AFGHANISTAN
Pre-earthquake needs and implications for the earthquake response in Balkh and Samangan provinces

ACAPS ANALYSIS HUB AFGHANISTAN
Thematic Report
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EARTHQUAKE OVERVIEW

At 01:00 on 3 November 2025, a magnitude 6.3 earthquake struck northern Afghanistan at a depth of 28km, with its epicentre around 22km southeast of Khulm town, Samangan province, and 30km southeast of Mazar-e-Sharif city, Balkh province. The worst-affected provinces were Balkh and Samangan (ECHO 06/11/2025; DW 03/11/2025; BBC 03/11/2025). In Balkh province, the most affected districts were Charkent, Chemtal, Keshendeh, Marmul, Mazar-e-Sharif and Sholgareh, while in Samangan province, the most affected districts were Aybak, Feroz Nakhchir, Khulm,[1] and Hazrat-e-Sultan (Health Cluster 05/11/2025; OCHA 10/11/2025 a).

By 10 November, 26 people had died, including 13 men, six women, and six children (sex and age of the 26th person unavailable). 12 were in Balkh, 13 in Samangan, and one in Saripul. 1,172 people had been injured (sex and age disaggregation unavailable), mostly in Balkh (635) and Samangan (421) (OCHA 10/11/2025 a; IOM 09/11/2025). Overall, up to 110,000 people were exposed to very strong shaking and 1.53 million to strong shaking (ECHO 03/11/2025).

By the same date, assessments reported 874 destroyed and 2,153 damaged homes, with the worst impacts in Samangan province, including Aybak, Feroz Nakhchir, and Khulm districts (WHO 07/11/2025; OCHA 10/11/2025 a). There were 21 partially damaged health facilities (nine in Balkh, 13 in Samangan), and patient influxes were overwhelming functional health facilities, particularly Khulm District Hospital, which lacked space and supplies (WHO 07/11/2025). The earthquake also damaged 18 water sources, leaving nine communities with inadequate water and nine with poor water quality. By 6 November, 11 communities had no access to latrines, and 14 were forced to practise open defecation (UNICEF 06/11/2025). The damage and destruction of WASH facilities, along with limited access to healthcare, increase the risk of waterborne disease spread in affected communities.

Urgent needs include emergency health and trauma support, mental health and psychosocial support, emergency shelter and NFIs (including winterised tents, blankets, tarpaulins, and warm clothing), multipurpose cash assistance, dignity kits, assistive devices for people with disabilities, WASH assistance, and long-term support for repairing and reconstructing homes (OCHA 05/11/2025 and 10/11/2025; IOM 06/11/2025).

By 9 November, many affected people were still yet to receive humanitarian assistance, particularly women, girls, boys, people with disabilities, older people, and people in more remote locations. Barriers included gender norms, the Interim Taliban Authority's restrictions on women and girls, the loss or damage of assistive devices for people with disabilities, a lack of information about available assistance, and insufficient availability of women humanitarian and healthcare workers in the affected communities. (WHO 07/11/2025; IOM 09/11/2025; UNFPA 11/11/2025). Although a 3 November aerial assessment indicated that most roads in affected districts were passable, long distances, the poor quality of roads, and a lack of transportation also posed a barrier to accessing distribution sites (UNICEF 06/11/2025; OCHA 05/11/2025). Electricity remained disrupted in unspecified areas, further hampering emergency operations (Health Cluster 05/11/2025).

Funding cuts and depleted humanitarian supplies and capacity following the 31 August earthquake in the eastern provinces are also impeding the response (IOM 09/11/2025). For more information on the impact of this recent earthquake, see ACAPS' analysis of pre-earthquake needs and implications for the earthquake response in Kunar and Nangahar provinces, as well as the post-earthquake protection risks.

ABOUT THIS PROFILE

Aim

By highlighting the most pressing pre-earthquake humanitarian needs in Balkh and Samangan provinces and indicating how the earthquake may have aggravated these needs, these profiles provide insight into the potential scope and scale of the earthquake's impact, supporting response planning and prioritisation.

