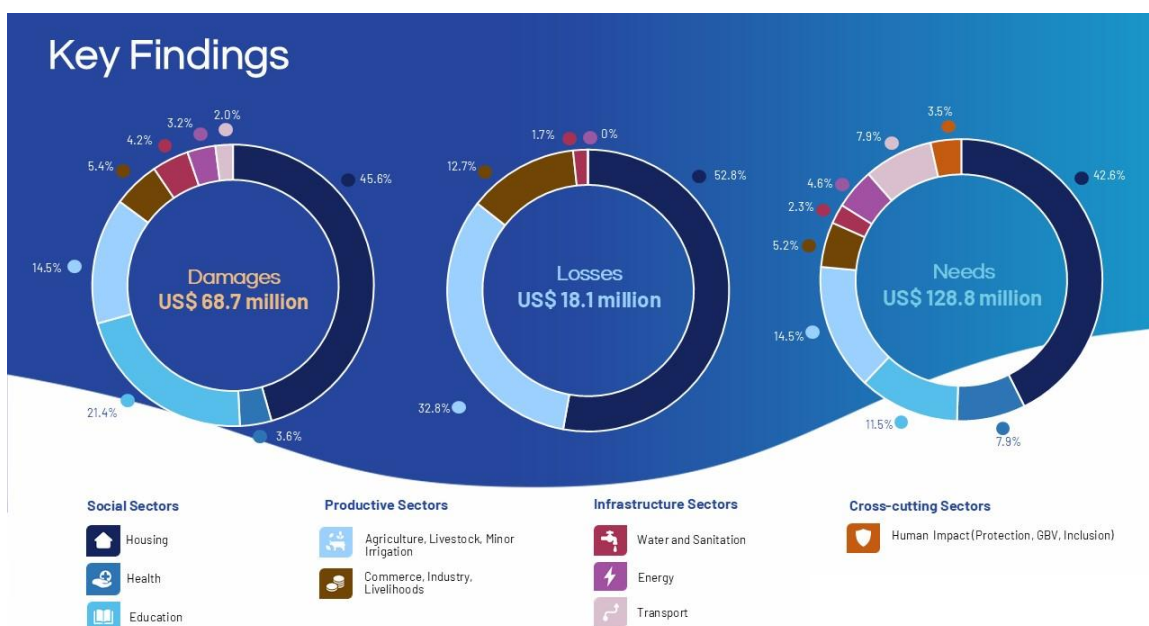


Figure 1: Summary of Aggregated Damages, Losses and Recovery Needs Estimated by the JRRNA

Figure 2: Sectoral Summary of Damages, Losses and Recovery Needs Estimated by the JRRNA

