



# WFP Afghanistan Country Brief

## Highlights

- WFP is planning contingencies in case a combination of three threats to food security materialise. These threats are a prolonged dry spell, increased numbers of returnees, and increased internal displacement.
- WFP's mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (mVAM) team assessed the vulnerability of populations in Faryab Province using mobile phone surveys.
- The Andkhoy-Maymana highway in the northern region is once again accessible to the humanitarian community following negotiations with armed groups.
- Due to a shortage in some commodities, WFP will have to reduce rations to 139,000 beneficiaries for the month of May 2018.

## WFP Assistance

Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation 200447 (PRRO) (Jan 2014 - June 2018)	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Months Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
	<b>763.7 m</b>	<b>439.7 m (58%)</b>	<b>48.8 m**</b>

\*March 2018 - June 2018

**GENDER MARKER 2A** PRRO 200447

WFP Afghanistan's protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) is designed to respond to the needs of the most food-insecure people, including those affected by conflicts, natural disasters and seasonal food insecurity in priority districts across the country. WFP's nutrition programmes are integrated into the Government's basic package of health services, and treat moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) in children under 5 years, pregnant women and nursing mothers. The PRRO also supports the recovery of communities, families and individuals affected by shocks through asset creation with a focus on disaster risk reduction and vocational skills training.

In response to the mid-term evaluation of the PRRO, WFP revised the operational plan by:

- Extending the PRRO from January 2017 to June 2018 for all programme activities, to target 3.3 million vulnerable Afghans with food or cash-based assistance;
- Improving geographical targeting and activity prioritisation by using the 2016 Integrated Context Analysis (ICA) tool; and
- Mainstreaming Purchase for Progress (P4P) into the regular programme structure.

The P4P Afghanistan programmes focus on a three-pillar approach with interventions throughout the value chain:

- Production: support to smallholder farmers;
- Processing: transformation and fortification of locally grown commodities;

Special Operation 200870 (UNHAS) (Jan 2016 - Jun 2018)	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 months Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
	<b>41.3 m</b>	<b>34.8 m (84%)</b>	<b>7.8 m†**</b>

\*March 2018-June 2018

The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) operation provides air transport services for the wider humanitarian community throughout Afghanistan. UNHAS serves 25 locations and supports 160 humanitarian organizations to deliver assistance.

Special Operation 200635 (Strategic Grain Reserve) (Sept 2014 - Jun 2018)	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total received (in USD)	Annual net funding requirements (in USD)*
	<b>14.1 m</b>	<b>1.6 m (11%)</b>	<b>0†</b>

WFP supports the Strategic Grain Reserve (SGR) programme, led by the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock. The SGR aims to improve national emergency response capacity and build resilience in rural communities by stabilising wheat prices and providing storage facilities for farmers.

\*\* Resourcing figures are as per Country Office Pipeline.

† Based on current plans.

‡ Includes funding requirements from July 2018 under WFP Afghanistan's upcoming Country Strategic Plan.

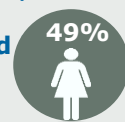
## In Numbers

**11.1 million** food-insecure people in Afghanistan (Seasonal Food Security Assessment 2017)

**18,500** people displaced by conflict in 2018 (UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 19 February)

**3,879** returnees from Pakistan in 2018 (International Organization for Migration, 3 March)

**663,304** People assisted  
February 2017



**February 2018**

Main Photo

Credit: WFP/Afghanistan  
Caption: A man, displaced by conflict, receives WFP food assistance for his family in Lashkargah, Helmand Province.