Methodology

These profiles are based on a secondary data review using the most recent publicly available sources. All needs-related data is from 2024–2025. The profiles frequently cite the following sources: ACAPS' **No Place to Stay, No Place to Go: Perspectives from Climate-Affected Areas of Balkh Province**, based on interviews and focus group discussions with community

[1] Local media reports indicate that Khulm district, which was previously part of Balkh province, became part of Samangan province in 2022 (ATN 09/08/2022; YJC 09/08/2022). Several sources cited throughout this report that were published after 2022 continue to include Khulm as a district of Balkh province.

members, community representatives, and humanitarian responders in Dehdadi, Nahr Shahi, and Sholgareh districts, Balkh province; Round 2 of IOM's **Afghanistan Climate Vulnerability Assessment** for March–April 2025, based on interviews with community leaders and elders across all Balkh and Samangan districts; and REACH's March 2025 **Humanitarian Situation Monitoring** round, based on interviews with 494 community leaders, professionals, and others across Balkh and 205 across Samangan.

Limitations

This profile does not include information from non-public secondary sources or primary data. The needs analysis is not comprehensive and focuses on sectors and groups with particularly severe precrisis needs.

KEY CONTEXT

Balkh province

Geography, demography, and economy: Balkh province, in northern Afghanistan, is bordered by Baghlan, Jowzjan, Kunduz, Samangan, and Saripul provinces and shares international borders with Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan (MSF 07/04/2022; APW/SAS 02/05/2024). The southern half of Balkh province, including the most earthquake-affected districts, is mountainous or semi-mountainous, while the northern half is flatland. The province is divided into 13 districts with around 1,175 villages. Mazar-e-Sharif city, in Nahr Shahi district, is the fourth-largest city in Afghanistan and a significant economic centre (IOM 22/02/2024; UNHCR 02/09/2024; APW/SAS 02/05/2024; ATN 09/08/2022; YJC 09/08/2022). December 2021 data indicates that agriculture was the chief income-generating activity in all earthquake-affected districts of Balkh except for Mazar-e-Sharif, where manual/unskilled labour was the most commonly reported activity (IOM 22/02/2024).

Balkh province's population of 3.1 million is ethnically diverse, with Tajiks and Pashtuns comprising the main ethnic groups, followed by Uzbeks, Hazaras, Turkmens, Arabs, and Baluchs. Dari is the most widely spoken language (used by about half of the population), followed by Pashto (27%), Turkmeni (11.9%), and Uzbeki (10.7%). Balkh is also home to Kuchis (nomadic communities), whose presence fluctuates seasonally (IOM 20/03/2025; NPS accessed 06/11/2025; APW/SAS 02/05/2024).

Climate and natural hazards: Balkh lies in a semi-arid climatic zone. Average minimum temperatures drop below 0° C from December–January, while precipitation increases in December and peaks in March (WB accessed 06/11/2025; ACAPS 14/08/2025).

Between March 2024 and March 2025, climate-related hazards affected 630,792 people, including 32,402 people displaced, in Balkh province. Drought affected 67% of communities, agricultural pests affected 42%, and flooding affected 37% but accounted for 50% of displacement and caused the most loss and damage (IOM 20/03/2025). By May, Balkh was among the provinces in Afghanistan most affected by precipitation deficits, with critically low soil moisture and deteriorating vegetation health (OCHA 31/05/2025).

Displacement and return: Balkh hosts both climate and conflict IDPs, with 64,380 internal displacements recorded in 2024 and around 18,150 in the first three months of 2025 alone. Mazar-e-Sharif, one of the most earthquake-affected districts, hosted the highest cumulative number of IDPs in Balkh province (around 136,070) between 2021–2024 (IOM 15/07/2025; ACAPS 14/08/2025). Balkh has also seen an influx of returnees from Pakistan and Iran since 2022, with around 64,150 recorded in 2023, nearly 36,800 in 2024, and over 25,650 in the first three months of 2025. Earthquake-affected Mazar-e-Sharif and Sholgareh were among the six districts hosting the highest number of returnees, receiving over 33,300 and 9,845 respectively, between 2021–2024 (IOM 15/07/2025 and 04/08/2022).

