

## **„Helfen Sie afghanischen Menschen in Not“, fordert Save the Children die internationale Gemeinschaft**

*Berlin/Kabul, 19. August 2021* – Die Geschäftsführerin von Save the Children International, Inger Ashing, fordert heute die internationale Gemeinschaft auf, die Visaverfahren für Afghanen, die um ihre Sicherheit fürchten und Afghanistan verlassen wollen, zu vereinfachen und zu beschleunigen. Sie betont, die Länder seien nach internationalem Recht verpflichtet, Flüchtlingen die Möglichkeit zu geben, Asyl zu beantragen und ihnen eine sichere Durchreise zu ermöglichen. Das würde besonders für die betroffenen Kinder gelten.

„Länder müssen in den ersten Tagen der Krise ihre Grenzen offenhalten. Diejenigen, die vor der Gewalt geflohen sind, benötigen Schutz und ihre Rechte müssen gesichert sein. Die Länder sollten weiterhin afghanische Kinder und ihre Familien auf der Grundlage des humanitären Bedarfs aufnehmen. Kein anderer Beweggrund darf zählen!“

Das vollständige Statement:

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**Save the Children International CEO Inger Ashing called on the international community today to simplify and expedite visa processes for Afghans fearing for their safety and wishing to leave Afghanistan.**

*London, 19 August 2021* – She said countries have an obligation under international law to allow refugees to ask for asylum and for safe passage to protect them from harm and to provide shelter – especially children.

In recent weeks, hundreds of thousands of Afghans, including tens of thousands of children, have fled violence into neighbouring countries. Some 100,000 have crossed through Iran and onto eastern Turkey, with an estimated 500 to 2,000 people arriving in Turkey every day since the beginning of July.<sup>[11](#)</sup>

Some countries have already made preparations to take in a set number of arrivals in temporary shelters, while others have announced their intention to keep their borders closed.

Ashing said Afghan children and their families who have left the country in recent weeks must be kept safe and their rights must be protected under international law and there should be an immediate moratorium on all forced returns of Afghan nationals.

Save the Children International CEO Inger Ashing said:

*‘It is essential that in the early days of this crisis, countries keep their borders open and ensure that those arriving in their country, including children who have fled from violence, are safe and their rights are protected. Countries should continue to accept Afghan children and their families based on the humanitarian need – not targets.*

*“We are witnessing scenes of desperation in Afghanistan, where thousands of Afghans are trying to leave the country and unable to do so. We cannot abandon them.*

*“And, at the same as reports emerge of some mothers handing their children over the gates at Kabul airport to military personnel, asking them to take their children to safety, countries are closing their borders and thousands of visa applications sit unprocessed.*

*“We are asking the international community to fulfil their obligation to the Afghan people, which right now, means urgently guaranteeing safe passage out of the country for Afghans who may be at risk.*

*Action must be taken to simplify and expedite visa processes. This is not the time for world governments to shirk their responsibilities.*

*“Save the Children stands ready to provide support to Afghan children displaced into the countries where we work, including separated and unaccompanied children. Our commitment to our work and staff in Afghanistan, to ensuring Afghan children a future free from violence, is as strong as ever.”*

Save the Children is an independent, impartial and politically neutral organisation that has worked in Afghanistan since 1976 to deliver lifesaving services to children and their families across the country but has had to temporarily suspended services. The organisation provided health, education, child protection, nutrition and livelihoods services, reaching over 1.6 million Afghans in 2020.

We aim to resume our work on health, education and child protection as soon as it's safe to do so.

<sup>[1]</sup> <https://www.voanews.com/europe/turkey-faces-dilemma-afghan-refugees-start-arriving>

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#### **Über Save the Children**

Im Nachkriegsjahr 1919 gründete die britische Sozialreformerin und Kinderrechtlerin Eglantyne Jebb Save the Children, um Kinder in Deutschland und Österreich vor dem Hungertod zu retten. Heute ist die inzwischen größte unabhängige Kinderrechtsorganisation der Welt in 120 Ländern tätig. Save the Children setzt sich ein für Kinder in Kriegen, Konflikten und Katastrophen. Für eine Welt, die die Rechte der Kinder achtet. Eine Welt, in der alle Kinder gesund und sicher leben und frei und selbstbestimmt aufwachsen und lernen können – seit über 100 Jahren.