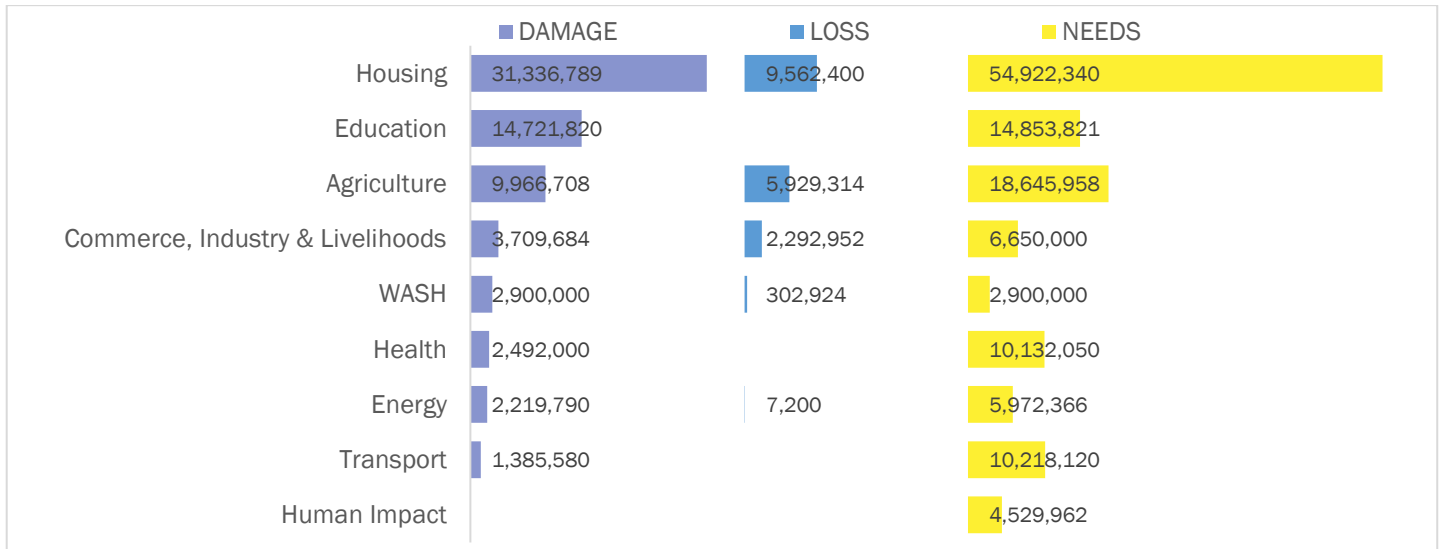
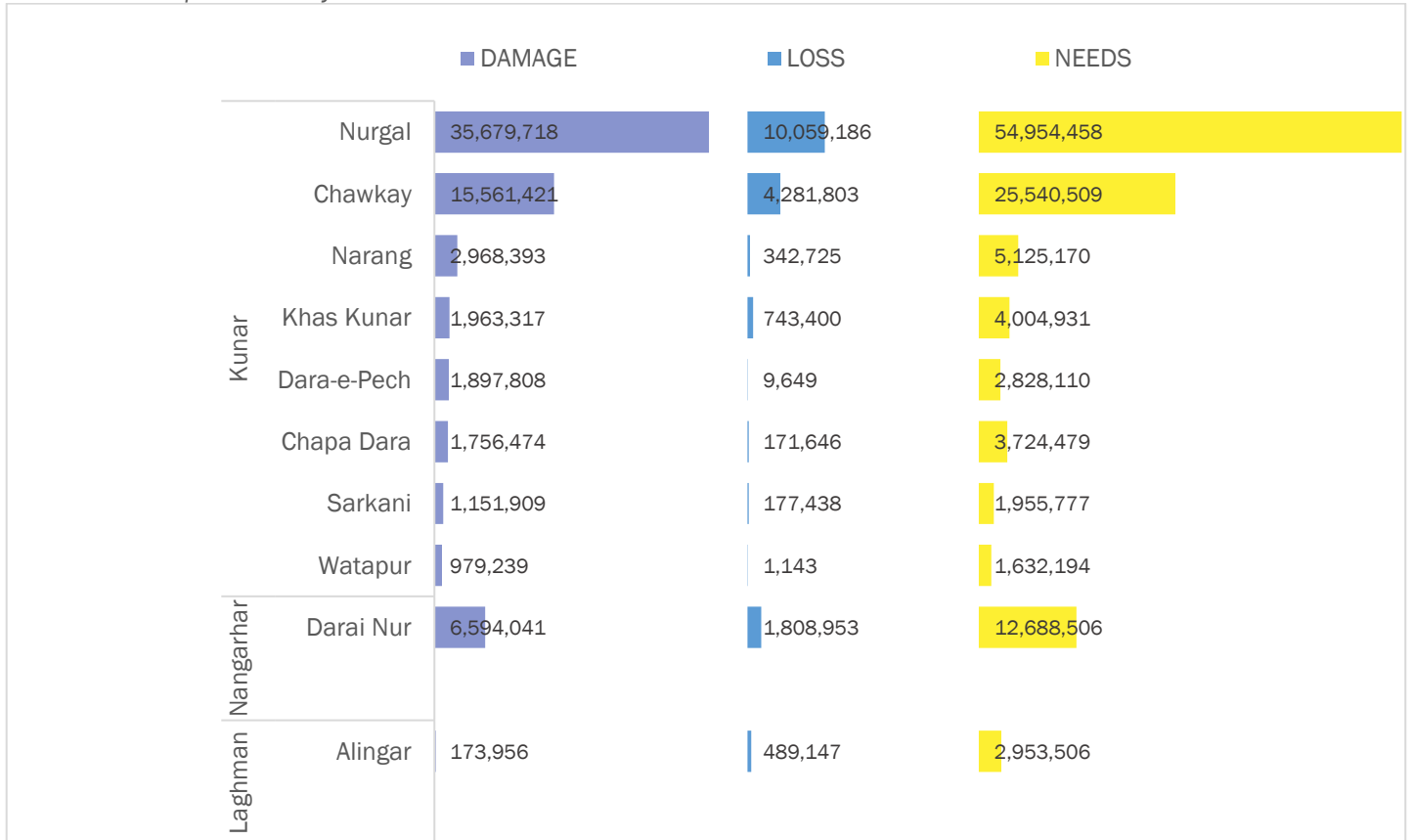