Samagan province

Geography, demography, and economy: Samangan province, in northern Afghanistan, is bordered by Baghlan, Balkh, Bamyan, Kunduz, and Saripul provinces (Health Cluster 04/11/2025). It is primarily mountainous and semi-mountainous, with farmland in the east and earthquake-affected northern districts (IOM 22/02/2022). The province is divided into eight districts, of which Aybak is the most urbanised, with around 674 villages across the province (IOM 22/02/2022; NPS accessed 10/11/2025). December 2021 data indicates that manual/unskilled labour was the chief income-generating activity in Samangan, although agriculture, followed by livestock, were the primary activities in earthquake-affected **Feroz Nakhchir** and **Hazrat-e-Sultan** (IOM 14/02/2022). Small-scale mining, particularly of coal, provides supplemental income in some areas. Overall, the economy is largely rural and reliant on natural resources, with many households at risk owing to inadequate infrastructure and limited access to markets (IOM 15/07/2025 and 14/02/2022; Shun Culture 26/05/2024; NPS accessed 12/11/2025).

Samangan province's population of 572,000 is ethnically diverse; the main ethnic groups are Uzbeks, Tajiks, and Pashtuns, followed by Hazaras, Tartars, Turkmens, and Arabs. Dari and Uzbeki are the most widely spoken languages, followed by Pashto (IOM 20/03/2025; GWOT 09/20/2023).

Climate and natural hazards: Average minimum temperatures in Samangan drop below 0° C from November–March, while precipitation increases from November and peaks in March (WB accessed 06/11/2025). Most Samangan districts are classified to be at high or very high risk of drought (IWMI 08/12/2023). Climate change heavily affects Samangan's communities, where the adoption of coping strategies with potentially harmful consequences, such as reduced healthcare expenditure, the withdrawal of children from school, and engagement in high-risk work, is widespread (IOM 02/2025).

Between March 2024 and March 2025, climate-related hazards affected nearly 56,000 people, including around 20,900 people displaced, in Samangan province, which experienced severe drought and heavy flooding. Flooding accounted for most of the infrastructure loss and damage and displacement (IOM 20/03/2025). By the end of May, Samangan was one of the provinces in Afghanistan most affected by widespread precipitation deficits and had experienced a significant deterioration in vegetation conditions (OCHA 31/05/2025).

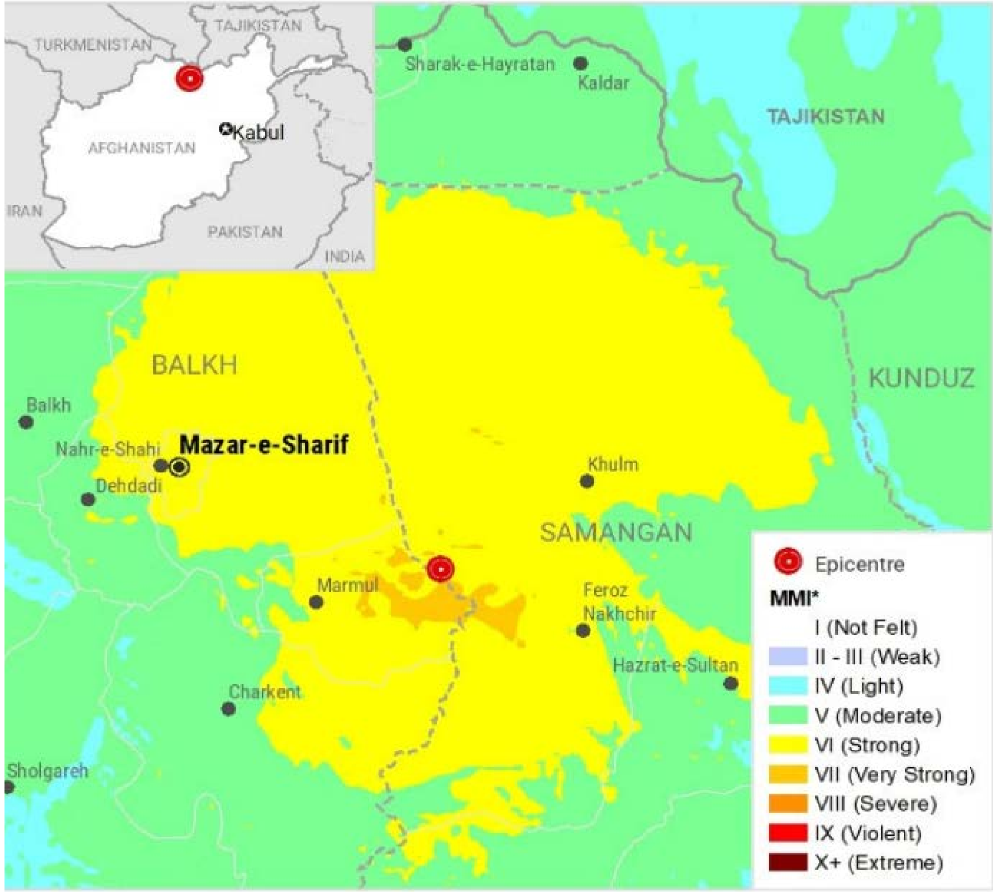
Displacement and return: IOM reported nearly 33,200 internal displacements in Samangan between January 2021–March 2025, over 9,600 of which were recorded in 2024 and nearly 3,900 in the first three months of 2025. Earthquake-affected Hazrat-e-Sultan was the fourth-most affected district, hosting around 2,950 IDPs in this period. Samangan also received around 32,800 returnees from abroad in this period, around 11,680 of whom arrived in 2024 and 8,425 in the first three months of 2025 alone, with earthquake-affected Aybak the most impacted (around 11,945 in this period) (IOM 15/07/2025).

