

**500k**People affected  
(early estimates, pending confirmed figures)**5.6k**Households targeted  
with initial UNHCR  
emergency support**60k**People targeted with  
protection support  
(initial estimates)

## OVERVIEW

On 31 August, a devastating magnitude six earthquake [hit the eastern region of Afghanistan](#), with aftershocks felt as far as Kabul and Islamabad. While rescue operations are still underway, estimates point to over **1,400 killed, some 3,200 injured**, and potentially hundreds of thousands affected. Entire villages are destroyed, with early reports of 5,400 homes reduced to rubble.

As part of the inter-agency response, UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, and humanitarian partners have rushed to the worst-hit areas to help relief efforts. An inter-agency rapid needs assessment is underway, and UNHCR stands ready to respond as part of the coordinated humanitarian effort.

The earthquake is a crisis upon a crisis. The provinces most affected are close to the border with Pakistan which is seeing thousands of Afghans returning or being forced to return every day. Since the start of 2025, about 2.5 million Afghans have returned from neighbouring countries, often under duress. [Many of those returning from Pakistan have gone to earthquake-affected areas.](#)

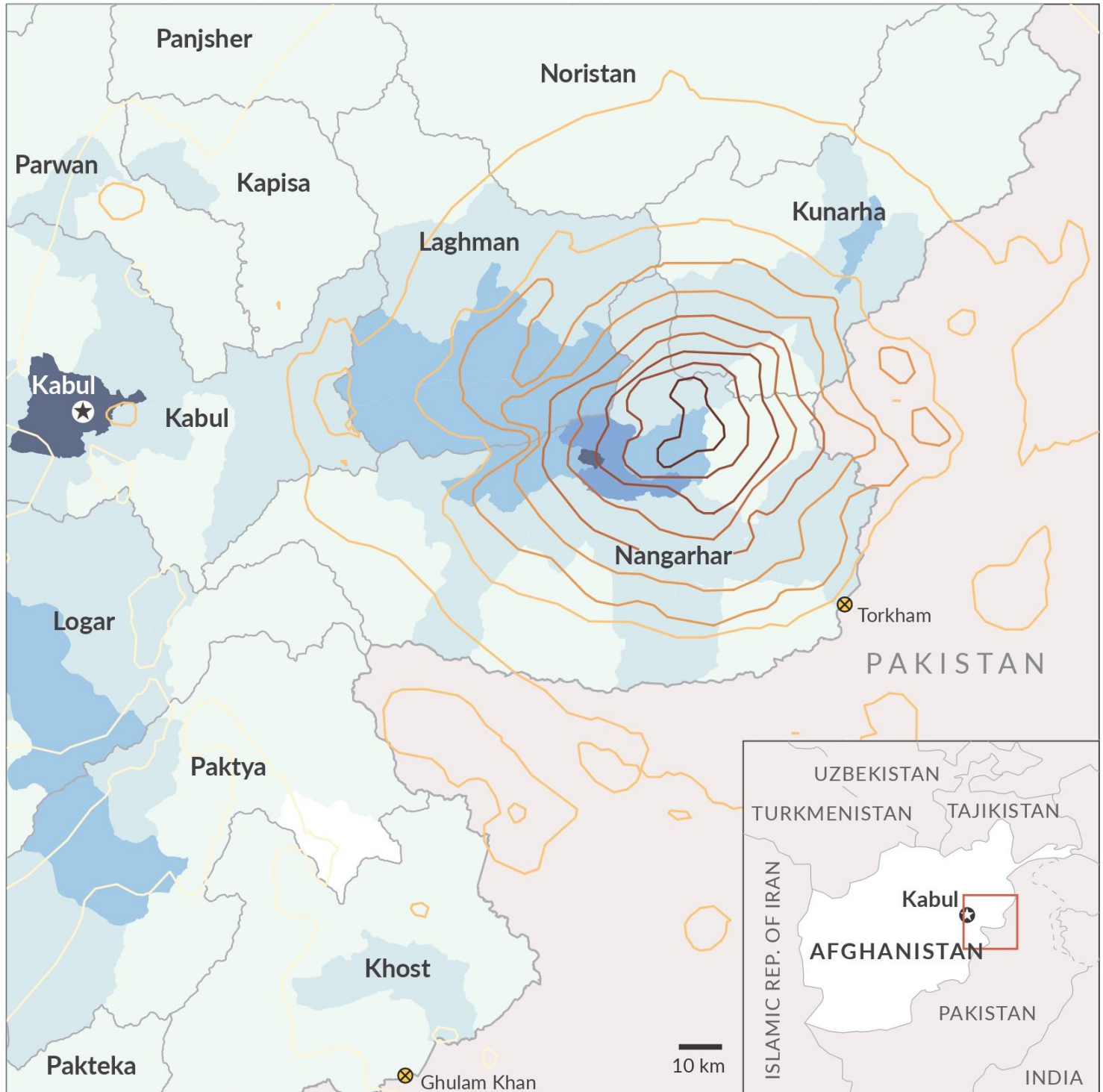
## RESPONSE

Afghanistan is not prepared to face these compounding crises, and urgent support is needed. Access by road remains challenging. UNHCR's initial response is focused on meeting the most urgent needs and we are deploying essential relief items from stockpiles in Kabul and Jalalabad. This will initially assist some **5,600 affected households**. UNHCR and partners plan to also urgently expand protection activities ongoing in these areas, including provision of urgent cash support to returnees, strengthening community outreach volunteers, protection activities for women and children, legal assistance, and mental health and psychosocial support.

## INITIAL URGENT RESOURCES DEPLOYED

**3,150** blankets**1,330** jerry cans**720** gas cookers**21,770** solar lamps**5,770** plastic tarpaulins**5,690** family tents

## Earthquake shaking intensity and areas of return of Afghan returnees from Pakistan in 2025



Shaking intensity: ◀ Weak Severe ▶      Official crossing points: ✕

2025 Afghan Returns from Pakistan: <1K 1-5K 5-15K 15-30K >30K