

# ***SHELTER-REPORT***

December 2023



Earthquake in Western Afghanistan – how to help?

From Afghanistan to Africa – an encouraging story

**BREAKING NEWS!**

Pakistan forces Afghans out



***SHELTER***

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What moves us !

## SHELTER-REPORT

### Devastating earthquake in western Afghanistan

Several severe earth quakes shook the west of the Afghan province of Herat on Saturday, October 7. According to the Ministry of Disaster Relief in Afghanistan, at least 1,480 people are dead. More than 66,360 people have been affected by the quake. The images we have seen are shocking and deeply distressing. According to reports, 21,500 houses and even entire villages have been completely destroyed. The simple mud houses are not built to resist earthquakes.

The following story has been told to us from Herat:

*A man was out in the field with his donkey and crouched down when the earthquake struck. When he turned around, his village was no longer there, just a field of rubble. "What should I do now?" he said to himself, "Only my donkey and I are left of my family."*

#### How can we help?

When we were informed of the extent of the destruction on Saturday evening - we have employees in Herat - we immediately began with initial considerations and planning. In recent years, we have carried out large-scale food distributions together with the WFP (UN World Food Program), so we have relevant experience in the area. So I decided to start by sending a sum of 60,000 euros to Afghanistan.

We also had to inform the public that we want to and can provide earthquake aid. In other words: put a text on the website, call editors of various newspapers and magazines, prepare and publish a press release, send out an appeal for donations by email, talk to partner organizations.





In a nutshell: **we need financial resources for earthquake aid.**

At the same time, "surveys" had to be carried out in the earthquake region, meaning that our local staff had to go to the earthquake-affected villages and find out what was most urgently needed. To do this, they have traveled to the remote villages in particular, as they usually receive no help in similar situations. Based on the information we receive, we can then decide how to proceed.

But it's not that simple. Coordination meetings must be held under the leadership of the UN to ensure that some villages are not receiving double and triple aid while others are perhaps not receiving any aid at all. In addition to emergency measures such as food, drinking water, clothing... temporary shelters are also urgently needed.



I actually wanted to write something encouraging, but my plan was disrupted by the terrible disasters. So here's the story now. Our former colleague and current consultant Ewald Göttler wrote it down for me:

### From Afghanistan to Central Africa or: Toothache knows no borders

After the Taliban took control of Afghanistan on 15 August 2021, Dr. Zamir, the long-time director of our dental projects in Herat, felt increasingly threatened and looked for ways to leave the country. The disappointment was great when it turned out that the German local staff program (Ortskräfteprogramm) did not open up any opportunities for him. Through an old friend who lives in Uganda as a UN employee, he received an invitation to this country and landed in Kampala on June 6, 2023,

without knowing exactly what his future there would look like. After about 4 weeks, he was sitting in a restaurant with some friends from his home country when he was approached by a stranger from Turkey who had heard from the conversation that Mr. Zamir was a dentist. He told him about the 'Nile International Hospital'; three days later he had his interview, and now he is the head of the dental department and also works part-time in the government hospital as an oral surgeon. But he has further plans: together with the former office manager from Herat, who now lives in Germany, they want to adapt the 'school dentist program' to African conditions. All that is needed now is a donor and the success story from Herat can continue in Africa, because toothache knows no borders, but neither do the remedies for it.

Ewald Göttler, independent consultant in Afghanistan



**The rural dental clinic** in the large central village of Shekiban was opened on September 19 and has been treating patients since that day. Among other things, the same school dentist program will run there as in the recently opened mother-child dental clinic in Herat city. Our employees - especially Ewald Götter - have worked for seven years to prepare this project. And now it finally came to an end!

**In Pakistan**, millions of people are still suffering from the floods last year and this year, as well as from the months of drought in between. With generous support from the International Water Aid Organization IWAO, we are currently able to distribute water filters and tanks to 1,000 families, giving them permanent access to fresh drinking water.



## BREAKING NEWS !!!

While we in Herat are still busy with emergency relief measures for those affected by the earthquake and our partners in Pakistan are carrying out drinking water projects, we receive a new horror report: **Pakistan wants to drive all Afghans out of the country.** The army has already started: Afghans' homes are being destroyed with bulldozers and people are being driven across the border into Afghanistan by force. There they are left with nothing. Many are threatened again. We must and will help them.

## Further News

Only briefly today due to the current situation in Afghanistan:

**The children`s center in Kurdistan** has been successfully expanded. The children are enthusiastically taking over the new rooms, the playground and the covered soccer field.

We would like to thank you for your support and wish you all a peaceful Advent and Christmas season and hopefully a more peaceful 2024.

Udo Stolte and the Shelter Team.

## Your donation

*moves us*

*Please support*

**the Eartquake victims in Herat  
and the displaced people from Pakistan**

How much money?	<b>200 €</b>	<b>75 €</b>	<b>50 €</b>
Project		a familiy	
Project no.		9000	
What do I donate for:	a tent, blankets, food package	Winter clothes and blankets	A food package

### Spendenkonto

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