

3 September 2021
Untuk Hebahan Segera



KENYATAAN MEDIA **ISLAMIC RELIEF MALAYSIA**

Afghanistan Perlu Bantuan Kemanusiaan Segera

AFGHANISTAN – Menurut laporan Pertubuhan Bangsa-Bangsa Bersatu (PBB) yang dikeluarkan pada Julai lalu, sekurang-kurangnya 12 juta penduduk Afghanistan dilaporkan berdepan ancaman kelaparan pada tahap kritikal manakala 3.5 juta lagi menghampiri risiko kebuluran.

Islamic Relief memberi amaran sekiranya bantuan kemanusiaan tidak disalurkan dengan kadar segera, bencana ini bakal meragut banyak nyawa.

Ramai penduduk Afghanistan kini semakin tertekan dengan situasi semasa di mana bekalan makanan kian berkurangan sedangkan harga makanan melambung tinggi dan kadar pengangguran meningkat.

Dilaporkan, keadaan di kawasan luar bandar lebih buruk ekoran berlaku peningkatan angka kematian dan kes malnutrisi.

Rakyat Afghanistan kini terpaksa menghabiskan wang simpanan yang ada untuk membeli makanan selain berhutang dan mengemis di jalanan untuk meneruskan kelangsungan hidup.

Menurut Penyelaras Program Kemanusiaan Islamic Relief Afghanistan, Mohammed Hamid Sattai berkata, kedai-kedai yang mula beroperasi telah menaikkan harga makanan yang dijual hingga 10 ke 20 peratus dalam tempoh seminggu.

Dijangkakan harga barang makanan akan terus meningkat lebih tinggi kerana penutupan laluan di sempadan dan masalah gangguan yang berlaku di pasar jualan.

"Kami lihat, keadaan orang ramai semakin terdesak sehingga mereka terpaksa meminta sayur-sayuran yang sudah layu dan tidak lagi dijual daripada kedai-kedai berhampiran serta memetik bunga-bunga untuk dijadikan sup.

"Mereka benar-benar berdepan kesukaran untuk menyediakan makanan buat keluarga. Ada yang terpaksa makan sekali sehari dan ada juga yang langsung tidak dapat menjamah apa-apa. Golongan wanita dan kanak-kanak antara yang paling teruk terjejas.

"Kebiasaannya, kaum wanita akan mengutamakan keperluan ahli keluarga yang lain berbanding diri sendiri. Masalah kekurangan atau ketiadaan makanan ini boleh memudaratkan kesihatan ibu dan anak dalam jangka masa panjang.

“Sekiranya kerja-kerja penyaluran bantuan kemanusiaan bagi keperluan mendesak seperti makanan masih lagi tidak dapat dilaksanakan segera berikutan keadaan semasa yang tidak menentu, golongan ibu di Afghanistan bakal diancam penyakit anaemia manakala kanak-kanak pula berisiko menghadapi malnutrisi,” kata Mohammed Hamid Sattai.

Sebelum ini, sebahagian besar rakyat Afghanistan sememangnya sudah menderita kelaparan dan kemiskinan akibat kemarau, pergolakan dan pandemik COVID-19. Tahun ini dijangkakan, separuh daripada populasi kanak-kanak berumur bawah lima tahun berisiko diancam penyakit kekurangan zat makanan.

Hampir 6,000 orang telah meninggalkan kediaman mereka pada tahun ini termasuk individu yang melarikan diri ke Kabul dalam beberapa minggu kebelakangan ini.

Kebanyakan daripada mereka tidak menerima apa-apa bantuan dan hidup dalam keadaan serba kekurangan. Turut dilaporkan, jangkitan diare dan penyakit bawaan air sudah mula menular di kawasan itu.

“Islamic Relief menyeru semua pihak yang berkuasa di Afghanistan untuk memastikan petugas kemanusiaan dapat menjalankan kerja-kerja mereka secara bebas dan selamat serta akses kepada bantuan kemanusiaan tidak disekat. Kami juga berharap para penyumbang dapat tampil menzahirkan sokongan anda untuk membantu penduduk Afghanistan supaya mereka tidak merasa dilupakan ketika saat kritikal seperti ini.