Figure 1. Number of IDPs, IDP returnees, and returnees from abroad in earthquake-affected districts of Balkh and Samangan provinces

IDPS	IDP RETURNEES	RETURNEES FROM ABROAD
9,129	12,032	16,404

Source: IOM (06/11/2025)

Map 1. Intensity of shaking felt in affected areas (Modified Mercalli intensity scale)



Source: OCHA (05/11/2025)

PRE-EARTHQUAKE NEEDS AND POST-EARTHQUAKE IMPLICATIONS

Table 1. Summary of key facts and figures

PRE-EARTHQUAKE NEEDS (2024–2025)	POST-EARTHQUAKE IMPLICATIONS
Shelter and NFIs: low access to adequate shelter, winter clothing, and heating; over 87% of homes made of mud in both provinces	Widespread damage and destruction of mud homes; lack of resources and support to cope with new shelter needs; high exposure to winter weather and increased respiratory disease risk
WASH: high structural damage to water points in Samangan; significant impact of drought in both provinces	The further destruction of water points aggravating water scarcity
Health: 2025 outbreaks of Crimean–Congo haemorrhagic fever and measles in Balkh, and high number of acute respiratory infection pneumonia cases in Samangan; low healthcare access in both	Increasing outbreaks in overcrowded or damaged shelters exposed to dropping temperatures; decreased access to healthcare services, which are overburdened by increased needs
Food and nutrition: 25% of Balkh's population (369,000 people) and 35% of Samangan's (207,200) projected to face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food insecurity until October 2025; high acute malnutrition rates in Balkh	Rising food insecurity and malnutrition as livelihoods are lost and agricultural land is damaged, coinciding with the lean season
Livelihoods: significant impact of drought and floods on agricultural livelihoods in both provinces	Further loss of livelihoods and lack of resources necessary to cope with lost income increasing reliance on coping mechanisms with potentially harmful consequences
Protection: high rates of discrimination against ethnic minorities and other marginalised groups; high rates of gender-based violence (GBV); high reported rates of early marriage (in Sholgareh district, Balkh) and school-age children engaging in employment (in Hazrat-e-Sultan, Samangan)	Risk of discrimination against earthquake IDPs; heightened GBV risk following displacement; risk of increased early marriage and child labour as coping mechanisms with potentially harmful consequences
Education: distance to schools posing a significant barrier to education in Balkh; lack of teachers, education materials, and infrastructure posing a significant barrier in Samangan	Earthquake damage to schools decreasing access to education

