



2020 AFGHANISTAN CONFERENCE  
23-24 NOVEMBER, GENEVA  
PEACE, PROSPERITY AND SELF-RELIANCE

## EVENTS AHEAD OF THE 2020 AFGHANISTAN CONFERENCE

### 16 November 2020

#### Protecting education and addressing child protection challenges in Afghanistan

Despite the huge strides made on education in Afghanistan over the past two decades, enormous challenges remain. This event will highlight how donor countries, the Government of Afghanistan and the humanitarian community can best work together to protect the fragile gains on education since 2001. Panellists will discuss a range of topics, including girls' access to education, attacks on schools during the conflict, and links to child protection.

Organisers: Save the Children, Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack, UNICEF, World Vision International

Co-sponsors: The Permanent Missions of Afghanistan, Norway, and Sweden to the UN in Geneva

Key notes address by H.E. **Ms. Rangina Hamidi**, Acting Minister of Education, Afghanistan

Time: Monday 16 November at 13.30 Geneva / 17.00 Kabul

The event will be hosted online and open to the public. [Registration link](#)

Follow the event live on [Facebook](#).

*For any questions, please contact Olof Blomqvist ([olof.blomqvist@savethechildren.org](mailto:olof.blomqvist@savethechildren.org)).*

## 17 November 2020

### Afghan Women and Economic Empowerment – Thinking Outside the Box

Tuesday 17 November 2020 at 14:00 – 15:30 CET/17:30 – 19:00 KBL

Co-hosted by: The Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief and Development (ACBAR) and Afghan Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industries (AWCCI)

While the conventional methods to help secure livelihoods and economic empowerment in Afghanistan (especially for women) include income generation opportunities such as tailoring, hairdressing, food processing, and handicrafts, more innovative initiatives have been able to bring a fresh perspective to job creation and skills development, particularly for Afghan youth. This will bring together four Afghan professionals who have introduced groundbreaking approaches that have opened up new opportunities for self-reliance – particularly for Afghan women. Demonstrating their 'thinking outside the box', they will bring their direct voices to an international audience to discuss and share the challenges and achievements and how their business models can be scaled up across other provinces in Afghanistan with the right level of support.

Panel members: **Fereshteh Forough**, Founder and Executive Director, Code to Inspire, First coding school for women in Afghanistan (based in Herat), **Marghuba Safi**, Founder, Peshraft Zanan, organic beauty product company based in Kabul, **Sara Wahedi**, Founder and CEO Ehtesab, a civic technology startup based in Kabul, **Farzana Fazli**, Independent Jewelry designer and entrepreneur, based in Kabul, **Manizha Wafeq**, Panel Moderator, President of Afghan Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industries (AWCCI), **Thomas ten Boer**, Special Guest, Afghanistan Country Director of Welthungerhilfe

*The event will be hosted online and open to the public and will also be broadcast live [Facebook](#).*

Please

use <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86907539243?pwd=T3Q0cXloQnVmZmhQcUx2NVdoR0NIUT09> Meeting ID: 869 0753 9243, Passcode: 169250.

For any questions please contact Shahrzad Amoli [advocacymanager@acbar.org](mailto:advocacymanager@acbar.org)

## 18 November 2020

### Durable Solutions for Displaced Afghans

After four decades of conflict, Afghans remain one of the largest and longest displaced populations in the world. Yet, return still remains an elusive prospect for most Afghan refugees. This event brings together an expert panel to discuss and exchange ideas on what 'return and reintegration' means in today's Afghanistan? What role can refugees play in rebuilding Afghanistan and what are the barriers to return currently? Panellists will unpack the experiences of refugees returning to Afghanistan, the challenges and opportunities they face post-return, and whether or not regional cooperation can realistically facilitate long-term solutions for displaced Afghans.

Organisers: Asia Displacement Solutions Platform (ADSP), in partnership with the Centre for Asia Pacific Refugee Studies (CAPRS).

Moderator: **Sune Rasmussen**, Correspondent for The Wall Street Journal

Speakers: **Samina Ansari** (Founder and CEO of Avyanna Diplomacy), **Wafiullah Kakar** (Deputy Minister at MoRR), **Adam Combs** (Regional Director at the Norwegian Refugee Council), and **Angela Moore** (UNHCR Afghanistan)

Time: Wednesday 18 November at 10.00 Geneva / 13.30 Kabul

*The event will be hosted online and open to the public. Please register for the event [here](#). For any questions, please contact Evan Jones ([evan.jones@adsp.ngo](mailto:evan.jones@adsp.ngo)).*

## Thursday 19 November 2020

### Humanitarian Assistance, International Humanitarian Law and Protection of Civilians in the Framework of the Peace Process

The humanitarian situation in Afghanistan is dire. The COVID-19 pandemic has put a further strain on the population. According to the UN, close to 14 million people will need humanitarian aid and more than 17 million are expected to be food insecure this winter. Humanitarian aid will remain crucial, its delivery must be facilitated and in line with humanitarian principles. Afghanistan has suffered from four decades of war, with a dramatic impact on civilians. Respect and

promotion of IHL are crucial to save lives and can generate a positive effect on the peace negotiations, increasing chances of lasting peace and transitional justice.

Building on these considerations, this high-level meeting will be an excellent opportunity to highlight that humanitarian aid, International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and protection of civilians will remain key in Afghanistan, during the peace negotiations and beyond, for real prospects of sustainable future peace.

