Concept Note
As of 23 March 2022

On 31 March, the United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres and the Governments of Qatar, the United Kingdom and Germany will convene a High-level Pledging Event on Supporting the Humanitarian Response in Afghanistan, to be held virtually at Ministerial level. The event will focus on raising resources to scale up essential humanitarian support for the people of Afghanistan.

While Afghanistan has long had persistent humanitarian needs due to years of conflict and recurring drought, the current situation is unparalleled, with more than 24.4 million people requiring humanitarian assistance to survive. Food security levels have plunged at a rate not seen elsewhere in such a short period, with half the population facing acute hunger, including 9 million people in emergency food insecurity – the highest number globally. Malnutrition is on the rise, and livelihoods have been destroyed.

Frontline international and Afghan partners continue to deliver humanitarian aid under some of the most challenging circumstances and continue to scale up operations. Meanwhile, humanitarian access to reach all vulnerable populations throughout the country has improved. The international community has demonstrated its support for the people of Afghanistan, contributing generously to the humanitarian response in 2021. However, humanitarian financial requirements have since tripled. At the start of 2022, over US$4.4 billion is required through the Afghanistan Humanitarian Response Plan to avert even worse disaster.

The consequences of inaction will be swift and severe – and difficult, if not impossible, to reverse. It is crucial that humanitarian funding is scaled up over the remainder of the year, while remaining flexible and responsive to escalating needs. Economic collapse and gaps in social services have been significant drivers of the deteriorating humanitarian situation.

In the spirit of global solidarity, the international community must come together and centre its response closely on the voices and needs of all the Afghan people who are affected by the crisis – particularly women, girls and minority groups.
Meeting objectives

- Secure scaled-up resources to address the unprecedented level of humanitarian needs in Afghanistan in 2022.
- Highlight the capacity and commitment of humanitarian partners to implement lifesaving assistance across the country.
- Raise awareness of other challenges that are also critical to the survival of Afghanistan’s people, including basic needs, the functioning of its economy and availability of basic social services, while taking into account the political realities and situation on the ground.

Participation

- The event will be convened on Thursday, 31 March 2022 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Geneva (CET) / 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. New York (EDT) / 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Kabul.
- The event will take place online through a virtual platform and will also be livestreamed on UN Web TV.
- All Member States and partners may register here (https://bit.ly/3h8EcQK) by Monday, 28 March 2022.
- Member States are asked to participate at ministerial level. Detailed guidance on connecting to the meeting will be provided following registration.
- Member States and partners are strongly encouraged to commit financial support to Afghanistan ahead of the event.
- The event will be held in English, and interpretation services will be available in the six official UN languages.

Co-hosts

- Qatar, represented by H.E. Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs.
- United Kingdom, represented by H.E. Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss, Foreign Secretary and Minister for Women and Equalities.
- Germany, represented by H.E. Ms. Annalena Baerbock, Federal Foreign Minister.
- United Nations, represented by H.E. Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, and Mr. Martin Griffiths, UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator.

Agenda and format

The event will consist of four sessions:

- **Opening segment:** The co-hosts (Qatar, the United Kingdom, Germany and the United Nations) will open the event with brief statements. The Secretary-General of the United Nations, His Excellency Mr. António Guterres, will participate in the opening segment.
- **High-level panel discussion:** A distinguished panel will discuss the current humanitarian situation in Afghanistan, with a particular focus on women and children.
- **Statements and announcements:** Participating delegates’ statements and announcements of support should be limited to two minutes maximum. The chairs will give the floor to Minister-level delegates followed by other participants.
- **Closing segment:** Closing remarks will be made by Mr. Martin Griffiths, UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, on behalf of the co-hosts.

Press Conference

An embargoed press event will take place on Wednesday, 30 March 2022, by Mr. Martin Griffiths, UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, and representatives of the Governments of Qatar, the United Kingdom and Germany. A note to correspondents will be issued once the event on 31 March concludes.