

# WFP Afghanistan Country Brief December 2018

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES



UNHAS is facing a funding shortfall and must consider reducing aircraft and cancelling destinations. Photo: WFP/UNHAS

## Operational Context

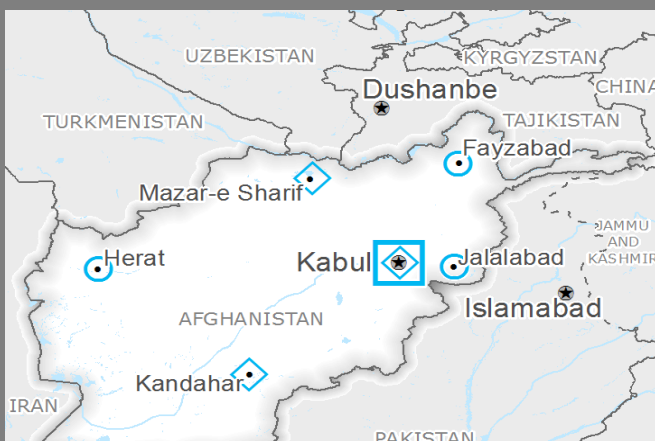
Strategically situated between Central and South Asia, with a committed Government, rich natural resources, and a young and diverse population, Afghanistan has the potential to make significant progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

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**

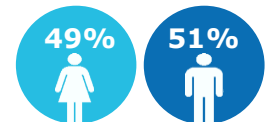
Chronic malnutrition: **31% of children between 6-59 months**

## In Numbers

More than **1.3 million people** received emergency assistance of more than **11,000 metric tons** of food and **US\$6.7 million** in cash transfers to cover food needs in December.

Some **3,300 mt** food and nutrition supplies were repositioned in December to support nearly **200,000 people** through winter.

**US\$62 million** are required for the next six months (January – June 2019).



## Operational Updates

- **In December, WFP Afghanistan reached more than 1.3 million drought affected people** in 21 provinces across the country. WFP and partners delivered and distributed more than 11,000 metric tons (mt) of food and transferred more than US\$2 million to drought-affected families to cover their food needs. Of the people assisted, nearly 250,000 received food rations in December to last the families for two or three months.
- The ongoing **full-scale drought response** started in October and by end of December had **reached a total of just under 2.3 million people, an estimated 1.5 million of them repeatedly**. In the last three months of the year, some 40,000 mt of food were distributed and more than \$3.24 million cash assistance transferred. Distributions will continue to increase, until WFP reaches its target of 2.5 million people affected by the drought.
- **WFP's response to the drought began end of last year**, reaching 463,000 severely food insecure people across 14 provinces by June 2018. The following enhanced response was completed in September 2018 and assisted 560,000 people across the five worst-affected provinces.
- Outside of the drought response, more than **61,000 people received cash transfers totalling \$4.73 million** in December. Recipients included people displaced by conflict, returnees, families of women and men participating in vocational training and asset creation activities as well highly vulnerable families who received seasonal support.
- More than **3,300 mt of food and nutrition supplies were repositioned** in December in remote locations across the country, following a first consignment of 3,400 mt in November. These supplies will cover the needs of 400,000 people, including pregnant women and girls and malnourished children during the winter months.

## Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Jan - June Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>717.8 m</b>	<b>118m</b>	<b>62 m</b>

### 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

- As part of prepositioning activities in the mountainous central highlands, WFP disbursed US\$2.5 million in cash transfers to some 60,000 vulnerable people. This allowed them to buy food on local markets for three to four months before snow and ice made their villages largely inaccessible.
- The **United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)** flew 2,300 passengers in December to 19 destinations and transported 6.5 mt of humanitarian cargo. In total in 2018, UNHAS transported nearly 25,000 passengers from 158 organizations, including donors and media, to 23 destinations and 77.5 mt of humanitarian cargo.

## Challenges

### Access and Supply Chain

- The access situation remained unchanged as in November: **WFP and its partners had access to 354 of 399 districts** in the 34 provinces across the country. Access negotiations were ongoing in 33 districts and 12 districts were inaccessible to WFP assistance.
- **The arrival of 7,700 metric tons of yellow-split peas from Kazakhstan was further delayed** in December, due to lack of sufficient railway waggons to contract necessary for transport. The peas were intended for distribution in December as part of the ongoing drought response.

### Funding

- Funding requirements for the coming six months (January – June 2019) are \$180 million of which US \$118 million have been allocated, **leaving a funding gap of US\$62 million.**
- Total requirements for WFP's [Afghanistan Country Strategic Plan \(CSP\) \(2018-2022\)](#) are US\$717.8 million.
- **UNHAS is facing a funding gap.** With the carry-over of funds from 2018 and ongoing cost-recovery from passengers, UNHAS will be able to sustain services only until April 2019. **UNHAS is considering scaling down operations**, notably the cancellation of the contract for the only helicopter and one airplane; consequently, reducing flights to remote locations and cancelling some destinations served by UNAMA.

## Donors

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