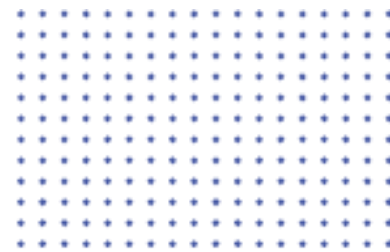
Figure 3: District-level Summary of Damages, Losses and Recovery Needs Estimated by the JRRNA

Note: These estimates do not include recovery needs estimates for the health sector as these were not broken down at district-level. Human Impact recovery needs are not included either for the same reason.



SOCIAL SECTORS

Housing | Health | Education



Housing

The total impact on the housing sector is estimated at US\$40.9 million in damage and losses, with damage estimated at US\$31.3 million, primarily due to the complete destruction of houses. The losses of US\$9.6 million include costs for site clearance, salvage, and transitional shelters. Most damaged housing units are vernacular rural structures typical in the region, built with earthen masonry material and often with animals on the ground floor and people using the second floors above. A total of 6,267 houses completely collapsed, 2,042 sustained significant damage, and 69 suffered minor damage. The worst-affected districts were Nurgal (4,551 completely destroyed houses) and Chawkay (1,047 completely destroyed and 794 with major damage).

The recovery and reconstruction needs for the housing sector amount to an estimated **US\$54.9 million**, which includes site clearance, reconstruction of core houses, major repairs and retrofitting, transitional shelters, socio-technical facilitation, and reconstruction of animal shelters. In the short term (within 12 months), it is recommended to focus on site clearance and transitional shelters (US\$ 19.7 million); in the medium term (12-36 months), on an owner-driven reconstruction model (US\$ 26.4 million); and in the long term (36-60 months), to drive completion emphasizing quality assurance, training, and maintenance (US\$ 8.8 million).

Health

The total impact on the health sector is estimated at US\$2.5 million, comprising of damages to a total of 22 health facilities. Losses were not calculated for this sector. Of the 22 health facilities, 21 sustained partial damage, while one facility, the Arit Sub-Health Centre in Nurgal District, was fully destroyed. Damage was highly concentrated in Kunar province, which accounted for 20 damaged facilities, affecting referral pathways and continuity of care.⁷ Damage to health facilities has reduced access to essential services, particularly for women and girls.

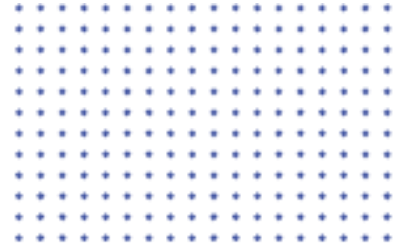
The recovery and reconstruction needs for the health sector are estimated to total **US\$10.13 million**. Most of the needs are concentrated in the short term (within 12 months) for the restoration of service delivery (US\$5.4 million) allocated to four critical lines of effort: rehabilitating and reconstructing damaged facilities; sustaining primary health care through fixed and mobile teams, procuring essential medical supplies, and strengthening disease surveillance. Medium-term (12-24 months) recovery needs amount to US\$3.3 million, and the long-term (24-36 months) recovery needs amount to US\$1.5 million.

