



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Afghanistan Country Brief

August 2018



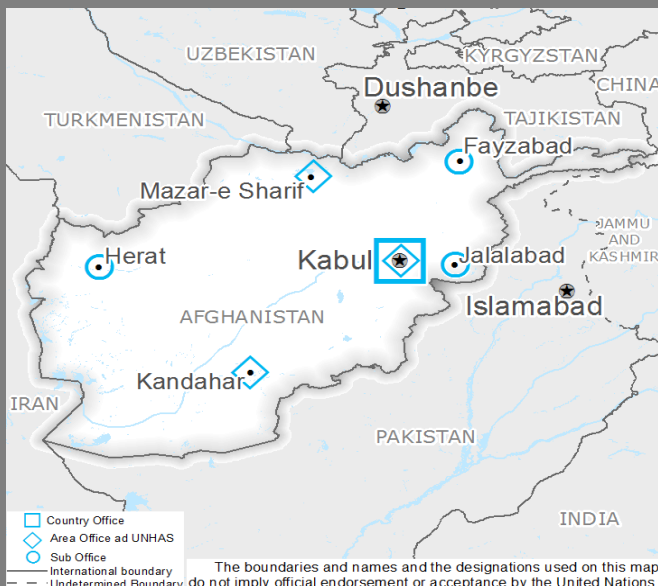
A family, displaced by drought take shelter in a tent outside Herat. Photo WFP/Tom Lewis

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) and continued to rise in 2018.

WFP has been present in Afghanistan since 1963.



Population: 30 million

2015 Human Development Index: 169 out of 188

Income Level: Low income

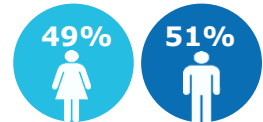
Chronic malnutrition: 31% of children between 6-59 months

In Numbers

US\$107,000 of cash-for-food assistance distributed to drought-affected IDPs in Herat

8,200mt of food dispatched to assist 970,000 vulnerable people in August 2018

US\$82.1 m six months funding requirements (September 2018-February 2019)



Operational Updates

- **Afghanistan's drought will be more severe than initially expected**, according to observations from the emergency food security assessment (EFSA). The data are currently under analysis and findings will be released in mid-September.
- **The situation in Badghis Province** is especially desperate, as the drought has forced over 120,000 people from their homes to the Provincial Centre, Qala-e-Naw, with little shelter, food or water and sanitation. WFP and other agencies have been responding, though they face significant challenges.
- WFP Afghanistan's overall 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. Under phase 2, the enhanced response, which started in July and is ongoing, WFP has dispatched 9,500mt of mixed commodities for 441,000 drought-affected people. Phase 3, the full-scale response, will begin in late September, and is based on initial plans to provide food assistance to 1.4 million people.
- In August, WFP reached over 320,000 women, men, boys and girls affected by the drought in Badghis, Faryab, Ghor, Herat and Jawzjan as part of the 'enhanced response'.
- WFP will update its targeting of the full-scale drought response according to the findings of the EFSA, which will likely require a noticeable increase in the number of people targeted, the duration of assistance and/or the household ration.
- **Aside from drought, insecurity continues to be a persistent threat to food security.** Fighting in Ghazni in August placed 33,000 people in need of life-saving assistance while fighting across the country has displaced over 200,000 in 2018.
- **WFP already requires USD 81.4 million to sustain its current programmes under the Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022) for the next six months**, however this will increase to meet growing drought-response needs.
- The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) transported 1,900 aid workers and 6.0mt 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)	Sept-Feb Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
717.8 m	109.2 m	82.1 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

- Anti-government elements attacked Ghazni, the centre of Ghazni Province and a strategic position on the main highway from Kabul to Kandahar, on 10 August causing civilian casualties and widespread displacement. WFP dispatched food from both Kabul and Kandahar for distribution to 4,700 most-affected households.
- A unilateral ceasefire called by the Government for Eid al-Adha was not officially accepted by the Taliban, although the number of incidents fell temporarily over the holiday period.

Access

- With temporary exceptions, such as in Ghazni, WFP's access did not change in August (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).
- Access negotiations continued across the country, with a focus on drought-affected areas in districts of Ghor, Herat, Badghis and Jawzjan Provinces.
- WFP food was diverted temporarily by anti-government elements while being transported to two districts of Faryab Province, but was later recovered.

Introducing the Strategic Grain Reserve for Emergency Response

WFP in August began to mobilise wheat grain that had been donated for the drought response by the Government of Afghanistan through the Strategic Grain Reserve (SGR). This follows months of discussions between WFP, the Government and other donors, such as the U.S., U.K. and Australia, who have covered the financial costs of transportation, milling, fortification and distribution.

This new response modality is important because it signals the Government of Afghanistan's commitment to and leadership in a humanitarian response; catalyses the first use of the SGR in a crisis situation and sets a good precedent for future crises.

The SGR was established by the Government Ministry of Agriculture Irrigation and Livestock in 2007, with the aim to improve the Government's emergency response capacity, stabilise wheat prices and link smallholder farmers with storage facilities. In these respects is the SGR is important to the Government's Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework (2017-2021) and Afghanistan Zero Hunger Strategic Review (2017). WFP has been engaged with the SGR since 2012.