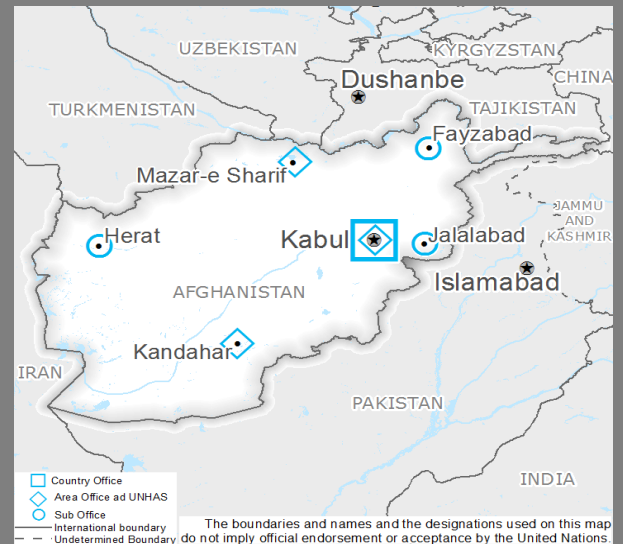
## Operational Updates

- **A prolonged dry spell**, especially in the north of the country, may lead to crop failures and a deterioration in food security. Up to 1 million vulnerable people may require assistance if conditions persist.
- **The numbers of returnees** from Pakistan may rise at the end of March. At present, approximately 2.4 million Afghans (both documented and undocumented) reside in Pakistan. According to current estimates, 280,000 people may require assistance if returns recommence.
- **Internal displacement** may rise as a result of intensifying conflict in 2018. Current estimations suggest that 600,000 displaced people may require assistance.
- **mVAM** conducted an emergency assessment in Faryab Province following the deterioration in security in the districts of Khwaja Sabzposh and Sherin Tagab. The assessment found that insecurity has displaced families to surrounding districts, while access challenges due to anti-government element (AGE) checkpoints on supply roads to these districts have prevented communities from reaching hospitals and schools and traders from reaching markets, leading to a rise in commodity prices. [Read the full report here.](#)
- WFP's Mazar-i Sherif office successfully **negotiated access** through the contested highway of Andkhoz-Maymana in the northern region, enabling the humanitarian community to reach over 23,000 vulnerable displaced people in nearby Faryab Province.
- The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) will now support selected graduates of **WFP vocational skills training** programmes in Herat, western Afghanistan, to develop their businesses. These individuals will receive mentoring and be able to apply for small grants to grow their businesses.
- 36 WFP staff and partners (9 women and 36 men) received training on **gender mainstreaming** in WFP operations in Kabul and Faizabad. The country office plans to extend trainings to all WFP field staff in 2018.
- WFP assistance **reached 663,304** food-insecure men, women, boys and girls with 3,583 mt of food and USD 27,846 in cash.
- The **United Nations Humanitarian Air Service** (UNHAS) transported 1,283 aid workers and 6.4 mt of light cargo. In Afghanistan, 160 organizations rely on UNHAS to reach populations in need.

## Challenges

- **Access challenges** remain in a number of locations, including the main route between Herat and Ghor province in the western region, which is still blocked due to AGE presence.
- **Insecurity** prevented WFP staff based in Kabul from traveling to the office on two occasions in February. Staff worked from home and operations were unaffected.
- **Commodity shortages** will force WFP to reduce rations for 69,000 schoolchildren and 70,000 pregnant and nursing women and girls in May 2018. This is due to recent funding shortages, which meant the country office did not have time to import these commodities from international markets.

## Country Background & Strategy



Afghanistan is at high risk of natural disasters such as floods, drought and landslides.

The country struggles with political instability, with the Government divided largely across ethnic lines.

The economy has deteriorated as a result of loss of revenue following foreign military disengagement. This has continued, with devastating effect: 2015 was characterised by the highest levels of in-country insecurity and military confrontation. This was followed by a period of political turmoil during which the 2016 provincial elections were delayed and the National Unity Government almost collapsed on many occasions.

Nationally, 3.4 million people are severely food-insecure. Another 5.9 million are moderately food-insecure and unable to sustainably cope with shocks such as natural disaster or conflict.

Food utilisation is generally poor as a result of inadequate access to improved water and sanitation services, inappropriate young child feed practices. High levels of malnutrition (wasting is 9.5 percent, stunting 40.9 percent and underweight 25 percent) further compound food insecurity. In-country humanitarian access continues to be constrained by heightened insecurity.

WFP has been in Afghanistan since 1963.

Population: **30 million**

2015 Human Development Index: **169 out of 188**

Development status: **Least developed country (LDC)**

Life Expectancy: Female 59 Male 61

## Donors

**Top five donors for PRRO 200447:** USA, Republic of Korea, Australia, Japan, Canada

**Top donors for SO 200870:** USA, Germany, Japan

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