Education

The total impact on the education sector is estimated at US\$14.8 million in damages. Losses were not calculated for this sector. A total of 8 schools completely collapsed, and 72 schools sustained partial damage. The majority of collapsed and partially damaged schools are in the Nurgal and Chawkay districts. Damage included destroyed boundary walls, classrooms, and WASH facilities. Prior to the disaster, the affected areas hosted 351 schools (185 primary, 61 secondary, and 105 high schools) serving 216,002 students and employing 3,700 teachers⁸.

The recovery and reconstruction needs for the education sector are estimated at **US\$14.9 million**. The immediate priority is to restore learning continuity, with a focus on primary and high schools that serve the largest number of students, particularly girls. In the short term (within 12 months), efforts should focus on rehabilitating 70% of affected primary and high schools, including structural repairs, WASH, and solar system restoration, as well as debris removal, estimated at US\$6.55 million. In the medium term (12-24 months), the remaining 30% of affected schools could be reconstructed with 'build back better' features at an estimated cost of US\$4.75 million. In the long term (24-36 months), recovery programmes should rehabilitate and reconstruct secondary schools at an estimated cost of US\$3.55 million.

PRODUCTIVE SECTORS



Agriculture, Livestock & Irrigation | Commerce, Industry & Livelihoods

Agriculture, Livestock & Irrigation

The total impact on the agriculture, livestock and irrigation sector is estimated at US\$15.8 million, with US\$9.9 million in damages and US\$5.9 million in losses. Kunar province accounts for the largest share of this impact (US\$8.96 million in damages and US\$4.03 million in losses). Approximately 1,600 hectares of farmland were affected, while 1,900 fruit trees were damaged or uprooted. Significant livestock mortality and destruction of animal shelters further undermined rural livelihoods, particularly for women-headed households that rely heavily on dairy and small livestock. The resulting decline in milk, cheese, and ghee production, along with the loss of breeding animals, has sharply reduced household income and nutrition. About 7,500 grain storage units were destroyed, and widespread damage to irrigation pumps, solar panels, feed, and seed stocks was identified.

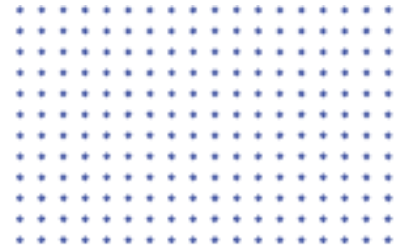
The recovery and reconstruction needs for the agriculture, livestock and irrigation sector are estimated at **US\$18.64 million**, with approximately 70% required in the first year to stabilize production and protect livelihoods. Immediate priorities include livestock restocking, rehabilitation of animal shelters, replacement of productive assets, and restoration of irrigation systems. Women, who play a central role in crop cultivation, livestock care, and food processing, have been disproportionately affected; therefore, the recovery strategy should prioritize women-headed and smallholder households to ensure that livelihood assistance, inputs, and training reach those most at risk. Long-term efforts (within 36 months) should strengthen resilience and sustainability by promoting climate-smart agriculture, watershed and landscape restoration, and diversified livelihood value chains supported through community-based associations.

