

ACTION CARD – MARCH 2022

Responding to Afghanistan's humanitarian crisis



Afghanistan's people are facing the worst humanitarian crisis in the world today.

Since the Taliban took over the country in August 2021, the country's assets have been frozen, the banks are not functioning properly, many businesses have folded, and doctors and teachers are not being paid. Many Afghans have lost their jobs and have no means of support.

The UN estimates that nearly 23 million Afghans, more than half the population, face severe hunger. Of these, 8 million are reported to be on the brink of starvation. Young children are particularly vulnerable, with fears that as many as three million will suffer from severe malnutrition and hundreds of thousands will face death.

UN Agencies like WFP and FAO are working with NGO partners to get humanitarian aid to the most vulnerable – food, special support for babies and young children, temporary shelter and agricultural inputs to the farmers who were already facing a very severe drought.

The UN has launched an appeal for \$4.4 billion dollars, the largest in its history, to deal with the crisis which is unfolding. Launching the appeal, the UN Under-Secretary for Humanitarian Affairs, Martin Griffiths, said: 'My message is urgent: don't shut the door on the people of Afghanistan. Humanitarian partners are on the ground, and they are delivering, despite the challenges. Help us scale up and stave off wide-spread hunger, disease, malnutrition and ultimately death...'

HOW YOU CAN HELP

One immediate way you can help is by making a donation to one or more of the following charities which work in Afghanistan and are helping Afghans to cope with the terrible privations and difficulties they face:

The Disasters Emergencies Committee has launched an appeal for funds on behalf of 15 charities, including Oxfam, Save the Children, Christian Aid, the International Rescue Committee and the British Red Cross. That appeal has already reached £30 million and supports the humanitarian work of these well-known charities with their own staff or trusted partners on the ground in Afghanistan.

<https://www.dec.org.uk/appeal/afghanistan-crisis-appeal>

UNICEF, the UN's Children's charity, has launched a special appeal for its work with Afghan children.

<https://www.unicef.org.uk/donate/donate-and-help-protect-children-in-afghanistan>

Medicins Sans Frontieres has a remarkable track record providing medical help to countries and peoples in crisis. It has been working in Afghanistan since 1980.

<https://msf.org.uk/msf-afghan-crisis-appeal>

The Christians Aware Lent Appeal is launched to raise money for the people of Afghanistan through Afghanaid. Please ask Christians Aware for leaflets and information.

Afghanaid is a British charity which has been operating in Afghanistan since 1983. Its experienced staff work successfully with village communities in some of the poorest and most remote parts of the country. Its main working areas are in Ghor, Daykundi, Herat, Samangan and Badakhshan provinces.

<https://www.afghanaid.org.uk/appeal/afghanistan-crisis-appeal>

<https://www.afghanaid.org.uk/news/six-months-on-from-the-taliban-takeover>