



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Afghanistan Country Brief January 2019



A successful participant of a vocational training. Photo: WFP

Operational Context

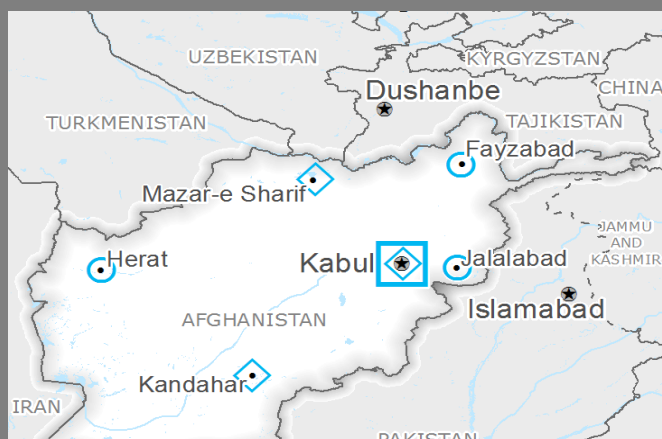
Situated between Central and South Asia, with a committed Government, rich natural resources, and a young and diverse population, Afghanistan has the potential to make significant progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

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**

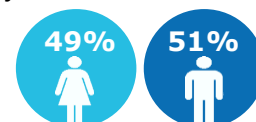
Chronic malnutrition: **31% of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

More than **1.2 million people** received emergency assistance of more than **16,000 metric tons** of food and **US\$283,000** in cash transfers to cover food needs, some receiving multiple rations expected to last 2-3 months.

At times in January, **375,000 people** were not accessible to WFP due to access constraints.

US\$69 million is the funding shortfall for the next six months (February – July 2019).



Operational Updates

- **In January, WFP Afghanistan reached more than 1.2 million drought-affected people in 19 provinces.** WFP and partners delivered and distributed more than 16,000 metric tons (mt) of food and transferred US\$283,000 to cover the food needs of 34,000 people.
- **Rain and snowfall in January have brought some relief** from the drought, but many communities across the country are still in urgent need of food assistance. **WFP plans to continue its food assistance until June 2019** with a gradually reduced number of families and lower rations, as the effects of the drought wane.
- In 2018, **WFP's response to the most severe drought in a decade reached more than 2.7 million people** in 22 out of 34 provinces. WFP distributed 56,000 mt of food and nearly \$4 million in cash transfers.
- In January, **WFP opted to provide in-kind assistance instead of cash transfers** to ensure that families have food over the harshest weeks of winter. In December, a total of 66,000 people had received cash transfers totalling more than \$5.2 million. Recipients included drought-affected families, people displaced by conflict, returnees, families of women and men participating in vocational training and asset creation activities, as well as highly vulnerable families who received seasonal support.
- A total of **1,000 women in Kabul City graduated from a six-month vocational training** on sewing bags or weaving carpets. During the training, their families were supported with food vouchers to help them cover their food needs.
- The **United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) flew more than 1,900 passengers in January to 18 destinations and transported 4.7 mt of humanitarian cargo.** Faced with a funding gap, UNHAS had to reduce flights to locations when passenger numbers were low and could not cover the direct operating cost for the flight (see *Funding section*).

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Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

| Total Requirement (in USD) | Allocated Contributions (in USD) | Feb-July Net Funding Requirements (in USD) |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| 717.8 m | 200m | 69 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

Humanitarian Access

- WFP and partners were able to **gain access to an additional 6 districts during January, resulting in 395 out of 399 districts** in the 34 provinces across the country becoming accessible for WFP operations.
- At times during January, **375,000 people in 16 districts across 5 provinces were unreachable due to insecurity, snow, or both**. In two provinces in the Western region, **some deliveries were temporarily put on hold, until necessary guarantees were received** from parties to the conflict for safe crossing. By the end of January, as snow issues and some security concerns cleared, **WFP was able to reach 185,000 of the 375,000 people**. Access and assistance for the remaining 190,000 people remains under negotiation.

Supply Chain

- A **backlog of food commodities** to be imported to Afghanistan has been building up in neighbouring countries **following recently introduced rules that each container, truck or rail wagon needs its own Exemption Certificate (EC)**, instead of one EC for the whole shipment.
- A **total of 5,000 mt of yellow split peas arrived in country from Kazakhstan**. The consignment had been delayed for several weeks because the supplier was unable to secure enough rail wagons. The pulses are part of the ongoing drought-response.

Funding

- Funding requirements for the coming six months (February – July 2019) are \$175 million and a **funding gap of \$69 million currently remains**. Total requirements for WFP's [Afghanistan Country Strategic Plan \(CSP\) \(2018-2022\)](#) are US\$717.8 million.
- The budget for 2019 to keep **UNHAS** operational at the same level as in 2018 is US\$19.7 million. With carryover of some funds, forecasted cost recovery and still unconfirmed but expected contributions, **UNHAS faces a funding gap of over US\$4 million**.

Donors

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