



UNITED NATIONS

NATIONS UNIES

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LAUNCH OF HUMANITARIAN APPEAL 2009

Journalists who would like to attend this event must be registered with the Ministry of Media. If you have not registered, please do so by sending a copy of your passport to admin@wam.ae

Journalists who are not registered for this event will not be permitted to enter

WHAT: Launch of the Humanitarian Appeal 2009, preceded by a press conference

WHO: (i) The Press Conference:

- His Excellency Dr. Anwar Gargash, UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs
- Mr. Antonio Guterres, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, representing the UN system
- Mr. Abdul Aziz Arrukban, Special Humanitarian Envoy for the United Nations Secretary General
- His Excellency Dr. Ali Al Kaabi, Chairman of the Board of the UAE Red Crescent Authority
- Mr. Rashid Khalikov, Director of UN OCHA New York

(ii) The Launch:

- His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister of the UAE and President of the UAE Red Crescent Authority
- Mr. Antonio Guterres, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

WHEN:

- Press Conference: Monday, 24 November 2008, 17:00 – 18:00
- Launch: Monday, 24 November 2008, 20:00 - 21:30

WHERE:

- Press-Conference: Press Room 1 (or, if available: Press Room 3)
- Launch: Arznah Ballroom, Sheraton Hotel, Abu Dhabi

The 2009 Humanitarian Appeal seeks US\$7 billion to help 30 million people in 31 countries around the world living in severe and ongoing humanitarian crises. A total of 360 non-governmental organisations, United Nations agencies, and other international organisations have come together to build coordinated, strategic humanitarian action plans to alleviate suffering and prevent death in each country.

Last year's Appeal showed a slight improvement over previous years with USD 4.7 billion committed to date (67% of the total amount required). Among donors, the *United States, ECHO, Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom and Japan* top the list in contributing emergency relief funding in 2008 through

Consolidated Appeals and Flash Appeals. The United Nations hope that further improvement will materialise in 2009 with the common commitment on the part of donors to equitable, rapid, and full funding of all appeals.

In addition to launching the Appeal in Geneva on 19 November, Abu Dhabi will be hosting a parallel launch of the 2009 Humanitarian Appeal, under the auspices of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and President of the UAE Red Crescent, on 24 November 2008.

The Launch is open to the media, although questions will be limited to the press conference at 1700 on Monday 24 November 2008. His Excellency Dr. Anwar Gargash, UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Antonio Guterres, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, His Excellency Dr. Al Kaabi, Chairman of the UAE Red Crescent Authority, Mr. Abdul Aziz Arrukban, Special Humanitarian Envoy for the United Nations Secretary General and Mr. Rashid Khalikov, Director of UN OCHA New York will be available to answer questions at the press conference.