Concept note

As of 12 September

On 13 September, the United Nations will convene a High-level Ministerial Meeting 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. OCHA released 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
2:00 pm – 6:00 pm (Geneva)
8:00 am – 12:00 pm (New York)

The format of this meeting will be hybrid – participants in Geneva may join in-person, Room XIX 19, Palais des Nations. All other participants are invited to join virtually.

Contacts

For more information, you may visit the meeting webpage here.

For inquiries kindly contact the OCHA focal points:
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Registration

Registration has been closed.
Meeting 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 meeting.

Format and participation

This High-level Ministerial Meeting will take place on Monday, 13 September from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Geneva (CET) / 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. New York (EDT).

The meeting will be convened by the UN Secretary-General António Guterres, joined by UN Principals and ICRC President. Member States and partners will have the opportunity to take the floor. It will be moderated by Ms. Melissa Fleming, Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications. A press conference will take place following the meeting.

This meeting 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 XIX 19, Palais des Nations in accordance with the latest UN guidelines on COVID-19 available here. All other participants are invited to join online through a virtual platform.

The meeting 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

Opening Session: 2 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.
  · Opening remarks from UNSG António Guterres
  · Remarks by USG/ERC Martin Griffiths
  · Remarks by CARE International, SG Sofia Sprechmann Sineiro
  · Moderator: USG Melissa Fleming

Interventions from the Floor: 2:15 p.m. – 5:55 p.m.

Press Conference 5 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Closing Remarks by UNSG António Guterres 5:55 p.m. - 6 p.m.