



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Afghanistan Country Brief February 2024



Operational Context

Afghanistan remains one of the world's largest humanitarian crises with 29.2 million people in need of humanitarian assistance. Decades of conflict, extreme climate shocks, and severe economic decline characterised by high unemployment, cash shortages, and rising food prices have plunged millions into poverty. Between November 2023 and March 2024, an estimated 15.8 million (36 percent) people were likely to experience high levels of acute food insecurity.

In response to unprecedented levels of hunger and vulnerability, WFP supported 21 million people with emergency food, nutrition, and livelihood support in 2023. Present in Afghanistan since 1963, WFP's current country strategic plan, which was extended to 2025, has adapted to the new operating environment, providing lifesaving support to those who need it most, while continuing, where possible, to support long-term community resilience, gender, and education initiatives.



Population: **41.7 million**

2021 Human Development Index: **180 out of 191 countries**

Income Level: **Low income**

Chronic malnutrition: **54% of children between 6-59 months (WB)**

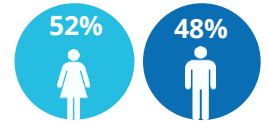
In Numbers

30,969 mt food distributed

US\$17.1 million cash-based transfers made

US\$657 million six months (March – Aug 2024) net funding requirements.

7.1 million people assisted



Operational Updates

- In February, WFP reached over **7.1 million people** through in-kind, cash-based transfers and nutritional assistance. Despite extreme weather conditions, WFP delivered assistance in the most remote locations, thanks to prepositioned stocks covering **1.2 million people**.
- Many parts of Afghanistan saw heavy snowfall in February, posing a threat to livestock and households living in these areas. In addition, many roads and highways were also blocked, causing delays for vehicles including WFP trucks.

General Food Assistance

- WFP reached **6.5 million** people with general food assistance and cash-based transfers (including commodity and value vouchers). General food assistance (GFA) aims to address deficiencies in household food access through the provision of fortified food to address the disparity between their food consumption needs and what they can provide for themselves without resorting to harmful coping strategies.

Nutrition Support

- WFP provided specialized nutritious foods (SNF) for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition to **283,400** children aged 06-59 months and **289,100** acutely malnourished pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBW/G). To prevent acute malnutrition, WFP provided SNF to **700,100** children aged 06-59 months and **290,500** PBW/G.

School Feeding

- WFP reached **474,000 boys and girls** attending 1,769 primary schools and community-based education with on-site and take-home ration support. Secondary schools for girls have remained closed since September 2021, when de facto authorities announced that girls were barred from continuing their education beyond sixth grade. Currently, there is no indication of when these schools will reopen.
- WFP has launched an innovative project in Nangarhar, funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, aimed at integrated immunization awareness and school feeding programme. Beyond providing school feeding support, this initiative ensures that beneficiaries, alongside teachers and parents, receive comprehensive sessions on immunization, health and nutrition awareness.

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1 Bread+ is an initiative where WFP works with local smallholder farmers and bakeries to produce nutritious bread for schoolchildren using local ingredients.

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2025)

CSP Requirements	Allocated Contributions	Six-month Net Funding Requirements
US\$9.82 b	US\$3.84 b	US\$759 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Vulnerable people in Afghanistan are able to meet their food and nutrition needs during and immediately after emergencies through 2025

Focus area: *Crisis response*

Activities:

- Emergency food assistance
- Prevention and treatment of malnutrition of crisis-affected

Strategic Outcome 2: Vulnerable people in Afghanistan are increasingly able to meet their food and nutrition needs on their own by 2025

Focus area: *Resilience building*

Activities:

- Livelihood support
- Emergency preparedness capacity strengthening

Strategic Result 2: End malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 3: Vulnerable people at each stage of the life cycle in target areas have improved nutrition by 2025

Focus area: *Resilience Building*

Activities:

- School feeding

Strategic Result 4: Sustainable food systems

Strategic Outcome 4: People throughout the country can have access to a wide range of fortified nutritious food products at affordable prices by 2025

Focus area: *Resilience Building*

Activities:

- Nutritional value chains

Strategic Result 6: Policy coherence

Strategic Outcome 5: People throughout the country can have access to a wide range of fortified nutritious food products at affordable prices by 2025

Focus area: *Resilience Building*

Activities:

- Policy coherence support on food security and nutrition

Strategic Result 8: Enhance global partnerships

Strategic Outcome 6: The Humanitarian community has enhanced capacity to respond to needs throughout the country through 2025

Focus area: *Resilience Building*

Activities:

- Common service provision (SCOPE, Supply Chain, ICT)
- UN Humanitarian Air Service

Asset Creation and Livelihoods

- In February, various livelihood and asset creation projects engaged **9,224** smallholder agricultural market support participants, **9,960** food assistance for training participants, and **22,706** food assistance for assets participants. WFP's asset creation and livelihoods activities have not only addressed immediate hunger but also laid the groundwork for building longer-term community resilience.

Flow of salt

- Since November 2023, WFP has faced a shortage of salt due to a ban imposed by de facto authorities on its import, citing low levels of iodine. Following discussions and a waiver (December 2023-March 2024), the de facto authorities have permitted WFP to import 96 mt of salt to enter the country. To mitigate the risk of such shortages recurring, WFP is proactively exploring a solution by transitioning its salt procurement strategy from international sources to domestic ones. This shift not only ensures a more reliable supply chain but also aligns with WFP's broader objectives of supporting local economies and fostering self-sufficiency. Furthermore, pursuing local procurement avenues reduces dependency on volatile international markets and potential disruptions caused by geopolitical factors.

Maternal Child Benefit Programme

- The World Bank-funded Maternal Child Benefit Programme (MCBP) finalized all field-level agreements with cooperating partners. The MCBP's main objective is to improve maternal and child nutritious outcomes by enhancing access to nutritious food and increasing utilization of health and nutritional facilities and services.

Funding Shortfalls

- WFP requires **US\$1.98 billion** for 2024 to deliver emergency food, nutrition and livelihood support to those most in need. WFP faces a funding shortfall of **US\$657 million** to sustain operations over the next six months (March-August 2024) and calls for urgent funding support to help the most vulnerable 7 million people survive the harsh winter and lean season.

2023 Donors

Asian Development Bank, Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund, Australia, Canada, China, European Commission, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, India, Islamic Development Bank, Japan, Kuwait, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, Private Donors, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund, United Kingdom, and USA.