

December 2021

Dear colleagues,

as you are all aware, the humanitarian situation of the remaining population in Afghanistan is catastrophic in many ways. This is why we are reaching out to you in this letter.

Afghanistan was already reeling from severe drought and decades of conflict, but the Taliban's recent takeover hastened the country's descent towards economic collapse. Afghanistan is facing its worst hunger crisis since records began, according to the latest UN figures. Nearly 23 million people, or 55 per cent of the population, are facing extreme levels of hunger – nearly nine million of whom are at risk of famine.¹ This includes more than three million children who are at risk of severe hunger and the life-threatening consequences of malnutrition² and at least one million children are at immediate risk of dying by the end of the year if there is no immediate treatment.³ Across the country, hospitals treating the starving are on the brink of collapse, with nearly 2,300 health facilities already closed. Doctors in remote areas have reported being unable to provide basic medicines - even something as simple as paracetamol for the gravely ill who have walked 12 hours to seek treatment.⁴ The crisis has especially affected women and girls, who face disproportionately greater obstacles, including to obtaining food, health care, and financial resources. Recent weeks have seen yet another trend: families being so desperate that they see no other option than to sell their children, and mostly girls, so that they could buy food.⁵

In our work as members of the European Parliament, we are in close contact with different Afghan diaspora organisations all over Europe as well as humanitarian organisations that still work on the ground inside Afghanistan. Through this letter we want to share the contacts of these organisations with you, who for reasons explained above need urgent support in dealing with the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan - in particular the acute hunger crisis. Any support for these and other organisations and the people of Afghanistan is most welcome. Therefore, please see below a list of organisations that are helping people on the ground:

- *Danish Refugee Council in Afghanistan* <https://donorbox.org/drc-afghanistan-emergency-appeal>
- *EMERGENCY is an independent and neutral international organisation founded in 1994 to provide free, high-quality medical and surgical care to victims of war, landmines and poverty* <https://en.emergency.it/donate/>
- *ICRC is responding in Afghanistan by helping wounded and disabled people, assisting hospitals and supporting the Afghan Red Crescent* <https://www.icrc.org/en/donate/afghanistan>
- *Médecins Sans Frontières is providing critical medical support in 5 Afghan provinces* <https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/what-we-do/countries/afghanistan>

We call on all of you, colleagues, for political and financial support for these and other organisations and the people of Afghanistan.

We thank you for your consideration,

Cornelia Ernst, The Left Group
Pernando Barrena, The Left Group
Tineke Strik, Greens/EFA Group
Dietmar Köster, S&D Group

¹ <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/12/1107132>

² <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/12/1106912>

³ <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/10/1102192>

⁴ <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-59419962>

⁵ <https://nypost.com/2021/11/02/afghan-dad-says-he-was-forced-to-sell-daughter-to-afford-food/>