Shelter and NFIs

Most homes in both Balkh and Samangan provinces are made of unreinforced mud, at 87% and 98%, respectively, according to a March–April 2025 IOM assessment. These homes are highly vulnerable to both flooding and earthquakes. **This contributed to significant pre-earthquake shelter needs in both provinces,** with around 88% of assessed communities in Balkh and 81% in Samangan reporting no meaningful access to housing and shelter in early 2025 (IOM 15/07/2025; Green Prophet 02/09/2025). The prevalence of mud structures has likely contributed to severe and widespread destruction and damage post-earthquake. Pre-existing shelter needs indicate a lack of resources available to repair earthquake damage, as well as the potential difficulty of sheltering with friends and relatives whose homes were not affected by the earthquake but may be inadequate to accommodate more people.

Interviewees in a February–March 2025 REACH assessment indicated that **most households** in 45% of Balkh communities and 50% of Samangan communities **did not own winter clothing,** while most did not own heating devices in 26% and 22%, respectively (REACH 27/04/2025). Households that do own heating devices often rely on wood or charcoal heaters or dung/biomass and coal, which contribute to air pollution and increase the risk of respiratory disease (IOM 22/02/2024; DW 03/11/2025). The lack of available winter clothing and safe heating options in earthquake-affected communities increases the risk of respiratory diseases among earthquake-displaced people during the winter, as discussed further under Health below.

WASH

Before the earthquake, access to WASH was already limited in Balkh and Samangan provinces, where only 39% and 44% of assessed communities, respectively, reported access to clean drinking water in early 2025 (IOM 15/07/2025). In REACH's February–March assessment, communities in Samagan in particular reported that high rates of structural damage to water sources (in 92% of assessed communities) and an inadequate number of water points (in 71% of assessed communities) contributed to low access (REACH 27/04/2025). The earthquake has likely caused additional damage to these limited water sources, further constraining WASH access.

Persistent drought has contributed to water scarcity in Balkh province in particular, cited by interviewees in 66% of the assessed communities in Balkh from February–March 2025. In recent months, the cumulative impact of drought on access to services, including WASH, and on livelihoods has prompted internal displacement within Balkh (ACAPS 14/08/2025; REACH 27/04/2025). The earthquake's impact on water availability and quality may contribute to further deteriorating health conditions among the affected population, especially IDPs and returnees.

Health

Balkh province was already experiencing an outbreak of Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever (CCHF), accounting for the fourth-highest number of cases (4.8 per 100,000 population) in Afghanistan since the beginning of 2025 (WHO 16/08/2025). CCHF is transmitted from animals to humans through tick bites, contact with infected animal blood and tissues, or human-to-human contact with the bodily fluids of infected people or contaminated medical supplies (WHO 20/02/2025). If collective displacement sites form following the earthquake, potential overcrowding and limited access to WASH may fuel transmission among affected communities. Climate IDPs in Balkh have previously reported concerns about the spread of CCHF in overcrowded conditions (ACAPS 14/08/2025).

In 2024, Balkh province also accounted for one of the **highest measles caseloads** in Afghanistan, contributing to acute malnutrition, including among IDPs (IPC 07/01/2025; ACAPS 14/08/2025). Measles can similarly be expected to spread in overcrowded IDP sites.

Samangan province accounted for the second-highest cumulative incidence of acute respiratory infection pneumonia cases earlier in 2025 (474.0 per 10,000 people), with high rates also reported in Balkh (WHO 26/07/2025). As noted above, there is a high risk of respiratory infections spreading among earthquake-displaced people in inadequate shelters, where they are exposed to winter weather and rely on unsafe heating sources.

