

## U. S. Breaking News Report

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### Can Afghanistan Recover From The Deepening Humanitarian Crisis?



A senior UN official asked donors recently to increase aid to Afghanistan, where severe drought and intensified military operations, along with the withdrawal of foreign troops, are displacing thousands of civilians and causing a humanitarian catastrophe.

A \$1.3 billion appeal launched this year is less than 40% financed, according to Ramiz Alakbarov, Humanitarian Coordinator for Afghanistan and UN Resident. A total of 18 million Afghans, or half the country's population, require aid. A third portion of the population is malnourished, and half of all children under the age of five are going through acute malnutrition.

The \$450 million raised so far, half of which came from the US, is not enough.

The drought and the ongoing military reaction in the aftermath of the Taliban's "spring offensive" have forced 270,000 people to flee rural regions for urban areas.

Around 35,000 displaced individuals are being sheltered in schools and public facilities in Kunduz, and they require food, water, and sanitation. All of the areas around the city have been taken over by the hardline Taliban, who have been fighting the government for years.

In only a few weeks, Mr. Alakbarov has visited five different regions of Afghanistan. The UN official expressed particular concern about the fate of women and girls, who are living under "very difficult conditions." Although humanitarian operations continue in most of the country's, Mr. Alakbarov reported an increase in access issues and violence in all 405 districts.

## Why Have National Guards Not Been Paid For Capitol Security Mission?



National Guard officials said on Friday that unless they are paid for deployment in the aftermath of the January 6 riot, they will have to cancel yearly training and withhold pay to its soldiers and airmen.

According to authorities, the deployment, which lasted from January to May, cost the state National Guard about \$521 million in the fiscal year 2021 budget. However, due to a deadlock in Congress on a bill to tighten up Capitol security, the funds have not been released. The guard will have to take extreme measures if the funds are not paid, including furloughing personnel, grounding aircraft, halting some military schools, and stopping weekend training.

The Army and Air National Guard men and women will lose two months of salary if yearly training in August and September is canceled. Because money for healthcare and retirement plans would still be deducted, many individuals will owe the government money.

The delay in replenishing the National Guard funds has been blamed on both Democrats and Republicans. Democrats have proposed a spending bill that is far larger than the Republican proposal.

According to Major General Roger Lyles, the adjutant general of the Indiana National Guard, the men and women rely on their Guard salaries for mortgages, car payments, and family expenses, and all of this uncertainty puts them in harm's way.

## How Can Delta Variant Affect Children Across The USA?



Unvaccinated people are the most vulnerable as the highly contagious delta variant of the Coronavirus spreads across the United States. Children under the age of 12 are among them, and they are not yet eligible for vaccination, forcing medical professionals to warn of a possible surge of cases in the fall.

Recent statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show that at least 335 kids aged 17 and under have died from Coronavirus, while severe complications in minors remain relatively uncommon. However, as the delta variation spreads, more cases, particularly severe ones, are expected among youngsters.

Dr. Carlos Oliveira, a pediatric infectious diseases doctor and assistant professor of pediatrics at Yale School of Medicine, explained, "Last year, you would have to give a child a high infectious dose to make them sick, but with the virus that's more contagious, even a minor exposure could get them seriously ill."

The CDC has said that fully vaccinated pupils do not need to wear masks in class this fall, although this only applies to children aged 12 and above, leaving a substantial proportion of school-age children vulnerable. The CDC continues to suggest "layers of protection," including masks, proper handwashing, and measures like weekly Covid-19 testing for kids who have not been vaccinated.

An official with the Food and Drug Administration recently stated that emergency usage authorization for children under 12 might be granted in the early to mid-winter.

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