“Islamic Relief mula menyantuni penduduk di Afghanistan sejak tahun 1999 dan sangat komited untuk membantu puluhan ribu orang yang memerlukan di sana.

“Dalam tempoh lebih 19 tahun ini, Islamic Relief telah berjaya menyalurkan bantuan meliputi sektor kecemasan dan program pembangunan jangka masa panjang seperti memperkasa ekonomi golongan wanita dan tahap literasi, menangani isu ketidaksamarataan jantina, merawat kanak-kanak yang kekurangan zat makanan, menyediakan bantuan makanan, menyokong usaha pemulihan bagi penagih dadah serta bantuan COVID-19,” kata Waseem Ahmad, Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif Islamic Relief Worldwide.

Untuk makluman, Islamic Relief Worldwide telah melancarkan kempen Rayuan Kecemasan Afghanistan yang menyasarkan dana sebanyak 5 juta dolar untuk membantu mereka yang memerlukan di Kabul, Balkh, Herat dan Nangarhar melibatkan bantuan pek makanan, kit kebersihan, perlindungan dan barangan keperluan lain.

Sumbangan boleh dilakukan menerusi pautan berikut: <https://www.islamic-relief.org/we-urgently-need-your-help-to-support-vulnerable-families-in-afghanistan/>

Mengenai Islamic Relief

Islamic Relief merupakan sebuah organisasi bantuan dan pembangunan kemanusiaan antarabangsa yang ditubuhkan pada tahun 1984 dan beribu pejabat di Birmingham, United Kingdom. Islamic Relief berkhidmat di lebih 45 buah negara dan telah membantu lebih daripada 120 juta orang sejak beroperasi. Skop bantuan Islamic Relief merangkumi bantuan kecemasan, pembangunan mampan bersepadu, pengurangan risiko bencana dan advokasi.

Mengenai Islamic Relief Malaysia

YABhg. Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad telah merasmikan penubuhan Islamic Relief Malaysia pada tahun 2005, bertujuan untuk meneruskan bantuan kemanusiaan Islamic Relief di rantau Asia-Pasifik. Kini, Islamic Relief Malaysia berperanan sebagai pejabat penjana dana dan pelaksana projek tempatan dan antarabangsa.

Untuk mendapatkan maklumat lanjut mengenai program kemanusiaan Islamic Relief Malaysia, sila layari laman web rasmi www.islamic-relief.org.my atau hubungi talian tetap 03-8926 3434.

Sebarang sumbangan boleh disalurkan melalui beberapa kaedah berikut:

1) Melalui akaun Islamic Relief Malaysia

MAYBANK ISLAMIC | 5621 4270 8704

MBSB BANK | 1005 0251 0000 0166

CIMB ISLAMIC | 860 2073818

BANK ISLAM | 12 029 01 006564 3

AFFIN ISLAMIC | 10 671 000278 4

BANK RAKYAT | 11080 10000 35

2) Sumbangan Tunai atau Kad Kredit di Charity Shoppe

3) Platform Atas Talian:

Laman Web Islamic Relief Malaysia | LaunchGood | Give.Asia | KitaFund | Shopee | Grab | TounchNGo | SnapNPay

Fikir KEMANUSIAAN, Fikir ISLAMIC RELIEF!

Zairulshahfuddin Zainal Abidin,
Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif Islamic Relief Malaysia

- Tamat-

Dikeluarkan oleh,
Islamic Relief Malaysia-Reg No: 657354-W
A-05-1, Paragon Point, Jalan Medan PB5, Seksyen 9,
Pusat Bandar, 43650 Bandar Baru Bangi, Selangor
Untuk maklumat lanjut, sila hubungi **Bahagian Komunikasi Strategik**
di talian 03-8926 3434, faks 03-8925 3434 atau
emel: Malaysia.Media@islamic-relief.org.my
Aduan atau maklum balas: feedback.irmalaysia@islamic-relief.org.my atau
WhatsApp: [+6019-630 9788](https://wa.me/60196309788)

Info asal

Afghanistan: Aid urgently needed as hunger crisis worsens daily

Some Afghan women are going days without food as the country's hunger crisis worsens by the day, Islamic Relief is warning.