Earthquake-affected people who contract these illnesses will likely face limited access to healthcare given prior access barriers in both provinces. Early 2025 assessments indicate that 30% of communities in Balkh province and 25% in Samangan lacked meaningful access to healthcare services (IOM 15/07/2025). Both communities faced shortages of medicines, medical equipment, and qualified healthcare personnel, and healthcare was unaffordable for many families (IOM 15/07/2025; REACH 27/04/2025). In Samangan, interviewees in 35% of the communities assessed by REACH reported significant structural damage to the health facility in their community, which the earthquake may have aggravated (REACH 27/04/2025). In Balkh, Mazar-e-Sharif Regional Hospital was already experiencing severe gaps in supplies and staffing even before the earthquake and the February 2025 US funding cuts, which compounded the situation (MSF 02/07/2025).

Food security

Balkh and Samangan both faced high levels of food insecurity in October, with 25% (369,000) and 35% (207,200) of their respective populations facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse food insecurity levels (IPC 04/06/2025). Food insecurity is likely to increase among earthquake-affected communities, particularly among those who have lost or been displaced from their farmland and livestock, as involvement in agricultural activities has been found to mitigate food insecurity in Afghanistan (FAO 03/06/2024).

Balkh was the only province in Afghanistan to face deteriorating projected child and maternal acute malnutrition between June 2024 and May 2025, worsening from Alert (Phase 2) to Serious (Phase 3) levels. There were nearly 70,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women in Balkh facing acute malnutrition in this period – the third-highest number in Afghanistan. High rates of malnutrition in Balkh are attributable to inadequate dietary intake, disease prevalence (including diarrhoea, acute respiratory infections, and measles), poor access to WASH, and climate hazards (IPC 07/01/2025). Damage to and loss of livelihoods, overcrowding and disease spread in displacement sites, and damaged WASH infrastructure may contribute to the current rise in acute malnutrition in earthquake-affected communities.

Livelihoods

A March 2025 assessment indicates that over 20% (around 185,960) of over 910,700 individuals engaged in livelihoods in Balkh were involved in subsistence farming, 13% (118,816) involved in commercial farming, 60,950 (around 7%) involved in livestock rearing, and the remainder involved in non-agricultural sectors. In Samangan, involvement in agricultural sectors was higher. 43% (70,796) of the 162,774 individuals engaged in livelihoods were involved in subsistence farming, with a high rate of 17.6% (28,785) also involved in livestock rearing (IOM 15/07/2025).

Persistent drought has limited access to agricultural livelihoods in both Balkh and Samangan provinces. In Balkh, displaced farmers and livestock owners have been forced to rely on lower-paying jobs and accept hard daily labour, defined as physically demanding, low-paid, and often unsafe (ACAPS 14/08/2025). In Samangan, an early 2024 FAO survey based on a random sample of nearly 9,500 households across Afghanistan found that nearly 60% of the surveyed households in Samangan had lost their employment in the preceding three months (FAO 03/06/2024).

These prior shocks have likely decreased the resources and savings available to earthquake-affected communities whose land has been damaged and livestock lost, or who are displaced away from their land and livestock. The earthquake struck at the start of the winter wheat planting season, likely affecting families in Balkh and Samangan whose previous year's wheat harvest was already affected by drought (OCHA 19/12/2024).

Protection

Discrimination against ethnic minorities and other marginalised groups is particularly severe in Balkh, Samangan, and other northern provinces, where these groups face discrimination at both the systemic policy level and through localised stigmatisation and denial of access to resources (Protection Cluster 31/10/2025). In REACH's March 2025 assessment, interviewees in 50% of the assessed communities in Balkh province reported that discrimination, including the denial of access to basic services, was a common safety concern – over double the national average of 23% (REACH 27/04/2025). ACAPS' August 2025 study on climate displacement in Balkh province found that female IDPs, child IDPs, IDPs with disabilities, older IDPs, and ethnic minority IDPs experienced very limited access to community support and services in their places of destination, attributed partly to discrimination and cultural and social norms, along with a lack of services tailored to these groups' specific needs (ACAPS 14/08/2025). Following the earthquake, there is a risk that earthquake-displaced women, girls, boys, older people, people with disabilities, and ethnic minorities face similar discrimination and exclusion.

