



AFGHANISTAN HIGH-LEVEL EVENT 2021

HIGH-LEVEL EVENT ON THE HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN



Photo: OCHA/Charlotte Cans

Concept note

3 September

On 13 September, the United Nations will convene a High-Level Ministerial Event on the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan to highlight the acute needs in the country and underscore the urgent funding support and actions required by international partners to support the people of Afghanistan.

The country faces an extremely dire situation and is confronted with protracted conflict, severe drought and the COVID-19 pandemic in a context where some 18 million Afghans – almost half of the population – were already in need of aid. More than 550,000 people have been displaced in the country since January 2021. One in three Afghans is experiencing crisis or emergency level of food insecurity, and more than half of the children under-five are at the brink of acute malnutrition. The severe drought is compounding the humanitarian crisis, and the upcoming winter conditions are expected to be harsh. Humanitarian partners are therefore calling for urgent supplies for the country.

It is crucial for the international community to take swift action to ensure that humanitarian funding to support the people of Afghanistan is scaled up, while remaining flexible and responsive to escalating needs. On 7 September, OCHA will release a Flash Appeal covering the most pressing humanitarian needs and funding requirements for the next four months.

The UN remains committed to deliver impartial humanitarian assistance and protection to millions of people in need. Development gains must also be protected to link the humanitarian response with Afghanistan's medium- and long-term stability. Women's and girls' rights, safety and wellbeing are an essential part of that link.

Date and venue

Monday, 13 September 2021

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm (Geneva)

9:00 am – 1:00 am (New York)

The format of this event will be hybrid – participants in Geneva may join in-person, **Room XVIII 18, Palais des Nations**. All other participants are invited to join virtually.

Contacts

For more information, you may visit the event webpage [here](#).

For inquiries or administrative matters kindly contact the OCHA focal points:

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Registration

Kindly limit the response to one registration per delegation.

To register, please go to:

<https://bit.ly/2WLXBQr>

Registrations will be accepted until Thursday, September 9 COB EDT.

Event overview and objectives

- **Raise awareness of the deteriorating humanitarian situation and acute humanitarian needs** in Afghanistan and highlight the remaining gaps and challenges.
- **Galvanize support for the updated, consolidated Flash Appeal and Humanitarian Response Plan, and advocate for the timely mobilization of scaled-up resources** that are flexible and frontloaded to facilitate a continued and effective humanitarian response.
- **Appeal to ensure unimpeded life-saving humanitarian access for civilian populations and continuity of basic and essential services.**
- **Provide an opportunity for partners to express solidarity and commitments to the Afghan people,** while recognizing that pledges for the humanitarian response in the country are strongly encouraged but will not be limited to this event.

Format and participation

This High-Level Ministerial Event will take place on **Monday, 13 September from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Geneva (CET) / 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. New York (EDT).**

The session will be opened by the UN Secretary-General António Guterres, followed by remarks from UN Principals.

Following the opening session, Member States and partners will have the opportunity to take the floor. The event will conclude with closing remarks and will be followed by a press conference.

This event will take place in a hybrid format. Member States are asked to participate at ministerial level. Participants in Geneva may join in-person in **Room XVIII 18, Palais des Nations**. All other participants are invited to join online through a virtual platform.

The event will be held in English and will be livestreamed on UN Web TV. Interpretation services will be available in the six official UN languages.

More information regarding the format and technical requirements of the meeting will be shared with registered participants.

Agenda (tentative)

Opening Session: 3 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

- Opening remarks from UNSG António Guterres
- Remarks by USG/ERC Martin Griffiths
- Remarks by UNFPA ED Natalia Kanem
- Remarks by UN Principles

Interventions from the Floor: 3:30 p.m. – 4:55 p.m.

Closing Remarks: 4:55 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.

End of Event

Press Conference