Many people are getting increasingly desperate as food runs out, prices skyrocket and unemployment rises. With at least 12 million people facing extreme hunger and more than 3 million people just one step away from famine, it is imperative that food and other essential aid reaches these communities immediately, or the death toll could be catastrophic.

Food is particularly scarce in rural areas, with reports of increasing malnutrition and deaths among the most vulnerable. Women and children are especially at risk, with women typically prioritising their

families' needs above their own. Families are exhausting the last of any meagre savings to buy a meal, and people are begging on the streets for food. Increasing numbers of families are being pushed deep into debt just to buy food.

Mohammed Hamid Sattai, Islamic Relief's Humanitarian Programme Coordinator in Afghanistan, said:

"The food situation is dire and getting worse by the day. The shops have finally reopened but prices have skyrocketed 10 to 20 per cent in little more than a week. People could barely put food on the table before but now many families are going down to one meal a day, with many women and children not even getting this.

"Women often eat last and least anyway in poor families, but when food is scarce women will take less and less food and in some cases will have no food at all. When there is no meal for the mother, then there is even less for the children and this causes long-term health complications. The ongoing uncertainty means that most crucial aid efforts remain frozen even as the needs are growing. If urgent action isn't taken soon to get food to those in need, we will see a flood of anaemic mothers and severely malnourished children.

"We are already seeing people so desperate that they are asking shops to give them leftover leaves from vegetables that they don't normally sell and picking flowers to make thin soups."

Even before the current crisis, large parts of Afghanistan were suffering from severe hunger due to drought, ongoing insecurity and the Covid-19 pandemic pushing many more people into poverty. Half of all children under five years old are expected to suffer from acute malnutrition this year, yet the UN humanitarian funding appeal for 2021 is only 37 per cent funded.

Now the situation is rapidly getting worse, and food prices are expected to rise even further because of disruption to markets and border closures. The current uncertainty means that humanitarian access is extremely limited and aid agencies are unable to reach many of the people most in need.

Nearly 600,000 people have fled their homes this year, including many who have flooded into Kabul in the past few weeks. Many of the recent arrivals there are without aid and sheltering in extremely basic conditions, with growing threats of diarrhoea and other water-borne diseases spreading.

Waseem Ahmad, CEO of Islamic Relief Worldwide, said:

"A humanitarian catastrophe is rapidly unfolding in Afghanistan after years of conflict and climate change. It is imperative that food and other vital aid gets to people who desperately need it. We're calling on all sides to ensure that all humanitarian workers can operate freely and safely, and that humanitarian access is not restricted. International donors must urgently step up with new funding and greater support for the aid effort. They must ensure that the people of Afghanistan are not forgotten at this critical moment.

"Islamic Relief has worked in Afghanistan for more than 20 years and we are fully committed to staying and providing critical care to tens of thousands of people in need."

Islamic Relief Worldwide has launched a £5 million emergency appeal to provide aid as soon as safely possible to vulnerable people in Kabul, Balkh, Herat and Nangarhar. The initial aid will include food packages, hygiene kits, emergency shelters and other essential supplies.

Notes

According to the latest UN projections, issued in July, more than 12 million Afghans are facing an extreme hunger crisis, including 3.5million people who are one step away from famine.

Islamic Relief has worked in Afghanistan since 1999, providing emergency relief and long-term development. Our projects in Afghanistan include responding to the Covid-19 pandemic, providing

food, treating malnourished children, supporting women's literacy and women's economic empowerment, tackling gender-based violence, and supporting the rehabilitation of drug users.

Donations to Islamic Relief Worldwide's Afghanistan appeal can be made here: <https://www.islamic-relief.org/we-urgently-need-your-help-to-support-vulnerable-families-in-afghanistan/>