



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Afghanistan Country Brief

July 2018

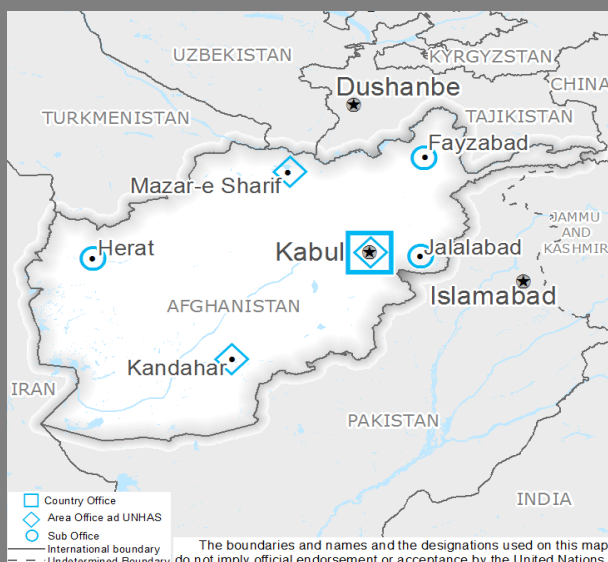


Operational Context

Strategically situated between Central and South Asia, with a committed Government, rich natural resources, and a young and diverse population, Afghanistan has the potential to make significant progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. However, a complex and protracted conflict combined with other challenges including climate change and natural disasters, demographic shifts, limited job opportunities, pervasive gender inequalities, food insecurity and transparency concerns, has dramatically constrained the country's wider development efforts.

Food insecurity has increased from 33 percent of the population in 2014 to 45 percent in 2017, or 13.2 million people (Afghanistan Living Conditions Survey 2016-17).

WFP has been present in Afghanistan since 1963.



Population: **30 million**

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

Income Level: **Low income**

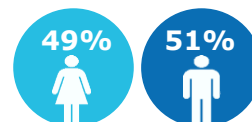
Chronic malnutrition: **31% of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

3,000 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$79.7 m six months (August 2018-January 2019) net funding requirements

391,000 people assisted
in July 2018



Operational Updates

- Afghanistan is suffering from severe drought, which has placed an estimated 1.4 million people in need of humanitarian assistance.
- WFP Afghanistan's response to the drought has three phases. Phase 1, the early response was completed in June and targeted 14 provinces and reached 463,000 people. Phase 2, the enhanced response, is ongoing. Phase 3, the full-scale response, will begin in September or early October.
- In July, WFP commenced distributions to drought-affected people in five provinces targeted as part of its 'enhanced response' (Badghis, Faryab, Ghor, Herat and Jawazjan). WFP plans to reach 441,000 drought affected women, men, boys and girls until the full-scale response in September or early October.
- The emergency food security assessment (EFSA) is underway, led by the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock and supported by Central Statistics Organization, FAO, FEWSNET and WFP; the EFSA will provide the basis for the targeting of the full-scale drought response. All data collectors have received trainings and one third of the data have already been collected.
- WFP Afghanistan will begin to uplift wheat grain from the Government's Strategic Grain Reserve in the week commencing 12 August. This follows confirmation from the Government that it would donate up to 60,000 mt of wheat flour to the drought response and from bilateral donors that they would provide 'twinning' funds to cover the costs of transport, milling, fortification and distribution of the government wheat.
- Despite this support, **WFP still needs US\$79.7 million for the next six months**, across all of its programmes including the drought response. This includes a significant shortfall of US\$58 million for humanitarian assistance including drought-, conflict- and natural disaster-affected people and returnees.
- The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) transported 2,900 aid workers and 5.4mt of light cargo. In Afghanistan, 160 organizations rely on UNHAS to reach populations in need.

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Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Aug-Jan Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
717.8 m	73.0 m	79.7 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food (SDG target 2.1)

Strategic Outcome 1: Vulnerable people in Afghanistan are able to meet their food and nutrition needs during and immediately after emergencies through 2022

Focus area: *Crisis response*

Activities:

- Emergency food assistance

Strategic Outcome 2: Vulnerable people in Afghanistan are increasingly able to meet their food and nutrition needs on their own by 2022

Focus area: *Resilience*

Activities:

- Livelihood support
- Emergency preparedness capacity strengthening

Strategic Result 2: End malnutrition (SDG target 2.2)

Strategic Outcome 3: Vulnerable people at each stage of the life cycle in target areas have improved nutrition by 2022

Focus area: *Resilience*

Activities:

- Prevention and treatment of malnutrition

Strategic Result 4: Sustainable food systems (SDG target 2.4)

Strategic Outcome 4: People throughout the country have a wide range of fortified, nutritious food products available to them at affordable prices by 2022

Focus area: *Resilience*

Activities:

- Nutritious food system strengthening

Strategic Result 6: Policy coherence (SDG target 17.14)

Strategic Outcome 5: National and subnational institutions have a strengthened policy approach to food security and nutrition by 2022.

Focus area: *Resilience*

Activities:

- Enhancing policy coherence on food security and nutrition

Strategic Result 8: Enhance global partnerships (SDG target 17.16)

Strategic Outcome 6: The humanitarian community has enhanced capacity to respond to needs throughout the country through 2022

Focus area: *Crisis response*

Activities:

- Common service provision (SCOPE, supply chain, ICT)
- UN Humanitarian Air Service

Challenges

Insecurity

- A staff member from one of WFP's partners, MADERA, and a colleague contracted by IOM were among 18 killed during an attack on the Department of Refugees and Repatriations in Jalalabad on 31 July. Islamic State Khorasan claimed responsibility for the attack. WFP personnel were safe and accounted for.
- Fighting in Ghazni city has temporary implications for WFP as the main highway from Kabul to Kandahar was blocked. WFP stands ready to respond to affected or displaced people in need of humanitarian assistance.
- WFP is carefully monitoring the widespread protests relating to the upcoming parliamentary elections to mitigate risks to WFP personnel, partners and programmes.

Access

- Overall access for WFP did not change significantly in July (out of a total of 399 districts in Afghanistan, WFP staff can access 149, WFP's partners can reach a further 208 and 42 remain inaccessible to WFP assistance).
- However, in the district of Warduj in Badakhshan Province, anti-government elements threatened to target WFP if it did not increase assistance. WFP encountered similar threats in Warduj previously. Warduj was inaccessible to WFP from September 2016 to April 2018. WFP is monitoring the situation.
- Meanwhile, WFP successfully delivered food to Paktika Province for the first time since May this year.

Drought-displaced families in Herat

Sections of the highway approaching Herat from the east are lined with informal settlements. Some of these are rudimentary shelters – tents and temporary structures – belonging to families who have recently arrived, while others are more permanent. These families, who have settled here over the last four months from Herat, Badghis and Ghor Provinces, moved to escape the impact of drought. However, their situation in Herat is little better.

Recognising the vulnerability of these populations in Herat and those who have not yet moved, the humanitarian community is responding. WFP is providing families with food in their places of origin, while others have conducted assessments of the displaced population in Herat city. Based on these assessments, the Emergency Response Mechanism (ERM) – a consortium of NGOs – is providing 10,000 displaced families with cash assistance for one month, after which WFP will take on the caseload.