Commerce, Industry & Livelihoods

The total impact on the commerce, industry and livelihoods sector is estimated at US\$6 million, mainly from the collapse of home-based economic activity linked to housing destruction, with US\$3.7 million in damages and US\$2.3 million in losses. Pre-earthquake livelihoods in the affected region depended on subsistence agriculture, livestock, carpentry, and home-based micro-enterprises such as weaving, tailoring, and food processing. Business activity was largely informal, with limited access to markets or financial resources. The worst-affected areas were Nurgal, Kunar and Dara-e-Nur, Nangarhar, where production networks, especially women’s weaving hubs in Dar-e-Nur, were disrupted. Only 7% of women worked outside the home before the earthquake, leaving them disproportionately affected; most lost assets, income, and mobility. Recovery efforts should focus on restoring productive assets, reviving micro- and small-enterprise activities, and revitalizing local markets, while ensuring strong gender integration.

The recovery and reconstruction needs for the commerce, industry and livelihoods sector are estimated at **US\$6.65 million**, combining cash-for-work, input replacement, enterprise rehabilitation, and women’s cooperative and market-linkage support to rebuild incomes, enhance resilience, and promote inclusive, sustainable local economic recovery. Livelihoods interventions must therefore include technical assistance for women’s economic reactivation covering business skills, market linkages, and psychosocial support to help female-headed households and women entrepreneurs rebuild confidence and re-enter production networks. The recovery is closely linked to owner-driven household recovery and cash-for-work restoration activities across energy, transport, agriculture, and livestock.

INFRASTRUCTURE SECTORS



Transport | Energy | Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Transport

The total impact on the transport sector has been estimated at US\$1.4 million in damages (of which 1.25 million is for fully damaged roads and US\$134,000 is for partially damaged roads). Losses were not calculated for this sector. The sector assessment focused on assessing the condition and functionality of access roads,⁹ revealing that out of a network of 663km, mainly unpaved secondary (393km) and tertiary (270km) access roads, 25km have been fully or partially damaged. Although the damage estimates are relatively low, it is observed that a key challenge for recovery across all sectors will be the poor pre-existing state of access roads. This suggests that investments in improving the broader road network and village connectivity should be considered in recovery programming.

The recovery and reconstruction needs for the transport sector are estimated at **US\$10.2 million**. Recovery planning emphasizes a multi-stage implementation approach combining immediate accessibility restoration with long-term infrastructure strengthening and climate adaptation for the damaged segments of roads. In the short term (up to 12 months, US \$5.1 million), emergency works need to focus on restoring damaged road sections and applying 'build back better' techniques to clear debris, stabilize slopes, construct some critical structures, widen the roadways, and reopen access for aid delivery and recovery operations. In the medium term (12–24 months, US\$4.1 million), rehabilitation efforts need to strengthen these repairs through slope stabilization, drainage, and pavement improvements to ensure durable and resilient access. In the long term (24–36 months, US\$1 million), reconstruction should focus on upgrading road surfaces with asphalt and crushed aggregate, achieving sustainable, all-weather connectivity that meets national safety and quality standards.

Energy

The total impact on the energy sector is US\$2.21 million, with total damages at US\$2.2 million and total losses amounting to US\$7,200. The damages resulted primarily from the collapse of residential structures, which led to the destruction of household-level solar energy systems, cooking and heating infrastructure, and, to an extent, community micro-hydropower plants (MHPs). Prior to the disaster, most communities were off-grid, relying on small solar units, diesel generators, and biomass fuels, with limited access to the DABS electricity network. Out of 25,593 households assessed, it is estimated that a total of 8,309 households sustained damage to their household solar systems. 20 community-operated micro-hydropower (MHP) plants were additionally destroyed in the Nurgal district of Kunar province,

The recovery and reconstruction needs for the energy sector are estimated at **US\$5.97 million**. In the short term (within 12 months), the focus should remain on ensuring households regain access to basic lighting, heating, and cooking by deploying improved cookstoves, establishing briquette and biomass supply chains (US\$1.66 million). As reconstruction progresses (12–36 months), investment could shift toward village-level solar mini-grids, solar PV systems for households and LPG or electric cooking systems integrated into rebuilt homes and community facilities, estimated at US\$3.69 million. Strengthening operation and maintenance mechanisms and community-based capacity building to manage these systems locally within this same timeframe is estimated at US\$0.07 million. Finally, refurbishment of MHPs in the long term is estimated to cost US\$0.62 million.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