Organisers: **European Union** - Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), **Sweden** – the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the **Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation**. It will see the participation of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and other prominent stakeholders.

Time: Thursday 19 November at 13.00-14.45 Geneva / 16.30-18.15 Kabul

*The high-level meeting will be open to the public. Additional information, including the agenda and the link where this high-level meeting will be web streamed will be shared in due course. For additional information, please contact [ECHO-MEETING-AFGHANISTAN-19NOV@ec.europa.eu](mailto:ECHO-MEETING-AFGHANISTAN-19NOV@ec.europa.eu).*

## Thursday 19 November 2020

### Side meeting on Support to Peace and Prosperity Through Public-Private Partnerships in Key Infrastructure Investments

The European Union and the Asian Development Bank are organizing a virtual Side Meeting on 'Support to Peace and Prosperity through Public-Private Partnerships in Key Infrastructure Investments'. The objective of the meeting is to create a better understanding of the Public Private Partnerships approach in Afghanistan and to showcase infrastructure development opportunities to both public and private sector investors, using existing examples to stimulate a wider discussion. The meeting will contribute towards the identification of future partnerships to be taken up in a series of follow-up events that will bring government and potential public and private investors together to explore cooperation in specific domains and projects.

Key note addresses: **H.E. Mr. Abdul Hadi Arghandiwal**, Acting Minister of Finance (tbc), **Mr. Jean-Louis Ville**, acting Director Asia, Central Asia, Middle East/Gulf and Pacific, European Commission, DG DEVCO. **Mr. Werner Liepach**, Director General, Central and West Asia Department, Asian Development Bank

Presentations: **Mr. Peter Marro**, Advisor, Central and West Asia Department, ADB, **Ms. Isabel Chatterton**, Regional Infrastructure Director for Asia, IFC, **Mr. Felix Busse**, Vice President Energy & Infrastructure, DEG, **Mr. Daler Jumaev**, CEO of Badakhshan Energy, speaker from the Government of Afghanistan (speaker tbc)

Time: Thursday 19 November 2020 from 9:30 to 12:00 noon CET (video conference)

- [More about the event and speakers \(pdf, 519 KB\)](#)

## Friday 20 November 2020

### High-Level Consultation – Return and Reintegration: Building a Future for all Afghans

Since the launch of the Support Platform for the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR Support Platform) at the Global Refugee Forum last December, a series of consultations have addressed greater responsibility-sharing to enable sustainable return and reintegration of the nearly 2.4 million Afghan refugees generously hosted in the neighbouring Islamic Republics of Iran and Pakistan. These include the Inaugural Meeting of the Core Group of the SSAR Support Platform (7 October), the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the SSAR Quadripartite Steering Committee (1 October), and the High-Level Meeting on the SSAR Support Platform (6 July).

Building upon these, the UNHCR High Commissioner will convene a virtual **High-Level Consultation on “Return and Reintegration: Building a Future for All Afghans,”** on **20 November, at 10:00 a.m. (Geneva)**. Panelists will include a broad range of partners, and consideration will be given to the linkage between inclusive planning for return and reintegration and the peace-building, market-building and State-building objectives of the Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework II (ANPDF II) for 2012-2025. The deliberations will help to inform discussions at the 2020 Afghanistan Conference, which is being co-

hosted by the Governments of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Finland and the United Nations from 23-24 November.

Additional information, including the agenda and a link to listen to the consultations via Zoom, will be shared in due course. For additional information, please contact [SSAR-Secretariat@unhcr.org](mailto:SSAR-Secretariat@unhcr.org).

## 25 November

Together with Afghan mothers and girls: #RaiseAPen for their education

This high-level event is part of the [#RaiseAPen campaign](#) that Make Mothers Matter just launched in solidarity with mothers in Afghanistan calling for the continued right to education for their daughters. It coincides with the UN-designated **International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women**. It is our belief that denying education to girls and women is a form of violence.

The campaign supports education not only because it is a fundamental human right, but also because it is a key condition for sustainable development and peace.

The diverse panel features influential personalities committed to the rights of women and girls in Afghanistan. **This is a unique opportunity to hear them discuss the way forward beyond ‘raising a pen’, to both safeguard and advance these rights.** We thank them one and all:

- **H.E Rangina Hamidi:** Minister of Education I.R of Afghanistan
- **Stefania Giannini:** UNESCO Assistant Director General of Education
- **Ambassador Melanne Verwee:** Executive Director Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security
- **Ambassador Mohammad Wali Naeemi:** Deputy Permanent Representative of I.R of Afghanistan to the UN
- **Staffan de Mistura:** Former UN Special Envoy to Afghanistan
- **Mary Kaldor,** Professor of Global Governance and CEO of the Conflict Research Program, IDEAS, London School of Economics and Political Science (Moderator)
- **Anne-Claire de Liedekerke:** President MMM (Opening remarks)
- **Rahela Sidiqi:** Founder & Director Farkhunda Trust for Afghan Women’s Education, MMM Associate Member and campaign partner (Opening remarks)

Join the conversation, register now on <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/together-with-afghan-mothers-and-girls-raiseopen-for-their-education-registration-126808931929>

Additional information on the event can be found on <https://makemothersmatter.org/together-with-mothers-in-afghanistan-for-the-right-to-education-for-their-daughters/>  
Contacts: [valerieb@makemothersmatter.org](mailto:valerieb@makemothersmatter.org)