

ACBAR



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د افغانستان لپاره د بشري او پرمختیایي مرستو د همغږی اداره

اداره هماهنگی کمکهای بشري و انکشافی برای افغانها

Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief and Development

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## ACBAR calls on international donors to uphold their commitment to provide principled humanitarian aid for the people of Afghanistan

We stand committed to deliver and serve the people of Afghanistan, will you?

The 167 national and international NGO ACBAR members – employing 31,216 humanitarian staff and providing support to millions of people across different sectors and in all provinces of Afghanistan – call on the international donor community to honor its international commitments for continued provision of principled humanitarian assistance to people in need across Afghanistan.

The NGO community in Afghanistan is committed to staying and delivering a principled humanitarian response. To us, this means independently assessing need, and delivering assistance to those most at-risk of food insecurity, malnutrition, poverty, illness and in need of vital health, education, protection, shelter, food, and nutrition services. Counter-terrorism measures, freezing of assets in the Central Bank, and a subsequent looming collapse of the banking system in Afghanistan, however, has made it extremely difficult for NGOs to access funds and provide life-saving assistance to communities in their hour of need. Because of an extremely restrictive operational and funding environment in Afghanistan, we require additional support from the international donors and diplomatic community through increased long-term, flexible funding that is safeguarded from sanctions, counter-terrorism, and any other potentially restrictive measures that impede principled humanitarian action.

We request member states to leverage diplomatic influence to ensure compliance with international law and respect for humanitarian space by all actors. This also includes access for equitable participation of men and women in NGO humanitarian operations to support all Afghans with lifesaving and sustaining relief at this critical juncture in time.

People across Afghanistan are currently at increased risk of insecurity and violence, forced displacement, food insecurity, loss of livelihoods, unemployment, and lack of access to critical services. Currently, more than half the Afghan population is in need of humanitarian assistance and one-third is food insecure. These needs have been exacerbated because of drought and a [73 percent rise in internal displacement since June](#). More the [630,000 people](#) have been internally displaced from their homes since the beginning of 2021. At least [80 percent](#) of those displaced internally are believed to be women and children. The onset of harsh winter season will further accentuate the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan.

Principled humanitarian action remains extremely challenging in an uncertain and highly fluid security environment that is combined with operational constraints and an ever-shrinking humanitarian space –

delaying the full resumption of the humanitarian response throughout the country. In addition, despite escalating humanitarian needs across the country, the Humanitarian Response Plan remains distressingly underfunded (approximately 40 percent), and such funding gaps could lead to a humanitarian catastrophe if left unaddressed. A [flash appeal](#) launched by the UN added an additional two million people to the tally of those targeted for humanitarian assistance.

National staff makes up the bulk of Afghanistan's aid community, and are essential for decent humanitarian response programs to succeed. The commitment of those who are able to continue supporting their fellow Afghans is commendable. As NGOs we have, over many decades, worked thoughtfully and tirelessly, to gain the trust of communities and those who need our support. Collectively, we have achieved valuable gains alongside the people of Afghanistan, which may be irreversibly lost without urgent, additional funding, humanitarian diplomacy, and strong overall support from the international donor community for continued humanitarian support for the Afghan people. The people of Afghanistan are counting on it.