



# GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN OVERVIEW 2021

UNITED NATIONS-COORDINATED  
SUPPORT TO PEOPLE AFFECTED  
BY DISASTER AND CONFLICT



OCHA



Foreign,  
Commonwealth  
& Development  
Office

This virtual event is co-hosted  
by the **UK Foreign,  
Commonwealth and  
Development Office (FCDO)**

1 December 2020

## Concept Note

Virtual Launch of the Global Humanitarian Overview 2021, London  
*"Famine Prevention and Food Insecurity in the COVID-19 Era"*

On 1 December 2020, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) will host one of four sequential launches to present the 2021 United Nations Global Humanitarian Overview (GHO) in London.

## Background

The GHO is the world's most comprehensive, authoritative and evidence-based overview of the current state and future trends in humanitarian action and is published by OCHA.

The event will take place as part of a global initiative to:

- Engage decision-makers and humanitarian actors in highlighting the key themes covered in the 2021 GHO;
- Amplify the voices of affected people;
- Encourage partners to contribute generously to humanitarian operations.

The virtual event in London will be co-hosted by Mr. Nick Dyer, Special Envoy for Famine Prevention and Humanitarian Affairs, FCDO and Mr. Mark Lowcock, Under-Secretary-General and Emergency Relief Coordinator, OCHA.

## Programme

The event will run from 14:30 to 16:00 (GMT, London time) and is to have two segments. The first segment begins with welcome remarks by the Rt Hon James Cleverly MP, Minister of

State (for conflict and humanitarian issues), FCDO followed by a message by Secretary-General António Guterres and a presentation by Mr. Mark Lowcock on the latest trends, analyses, challenges and opportunities in humanitarian action, as well as an overview of the coordinated plans for the humanitarian response in 2021.

The second segment will include a panel discussion entitled “Famine Prevention and Food Insecurity in the COVID-19 Era”, one of the most urgent humanitarian challenges facing the world next year. The risk of famine in 2021 is real. This is primarily driven by conflict, is man-made and preventable. The COVID-19 pandemic, coupled with the impacts of climate-related events and pests have further exacerbated what was an already precarious food security situation. We also know that acute food insecurity disproportionately affects the most vulnerable, particularly women and girls.

The objective of this panel discussion is to explore what more the humanitarian community could do to respond effectively to the current food security challenge. Solutions could include the innovative use of humanitarian and development finance and introducing new ways of working. These could comprise stronger use of anticipatory approaches; scaling up resilience-building measures against shocks and stressors; the use of data-driven approaches to resource allocation that ensure resources are going to those most in need, and are being deployed most effectively; or humanitarian diplomacy that promotes adherence to International Humanitarian Law — particularly the protection of civilians and humanitarian access.

### Panel members

- Mr. Nick Dyer, Special Envoy for Famine Prevention and Humanitarian Affairs, FCDO
- Mr. António Vitorino, Director General, International Organization for Migration (TBC)
- Mr. Amir Abdulla, Deputy Executive Director, World Food Programme (TBC)
- Ms. Gloriah Soma, Executive Director, Titi Foundation South Sudan
- Mr. Saleh Saeed, Chief Executive Officer, UK Disaster Emergency Committee
- Ms. Nimo Hassan, Director, Somalia NGO Consortium
- **Moderator:** Ms. Christina Bennett, Chief Executive Officer, START Network

Panel speakers will make short opening remarks on the topic. This will be followed by a question and answer session with the audience, moderated by Ms. Bennett.

Government officials, Parliamentarians, humanitarian agencies, diplomatic representatives, civil society and academia will be invited to the event and will have the opportunity to engage with the panel speakers.

### Logistics points

The launch and panel discussion will take place from 14:30 to 16:00 (GMT, London time), and the event will take place via WebEx. To RSVP please register [here](#).

The focal points are:

- FCDO: Chris Berkin, [chris.berkin@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:chris.berkin@fcdo.gov.uk)
- OCHA: Justin Dittmeier, [justin.dittmeier@un.org](mailto:justin.dittmeier@un.org); and Ahlam Shaker, [shaker2@un.org](mailto:shaker2@un.org)

For more information, please visit <https://bit.ly/35ljO4h>.