



World Food Programme

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# WFP Afghanistan Country Brief February 2019



WFP receives a delivery of High-Energy Biscuits in Mazar for drought-affected people. Photo: WFP/Afghanistan

## 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

Gender Inequality Index: 153 out of 160 (UNDP)

## In Numbers

Almost **1.8 million people** received emergency assistance of **16,500 metric tons** of food and **US\$450,000** in cash transfers to cover food needs in February.

WFP secured access to deliver assistance to **190,000 people** not reachable in January.

**US\$59.6 million** is the funding shortfall for the next six months (March – August 2019).



## Operational Updates

- In February, WFP Afghanistan reached more than **1.77 million women, men, girls and boys in 18 provinces**, most of them through the **drought response**. WFP and partners distributed more than **16,500 metric tons (mt) of food** and **transferred more than US\$447,000** to cover families' food needs.
- Throughout February, a total of **17,765 mt of mixed food was delivered to cooperating partners** across the country.
- For cash-based transfers, 1,000 drought-affected people in Herat received a total of \$80,000. Some 1,800 people in **vocational trainings** in Fayzabad, Herat and Mazar received \$60,500 and 2,262 people in the Laghman, Kunar and Nangarhar districts of Jalalbad received transfers of \$307,000 for **asset creation activities**.
- The numbers of people reached through cash-based transfers was lower than in the past months as previous grants expired, though recent new project approvals mean cash distributions will soon increase again.
- **Rain and snowfall in February have brought some relief** to drought-affected people, but many communities across the country remain in urgent need. **WFP plans to continue its food drought assistance until June 2019** with a gradually reduced number of families and lower rations, as the effects of the drought wane.
- **Rains caused some flooding** in Herat and Farah provinces, which was exacerbated by dry ground from months of drought. **WFP assisted more than 1,400 affected people**.
- WFP continues working with **UNFPA** in providing **information and services on integrated sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence** to women and men who receive food assistance in Kabul and Nangarhar.
- **UNHAS** transported 1,735 passengers from 93 agencies to 19 destinations in February.

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## Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total CSP Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Mar-Aug Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>890 m*</b>	<b>206 m</b>	<b>59 m</b>

\* based on 2019 budget revision

## 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

WFP's Country Strategic Plan for Afghanistan has a WFP Gender & Age Marker score of 3, "fully integrates gender." A gender transformative approach with integration of Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations is applied across all strategic outcomes.

## Challenges

## Humanitarian Access

- WFP and partners were able to **gain access to all districts in which there are activities**, resulting in 395 out of 399 districts in the 34 provinces across the country being reached.
- Access was secured and **assistance delivered to nearly 190,000 people who were unreachable at times in January** in 16 districts across 5 provinces as part of the drought response.

## Supply Chain

- Heavy snowfall closed the Salang Pass in both directions multiple times throughout February**, which affected the north transport routes to Mazar-e-Sharif and Faizabad.
- During the month, Afghan authorities issued **Exemption Certificates (EC) for a total of 8,582 mt** of nutritious foods, vegetable oil and yellow split peas to allow WFP consignments to be transported across the border into the country. Due to newly implemented measures, EC delays have already decreased and are expected to continue in this trend.
- WFP has received **1,493 mt of RUSF, vegetable oil and yellow split peas** already, while **2,800 tons of food commodities are in transit from Pakistan**. Due to heightened tensions between India and Pakistan, dispatches from Pakistan were delayed, but these delays are expected to diminish in early March.

## Funding

- Funding requirements for the coming six months (March – August 2019) are \$134 million of which US \$75 million have been provided for, **leaving a funding gap of \$59 million**. Total requirements for WFP's [Afghanistan Country Strategic Plan \(CSP\) \(2018-2022\)](#) are US\$890 million based on the latest budget revision.
- The **budget for 2019 to keep UNHAS operational at the level of assessed need**, which is similar to 2018, **is US\$19.7 million**. Considering cost reduction measures put in place, received contributions from Japan, expected contributions from the Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund (AHF) and expected cost recovery until April, **UNHAS will be able to operate at its current level until the end of July**.

## Donors

WFP Afghanistan's top five donors for 2019 to date are: [Australia](#), [Canada](#), [the Netherlands](#), [the Republic of Korea](#) and [Russia](#).