

Decades of conflict, the current political turmoil and severe droughts have pushed Afghanistan into one of the world's worst humanitarian crises, leaving more than half of population dependant on aid and putting millions of lives at risk. The world must not and cannot wait for famine to be declared before helping people who are starving right now.

International sanctions and banking restrictions are contributing to the crisis and making it harder for humanitarian agencies to deliver much needed and essential vital aid that is required. Governments must ensure that sanctions and counter-terror financing restrictions do not inadvertently impede humanitarian responses. Funding to organisation should be flexible so that agencies can quickly adapt to changing contexts and needs.

We affirm our continued commitment to the people of Afghanistan, including through a renewed humanitarian effort by the international community and we support the UN in coordinating the immediate international humanitarian response in Afghanistan and in the region.

We Call on OCHA and UN agencies to continue coordination and advocate for IHL and principles to be respected, and to ensure that aid is delivered without interference.

Statement prepared for the Joint Launch of the Afghanistan Humanitarian Response Plan and the Afghanistan Situation Regional Refugee Response Plan hosted by OCHA and UNHCR.

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