The total impact in the WASH sector is US\$3.2 million, with damages totalling US\$2.9 million and losses amounting to US\$302,924. Approximately 75 public water supply systems across the 10 districts were damaged or destroyed, including boreholes with hand pumps and pipe schemes with electrical, gravity-fed, or solar-powered pumps. Damage to water points and sanitation facilities has led to a reliance on unsafe water sources and contributed to open defecation, thereby increasing the likelihood of disease outbreaks. A total of 6,269 acute watery diarrhoea cases with dehydration have been reported across Kunar, Laghman, and Nangarhar.

The total recovery needs for public water supply systems are estimated at **US\$2.9 million**, phased over 24 months, bearing in mind that household sanitation is costed under the Housing sector, and institutional WASH under Education and Health sectors. Immediate actions (within 12 months) are costed at US\$640,000 and include rehabilitation of water supply networks and upgrading of water wells. Medium-term recovery actions (12-24 months) are costed at US\$2.6 million in order to rehabilitate and upgrade damaged systems, including upgrading boreholes with handpumps to solar-powered public tap systems, repairing gravity-fed, solar, and electrical pipe schemes, rehabilitating reservoirs, improving water harvesting, and strengthening community operation and maintenance capacity.

HUMAN IMPACT

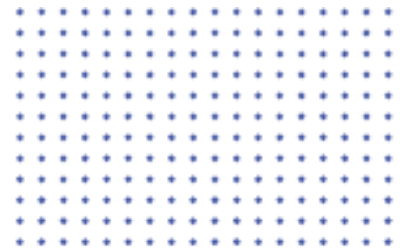
Protection, women’s participation, gender-based violence prevention and inclusion

As detailed above, the earthquake caused severe localized damage in Kunar, Laghman, and Nangarhar, destroying homes, farms, schools, and clinics, and displacing thousands. Women and girls were disproportionately affected, accounting for over half of the deaths, injuries, and missing persons. Displacement remains extensive, with over 7,700 families now in five sites across Nurgal, Khas Kunar, and Chawkay. While most remain near their original dwellings, only 23.2% are still in their pre-earthquake shelters, and the majority intend to stay through the winter. While damages and losses were not calculated for this sector, the scale of displacement, disruption of livelihoods, loss of essential services and pre-existing inequalities underscore the profound human toll.

In addition, as of 9 October 2025, an estimated 2.17 million Afghans have returned to Afghanistan from Iran and Pakistan this year, over 60% of whom are children¹⁰, many settling in the same eastern provinces now devastated by the earthquakes, and intensifying pressure on already limited infrastructure, livelihoods, and social support systems.

The proposed recovery interventions to address critical human impact considerations not captured in sectors outlined above amount to an estimated **US\$4.5 million**, covering a mix of short-, medium-, and long-term activities that address various protection, women’s participation, gender-based violence (GBV) and inclusion considerations. Short-term priorities include providing access to protection services with a focus on women and children, psychosocial first aid, legal assistance, GBV case management, and initial disability inclusion assessments. Medium-term activities emphasize rebuilding and reinforcing social systems through child protection case management and mental health and psychosocial support, vocational and educational reintegration for adolescents, and capacity building of frontline recovery workers on gender, disability, and protection mainstreaming. Longer-term investments target sustainable inclusion through continued cash assistance for high-risk individuals, gender and protection monitoring, and ongoing community engagement to ensure women’s mobility, participation, and leadership in recovery process.

RECOVERY STRATEGY



Recovery Vision: Achieving an inclusive and resilient recovery for the earthquake-affected communities of Kunar, Nangarhar, and Laghman Provinces by adopting a locally-led and integrated approach, fostering community resilience to climate and disaster risks, and ensuring the equitable development of communities and their livelihoods.

