

# CSHL NEWSLETTER

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## Humanitarian Issues in Afghanistan

The present conflict in Afghanistan is already in its twentieth year, and civilian casualties continue to remain high.[1] After the Taliban started the civil war in the 1990s, they took control of Kandahar, a city of Afghanistan, and ruled the central government in Kabul in 1996 until the United States invaded in 2001. Regardless of the fact that the United States and Afghan Taliban negotiated and signed a peace agreement in advance of the withdrawal of US troops,[2] the Taliban has begun to expand its control over many provinces and capitals according to the map data as of 13 August 2021.[3] Even before the event in August 2021, Afghanistan had faced one of the worst humanitarian situations in the world.[4] As claimed by Mr. Robert Mardini, Director-General of International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva ("ICRC"), the Afghan people are in a very difficult situation by having more than 40,000 wounded by weapons and have been treated by the ICRC supported facilities from June to August and more than 7,600 patients since 1 August.[5] Besides, there are even between 4,000 to 5,000 refugees that flee through border crossings to Iran daily seeking safety as reported by a local.[6]

The Taliban's seizure of Afghanistan in August 2021, and the total collapse of government institutions have raised a slew of security and humanitarian issues. People who have been forcibly relocated, whether inside or outside of Afghanistan, frequently have limited access to security, shelter, and health-care facilities, as well as poor nourishment; some people are also in grave danger of being persecuted and killed.[7] Furthermore, as the temperature begins to drop, the condition worsens since there are shortages of warm clothes, medical supplies, and fuel for heating; therefore, they need more than just essentials in order to survive the cold.[8]

Approximately, 60% of the population, or almost 24 million Afghans suffered from hunger, and 3.2 million children under 5 years old suffered from severely malnourished by the end of the year.[9] In addition, food insecurity has risen by over fivefold, leaving 42 percent of the population facing food insecurity at emergency levels.[10] Afghans require about 4.47 billion dollars which is an increase of 30% from last year to save 24 million lives as stated by Victor Moses, Country Director of CARE Afghanistan.[11]

[1] Amnesty International, Afghanistan 2020, available at: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/asia-and-the-pacific/south-asia/afghanistan/report-afghanistan/>

[2] Afghanaid, Conflict and Crisis in Afghanistan: What is happening in Afghanistan at the moment?, available at: <https://www.afghanaid.org.uk/news/conflict-in-afghanistan?>

[3] Bill Roggio, Foundation for Defense of Democracies, 13 August 2021, available at: <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/history/article/as-the-taliban-rise-again-afghanistans-past-threatens-its-present>

[4] OCHA, Afghanistan: ICCT Real-Time Response Overview Situation Report, 22 November 2021, available at: <https://reliefweb.int/report/afghanistan/afghanistan-icct-real-time-response-overview-situation-report-22-november-2021>

[5] A Statement on Afghanistan from Robert Mardini, the director-general of the ICRC, 17 August 2021, available at: <https://www.icrc.org/en/document/statement-afghanistan-robert-mardini-director-general-international-committee-red-cross>

[6] Norwegian Refugee Council, Humanitarian needs in Iran rise as 300,000 Afghans arrive since Taliban takeover, 10 November 2021, available at: <https://www.nrc.no/news/2021/november/humanitarian-needs-in-iran-rise-as-300000-afghans-arrive-since-taliban-takeover/>

[7] The Lancet, Optimising Epilepsy Care Throughout Afghan Refugees Crisis, Volume 398, 30 October 2021, p. 1563.

[8] UNHCR, UNHCR highlights urgent needs of forcibly displaced in Afghanistan as winter bites, 3 December 2021, available at: <https://www.unhcr.org/news/briefing/2021/12/61a9d0e34/unhcr-highlights-urgent-needs-forcibly-displaced-afghanistan-winter-bites.html#>

[9] USA Today, 3 months since Taliban takeover, Afghanistan hunger crisis leaves children emaciated, 15 November 2021, available at: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2021/11/15/afghanistan-hunger-crisis-leaves-children-emaciated-under-taliban-rule/8586866002/>

[10] Afghanistan, Humanitarian Needs and Human Response 2021, available at: [https://www.unocha.org/sites/unocha/files/afghanistan\\_humanitarian\\_needs\\_and\\_planned\\_response\\_2021.pdf](https://www.unocha.org/sites/unocha/files/afghanistan_humanitarian_needs_and_planned_response_2021.pdf)

[11] CARE International Organization, Lethal Combination of Climate, Conflict and Covid sees humanitarian needs rise by 17% in 2022, 3 December 2021, available at: <https://reliefweb.int/report/afghanistan/lethal-combination-climate-conflict-and-covid-sees-humanitarian-needs-rise-17>

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