The 2025 Protection Analysis Update also identified **particularly severe needs related to gender-based violence (GBV) in the northern provinces, including Balkh and Samangan.** A significant driver of these needs is the breakdown of formal justice and law enforcement mechanisms, which previously afforded some protection to survivors (Protection Cluster 31/10/2025). Stress resulting from displacement, grief, and the loss of homes and livelihoods, along with a potential lack of safe shelter and GBV services in earthquake-affected communities, may increase the risk of GBV in coming months.

IDPs experiencing unmet needs in Balkh province have previously been forced to rely on coping mechanisms with potentially harmful consequences, including early marriage and hazardous forms of child labour. The August 2025 ACAPS study found that child labour was a recurring theme in interviews and focus group discussions with climate IDPs, as was marriage of children when a family could not meet their basic needs (ACAPS 14/08/2025). In early 2025, 30% of the assessed communities in Balkh reported the presence of married boys or girls under the age of 17. Particularly high rates (47%) were reported in earthquake-affected **Sholgareh district.** Earthquake-affected **Hazrat-e-Sultan,** in Samangan province, reported high rates of **school-age children engaged in employment,** with interviewees in 34% of the assessed communities reporting that half of the school-age children were engaged in employment (REACH 27/04/2025). Whether this employment was potentially hazardous was not specified. Loss of livelihoods and limited access to the protective elements provided by education after the earthquake may increase hazardous forms of child labour and early marriage in both provinces in the coming months.

Forced eviction and repeated displacement have affected climate IDPs in Balkh province, some of whom struggle to afford rental costs, requiring them to displace multiple times within the province (ACAPS 14/08/2025). Earthquake-related displacement may increase competition over rent and rental prices, raising the risk of forced eviction for new IDPs, existing IDPs, and host communities.

Competition over scarce resources **may also contribute to social tensions and community violence.** The August 2025 ACAPS study found that, in Balkh, women IDPs in particular reported community tensions, including among IDPs, between IDPs and returnees, and with host communities, often driven by ethnic tensions and competition over limited resources (ACAPS 14/08/2025).

Education

Access to education for boys and girls (grades one to six) was limited by distance and lack of infrastructure and supplies in both Balkh and Samangan before the earthquake. Distance was a particular barrier in Balkh province, according to REACH's early 2025 assessment, reported in 100% of the assessed communities. A lack of teachers, school furniture, and textbooks was a significant barrier in Samangan, reported by 67% of the communities. **Concerningly, 9% of Balkh's communities reported that fewer than 25% of girls in grades one to six attended school** (REACH 27/04/2025).

Earthquake damage to 91 schools will affect children's access to education. The loss of livelihoods in earthquake-affected families may also increase reliance on child labour, as discussed above, decreasing children's attendance in school. Given previously low rates of school attendance among girls in grades one to six in Balkh province, there may be sociocultural barriers to girls' attendance in temporary learning spaces and child-friendly spaces following the earthquake, as was observed in Kunar province following the August 2025 earthquake (ACAPS 09/11/2025; OCHA 10/11/2025 a).

PRE-EARTHQUAKE HUMANITARIAN ACCESS AND RESPONSE

By September 2025, there were 60 humanitarian organisations reporting across all clusters in Balkh province, with the most providing protection assistance (26), followed by nutrition (22), food security and agriculture assistance (19), emergency shelter and NFIs (16), health (15), WASH (10), and education in emergencies (6) (OCHA 10/11/2025 b).

In Samangan, there were 49 humanitarian organisations reporting across all clusters in September, with the most providing protection assistance (18) and nutrition assistance (18), followed by health (11), food security and agriculture assistance (9), emergency shelter and NFIs (9), and education in emergencies (5). **None were reported to be providing WASH assistance** (OCHA 10/11/2025 b).

In early 2025, fewer than 50% of the assessed communities in Samangan reported that their community was connected to the district centre by paved or asphalt roads. Road access may be easier in Balkh, where 81% of the communities reported asphalt (38%) or paved (43%) roads (IOM 15/07/2025). Winter weather, including flooding and snow, may complicate access to parts of both Balkh and Samangan in the coming months (ActionAid 14/03/2024; PAN 21/02/2024).

Humanitarian operations in both provinces are affected by the increasing enforcement of bans on women from working in NGOs (ACAPS 24/12/2024).

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