Guiding Principles

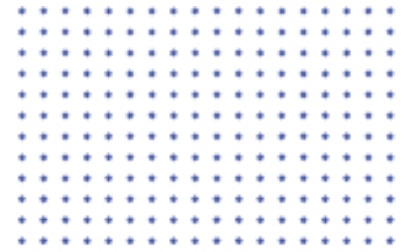
- Prioritize the urgent recovery needs of the most affected populations and vulnerable groups, including women, children, persons with disabilities, and displaced households.
- Tailor recovery efforts to the specific socio-political, cultural, and economic context of each affected district to ensure relevance and effectiveness.
- Deliver recovery outcomes that are efficient, equitable, conflict-sensitive, and transparent, with mechanisms to promote accountability and social cohesion.
- Promote inclusive recovery programming by recognizing and addressing the distinct needs and vulnerabilities of diverse demographic groups.
- Establish robust coordination and monitoring mechanisms to ensure coherence across sectors and stakeholders, and to enable adaptive management.
- Build resilient infrastructure that integrates disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation measures to withstand future shocks.
- Integrate nature-based and climate-smart approaches into recovery interventions to enhance sustainability and protect ecosystems and livelihoods.
- Embed the build back better principle across all recovery actions to ensure that reconstruction improves safety, inclusivity, and resilience.
- Ensure gender-responsive recovery programming by supporting women’s leadership, access to services and livelihoods, and addressing gender-specific risks such as GBV.

Recovery Pillars

Recovery Pillar 1	Recovery Pillar 2	Recovery Pillar 3
Restore resilient housing, infrastructure, and energy systems	Recover and enhance local economies and sustainable livelihoods	Building community resilience against shocks and crises
This recovery pillar focuses on rebuilding safer homes, restoring community connectivity, and expanding access to energy. Housing anchors the effort through inclusive, owner-driven reconstruction. Rehabilitating damaged transport networks and prioritizing targeted road investment will support service delivery and resilience, while decentralized renewable energy systems will ensure reliable electricity, clean cooking, and heating for households and small enterprises in earthquake-affected areas.	This pillar focuses on helping households regain income by restoring agricultural production, livestock assets, and micro- and small-enterprises that form the backbone of the local economy. Early recovery will prioritize support to smallholder farmers, herders and household-based and informal enterprises. Women, who are central to agriculture and home-based production and who have experienced disproportionate loss of assets and income, will be prioritized through tailored training and programming.	The objective of this pillar is to strengthen the resilience of affected communities against future shocks. Critical community infrastructure—including schools, health facilities, and water and sanitation facilities—will be restored with long term resilience and inclusion objectives in mind.



METHODOLOGY



Approach

The JRRNA used a rapid, mixed-methods approach aligned with the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) framework, widely recognized as the global standard for post-disaster assessment. The process unfolded from 22 September to the end of October 2025, and included a sector-by-sector desk review, consolidating baseline and post-earthquake information from humanitarian partners, satellite imagery, and recent assessments, including MSRAF and GRADE. This helped avoid duplication and identify key data gaps. Targeted field data collection followed in the hardest-hit districts, including household surveys in 44 villages (349 households), interviews with over 100 business owners, specialist field assessments (engineering, architectural, gender expertise), and focus group discussions with affected women and men.

Data was triangulated and analysed using the damage, loss, and recovery needs framework to quantify asset destruction and determine recovery needs. Due to pre-earthquake baseline data gaps, loss estimation could not be completed consistently across all sectors, though it was possible for five sectors. Findings were validated in a technical workshop on 21 October 2025 to ensure accuracy and relevance for recovery planning, and the report was finalized by the end of October 2025.

Limitations

The assessment faced multiple limitations, including time constraints, security risks, and restricted access to remote high-impact areas. Damaged roads and insecurity hindered fieldwork, increasing reliance on secondary data and key informants. Connectivity disruptions, such as a 48-hour internet blackout across the country, further delayed data collection and communication across teams.

