

# Situation Report on Earthquake Chapurson Valley Upper Hunza

## 1. Executive Summary

Chipurson Valley in Upper Hunza (Gojal), Gilgit-Baltistan, is experiencing a severe humanitarian emergency following months of abnormal seismic activity and a major earthquake on 19 January 2026. Continuous aftershocks, ground instability, and extreme winter temperatures have displaced hundreds of families. This report outlines the situation, impact, response actions, priority needs, and recommendations, and serves as an urgent appeal for humanitarian support.



## Geographic Overview

Chipurson Valley is a remote mountainous region located near the Pakistan–Afghanistan border. The valley consists of scattered villages with limited road access, harsh climatic conditions, and fragile geological formations.

Since late 2025, residents have reported abnormal seismic activity, including frequent tremors, underground sounds, and ground cracking. The earthquake of 19 January 2026 intensified these risks, triggering landslides and structural damage across the valley.

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### 3. Affected Areas

The following villages are severely affected: - Zoodkhun

- Shitmarg
- Ispanj
- Shere Subz
- Rashit
- Kill
- Kirmin

These settlements lie close to active fault lines and unstable slopes, increasing vulnerability to aftershocks and landslides.



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## 4. Affected Population

### 4.1 Population Statistics (Estimated)

- **Total Households:** ~500
- **Average Household Size:** 5 persons
- **Total Affected Population:** ~2,500 individuals

### 4.2 Gender and Vulnerability Breakdown (Approx.)

- Men: ~1,200
- Women: ~1,300
- Children (under 18): ~1,100

- Elderly (60+): ~250
- Widows: ~120
- Persons with Disabilities (PWDs): ~80

Vulnerable groups face heightened risks due to cold exposure, trauma, limited mobility, and lack of access to services.

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## 5. Damage and Impact Assessment

### 5.1 Housing Damage

- Totally Destroyed Houses: ~150
- Partially Damaged / Cracked Houses: Majority of remaining homes
- Many structures declared unsafe due to continuous aftershocks

### 5.2 Displacement

- Families sleeping outdoors or in makeshift shelters
- Limited availability of emergency tents
- Severe overcrowding
- Temperatures reaching  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$  pose life-threatening risks

## 5.3 Infrastructure Damage

- Roads intermittently blocked by landslides
  - Cracks in powerhouse channels and access roads near epicenters
  - Damage to schools, prayer halls, boundary walls, and community buildings
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## 6. Health and Psychosocial Impact

- Injuries reported, including among children
- Increased cases of hypothermia risk
- Psychological trauma, fear, insomnia, and anxiety widespread
- Women and children particularly affected due to ongoing aftershocks

Limited health facilities and difficult access exacerbate medical risks.

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## 7. Humanitarian Response to Date

### 7.1 Community-Led Actions

- Immediate evacuation following aftershocks
- Community sharing of limited shelter resources
- Local volunteers providing basic support

### 7.3 Gaps in Response

- Assistance insufficient compared to scale of needs
- Shortage of winterized shelters and heating support

- Limited medical and psychosocial services
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## 8. Priority Humanitarian Needs

### 8.1 Shelter and Winterization (Top Priority)

- Winterized emergency shelters
- Blankets and quilts
- Warm winter clothing
- Thermal sheets and insulation materials
- Heating devices or fuel support

### 8.2 Health and Medical Support

- Emergency medicines and first aid kits
- Support for chronic patients, elderly, and infants
- Psychological first aid and trauma counseling

### 8.3 Food Assistance

- Emergency food rations for displaced families
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## 9. Protection Concerns

- Exposure of women and children to extreme cold
  - Safety risks due to unstable structures
  - Lack of privacy and dignity in overcrowded shelters
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## 10. Recommendations

- Immediate scale-up of winterized emergency shelter support
- Temporary safe relocation until seismic activity subsides

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## 13. Conclusion

Chipurson Valley is facing an unprecedented seismic crisis compounded by extreme winter conditions. With homes unsafe, ongoing aftershocks, and temperatures below freezing, the situation is life-threatening—especially for vulnerable populations.

Immediate humanitarian intervention, particularly winterized shelter support, is critical to prevent loss of life, prolonged displacement, and long-term social and psychological damage.

**Alkhidmat Foundation Gilgit-Baltistan** urgently appeal to NGOs, humanitarian agencies, and donors for immediate relief, winterization, and recovery support for the people of Chipurson Valley.

Regards

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## 14. Pictorial Evidence





