



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Afghanistan Country Brief

October 2018



Women at a food distribution for drought-affected families in Balkh province. Photo: WFP / Amani

Operational Context

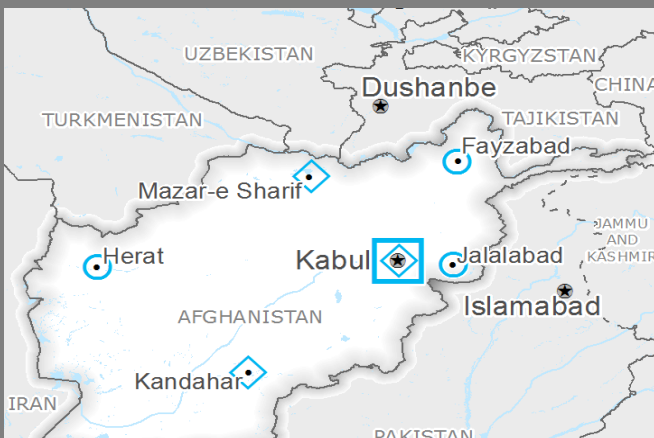
Strategically situated between Central and South Asia, with a committed Government, rich natural resources, and a young and diverse population, Afghanistan has the potential to make significant progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

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 communities accounted for 9.5 million of the total food insecure population, according to ALCS. However, the September 2018 Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) found this figure to have risen to 16 million people 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**

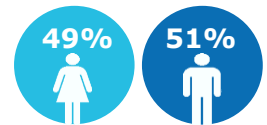
Chronic malnutrition: **31% of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

More than **1 million** drought-affected people were assisted in October 2018 in 15 provinces with **16,000 metric tons** of food.

US\$950,000 in cash transfers in October to address the food needs of **114,000 people**.

US\$205.8 million are required for the next six months (November 2018– April 2019) with a funding gap of currently **US\$61 million**.



Operational Updates

- **In October, WFP Afghanistan reached over 1 million people as part of its full-scale response to the ongoing drought** in 15 drought-affected provinces across the country with 16,000 metric tons (mt) of food delivered and distributed.
- **The full-scale response aims to reach 2.5 million drought-affected** girls, boys, women and men over two phases from beginning of October to end of December in 20 provinces. Some 3.5 million people require food assistance due to the drought, according to findings of the emergency assessment on which WFP's planning figures are based.
- **WFP's response to the drought began end of last year** and by June, more than 450,000 people across 14 provinces had received food assistance in this initial phase. The following enhanced response was completed in September and reached more than 500,000 people across the five worst-hit provinces.
- **WFP distributed USD 950,000 in cash transfers** to address food needs in October to more than 114,000 people, including 34,000 people displaced by the drought and to the families of more than 13,000 women and men enrolled in vocational training courses.
- **115 mt of Ready-to-Use Supplementary Food (RUSF) arrived** from neighbouring Pakistan during October of which 75 mt were transported to Herat Province, one of the most drought-affected provinces.
- The **United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)** transported 2,500 passengers in October to 23 destinations, including hard to reach locations in Badakhshan, Badghis, Daykundi, Ghor, Helmand, Nawroz, Paktika and Urozgan provinces. In total this year, 19,830 passengers from 153 organizations flew with UNHAS.
- Also in October, UNHAS flew 40 staff members of the Afghan Civil Aviation Authority (ACAA) to seven airports in Afghanistan to train staff, assess the airports and monitor weather and aviation equipment as part of capacity strengthening activities.

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Nov - April Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
717.8 m	180.6 m	61 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 long-awaited parliamentary elections held in October were accompanied by [more than 100 verified election-related incidents](#), according to the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA). The incidents caused more than 400 civilian casualties, including 56 deaths.
- The violence during the election did not directly interfere with WFP's programming across the country, but overall humanitarian activities were reduced and movements minimised in the period before and after polling.

Access

- In October, **WFP and its partners were able to reach communities in need in 353 of 399 districts** in the 34 provinces across the country. Access negotiations were ongoing in 30 districts and only 16 districts were inaccessible to WFP assistance.
- **Localised access challenges in Badghis, Faryab, Ghor, Helmand and Uruzgan provinces** hampered or delayed assistance to rural communities affected by the drought in a number of districts.
- 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. WFP has specialist access teams to support its cooperating partners and third-party monitors when access challenges arise.
- **As winter sets in across the country, snowfall and poor road infrastructure** in rural areas are challenging the delivery of food commodities. WFP is anticipating food needs in remote areas for all its food programmes and is prepositioning food as close as possible to the communities in need of food assistance. This includes special nutrition foods that are being prepositioned in WFP warehouses, stores of NGO-partners and in health centres that treat malnourished girls and boys and supports expecting and nursing mothers.

Funding

- Funding requirements for the coming six months (November 2018 – April 2019) are USD 205.8 million of which 180.6 million have been allocated, **leaving a funding gap of USD 61 million.**
- Total requirements for WFP's [Afghanistan Country Strategic Plan \(CSP\) \(2018-2022\)](#) are USD 717.8 million.

Donors

WFP Afghanistan's top five donors are the United States, the United Kingdom, Afghanistan, Japan and Australia.