



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Afghanistan Country Brief September 2018



A man in Jawzjan Province receives assistance from WFP for the drought. Photo WFP/Hadi Abdullah

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 security rose dramatically between 2014 and 2017 to a total of 13.2 million people according to the Afghanistan Living Conditions Survey 2016-2017 (ALCS).

Rural populations accounted for 9.5 million of the total food insecure according to ALCS, however the September 2018 Emergency Food Security Assessment found this figure to have risen to a 16 million mostly due to drought.

WFP has been present in Afghanistan since 1963.



Population: 30 million

2015 Human Development Index: 169 out of 188

Income Level: Low income

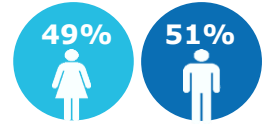
Chronic malnutrition: 31% of children between 6-59 months

In Numbers

895,000 drought-affected people assisted between January and September 2018

US\$1.5 m of cash-for-food assistance distributed in Afghanistan in September

US\$80.1 m six months funding requirements (October 2018-March 2019)



Operational Updates

- **WFP Afghanistan has started its full-scale response to the current drought.** WFP's response to the drought has three stages. The early response was completed in June and reached 463,000 people across 14 provinces. The enhanced response completed in September and reached 432,000 people across the five worst-hit provinces. The full-scale response began in late September with updated targeting based on preliminary findings of the Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA).
- **The full-scale response aims to reach 2.5 million drought-affected people** over two phases. In the first, from September to December 2018, WFP will provide up to three months of assistance to 1.4 million people, starting with those in the greatest need. WFP will also preposition commodities to areas that are hard to access in the winter, while preparing its partners and procuring commodities. In the second phase, from January to April 2019, WFP will provide up to four months of assistance to all 2.5 million targeted women, men, boys and girls.
- In September WFP assisted 101,000 drought-displaced people in Herat and Qala-e-Naw.
- **Conflict-affected internally displaced people** constitute WFP's most persistent caseload and WFP constantly assesses their needs across the country. Between 15 and 30 September, WFP assessed 28,000 IDPs and verified 12,000 for emergency food or cash assistance.
- **WFP completed its response in the city of Ghazni**, providing food to 33,000 vulnerable people affected by conflict after the city was attacked by anti-government elements in August.
- **WFP distributed US\$ 1.5 million in cash-based transfers** in September to support over 132,000 people, including 78,000 people displaced by the drought in Herat and the families of 7,500 women and men enrolled in vocational training courses.
- The **United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)** transported 2,800 aid workers and 7.4mt 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)	Oct Mar Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
717.8 m	142.5 m	80.1 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

- The unpredictable security situation continued in September, with added tension caused by upcoming parliamentary elections planned for 20 October. Campaigning for the elections commenced on 28 September.
- Insecurity in September did not cause a significant change in WFP operations, which continued across the country.

Access

- WFP's access has improved in recent months. Out of a total of 399 districts in Afghanistan, in September WFP staff had access to 93, WFP's partners could reach a further 262, just 14 districts were inaccessible to WFP assistance and negotiations were ongoing in 30 districts.
- The full-scale drought response includes areas where WFP has limited- of no access, such as Kohistanat District of Sar-e-Pol Province. WFP access teams across the country are focusing on these areas and drought-response supply routes to ensure WFP can reach people in need and to reduce the risk of food diversions.
- Localised access challenges arise across the country without significant operational implications. For example, anti-government elements confiscated equipment for SCOPE, WFP's beneficiary registration system, and temporarily abducted a cooperating partner staff-member in Ghor Province in September. The staff member was released following mediation by community elders. WFP has specialist access teams to support its cooperating partners and third-party monitors when access challenges arise.

Donors

WFP Afghanistan's top five donors are Australia, the Republic of Korea, Japan, the UK and the USA.