The lack of pre-disaster baseline data limited the ability to compare conditions before and after the earthquake, requiring the use of proxy indicators and assumptions that reduced accuracy. Sectoral data was often fragmented, outdated, or not disaggregated by gender, age, or vulnerability status. The short timeline also constrained the depth of analysis. Despite these challenges, triangulation across data sources, expert validation, and community input helped ensure that the resulting estimates provide a credible foundation for prioritizing early recovery and reconstruction interventions.

Data Sources

- HeRAMS health data, complemented by key informant interviews and focus group discussions in 37 villages and 3 IDP sites
- Education Management Information System (2024)
- IOM, Eastern Earthquake Mobility Intentions Survey, 2025
- IOM, Afghanistan Climate Vulnerability Assessment (ACVA) Dataset, 2025
- UNHCR, Afghan Returns from Iran and Pakistan – Emergency Update #1
- OCHA, Eastern Region Earthquake Situation Update (25th September, 2025)
- Multi-Sector Rapid Assessment Form (MSRAF) Analysis (18 September 2025)
- Eastern Region Earthquake Response Plan (September–December 2025)
- NSIA, Population Estimates by Province and District (2025–2026)
- UNDP, Afghanistan Socio-Economic Review: Fragile Gains, Deepening Subsistence Insecurity (2025)
- Gender Alert: Needs of Women and Girls after the Eastern Afghanistan Earthquake (11 September 2025)
- IOM/Shelter Cluster, Household Surveys covering 349 households in 44 villages for JRRNA (October 2025)
- UNFPA Baseline Study and Mapping Exercise on Vulnerability and Access to Services for Women and Girls in Afghanistan
- UN Women, Focus Group Discussions with Women in Affected Areas (October 2025)
- Various field assessments by participating agencies (September–October 2025)
- Afghanistan Protection Cluster Rapid Needs Assessment, 2025

Endnotes

¹ As defined in the PDNA methodology, damages are the value of totally or partially destroyed physical assets (e.g., buildings, infrastructure, equipment), measured as the cost of repair or replacement at market prices prevailing just before the disaster. Losses are defined as the value of changes in economic flows caused by the disaster (e.g., declines in production/output, higher operating costs, reduced access to services) until full recovery is achieved. And Recovery Needs are defined as the cost of recovery, reconstruction and build back better measures required to restore the affected area (or sector) at least to the pre-disaster level and/or to improve resilience above that baseline.

² This report should be cited as: *United Nations, World Bank, European Union, Asian Development Bank 2025. Joint Rapid Recovery Needs Assessment following the Earthquakes in the Kunar, Nangarhar and Laghman Provinces, Afghanistan. Executive Summary.*

³ UNDP, ADB, WB, IOM, UN-Habitat, UNWOMEN, WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNESCO, ILO, FAO, UNOPS.

⁴ Sources for these figures are: (1) Multi-sector Rapid Assessment Form Analysis as of 18 September 2025 accessed [here](#); (3) OCHA. 2025. Eastern Region Earthquake Response Plan, September - December 2025, accessed [here](#); and (3) [Housing damage figure cited comes from the findings of this report.](#)

⁵ OCHA. 2025. Afghanistan Eastern Region Earthquake Situation Update No. 8 accessed on Reliefweb.int

⁶ The standard timeline for recovery interventions for the JRRNA was defined as follows: short term (up to 12 months); medium term (12–24 months); long term (24–36 months). This was applied to all sectors except for Housing, which defined medium term as 12-36 months and long term as 36 to 60 months.

⁷ The health sector assessment used HeRAMS data complemented by key informant interviews and focus group discussions in 37 villages and three IDP settlements.

⁸ Baseline data has been obtained from EMIS 2024.

⁹ This assessment comprised field assessments, community consultations, engagement with local authorities, and desk review of existing data and reports

¹⁰ Returnees from Iran and Pakistan: IOM/UNHCR; Border Consortium Response: Border Consortium Sitrep; Humanitarian Response: Clusters inputs as of October 2025 via OCHA; Durable Solutions (BHN): Durable Solutions Secretariat and Regional DSWGs.

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