



World Food Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

# WFP Afghanistan Country Brief May 2019



People in Helmand Province affected by flooding receive food assistance in May. 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 insecurity 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. The September 2018 Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) found this figure to have risen to 16 million people mostly due to drought, though drought effects are expected to wane in 2019.

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

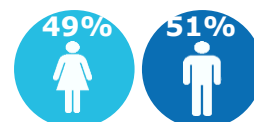
Gender Inequality Index: 153 out of 160 (UNDP)

## In Numbers

WFP assisted **641,000 people** with **6,600 metric tons** of food and over **US\$900,000** in cash transfers to cover food needs in May.

WFP has exceeded **2 million people** registered in its digital assistance platform **SCOPE**.

**US\$15.34 million** is the net funding shortfall for the next six months (June – November 2019).



## Operational Updates

- In May, according to initial field reports, **WFP reached 641,000 girls, boys, women and men across 24 of 34 provinces**, providing more than 6,600 mt of food and US\$900,000 for distribution.
- This included **513,500 people affected by drought, 59,000 by flooding, 61,000 by conflict, and 7,500 returnees**. WFP is now in its second month of scaling down its drought support, which will transition to seasonal support at the end of June.
- WFP provided specialized nutritious foods to **treat malnutrition of 93,000 children and 18,000 pregnant and nursing mothers** and assisted in the **prevention of malnutrition for 27,000 at-risk children** from 6 to 59 months as part of the drought and flood responses.
- While WFP continued responding throughout the month to those needing assistance due to **flash flooding**, the rate of heavy rains is decreasing. Overall, the rain has helped with recovery from the long-term drought and the next harvest season is looking more favourable than that of 2018.
- WFP has reached a milestone of registering 2 million people in all 34 provinces through SCOPE**, its digital beneficiary and transfer management platform. SCOPE is now able to tailor assistance based on household size, which has been rolled out for people displaced by drought in Badghis and Herat, where family size is lower than average.
- WFP began **two new vocational training projects in Herat City** for vulnerable displaced people. Following the training, WFP and its partners will provide participants with business mentoring and connect them with employment and entrepreneurship service centres to ensure their new skills lead to improved earning opportunities.
- Following the suspension of school feeding in mid-2018 due to funding limitations, a **school feeding project started in two districts of Nangarhar**, providing take-home rations for 33,000 school children. WFP is working to scale up school feeding in other parts of the country in 2019.

Contact info: Philippe Kropf ([philippe.kropf@wfp.org](mailto:philippe.kropf@wfp.org))

Country Director: Zlatan Milisic

Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/afghanistan](http://www.wfp.org/countries/afghanistan)

## Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total CSP Requirement (in USD)	Total allocated Contributions (in USD)	June-Nov Funding Requirements (in USD)
890 m*	272 m	15.34 m

\* based on the budget revision approved in 2019

## 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.

- On 24 May, WFP launched a digital campaign on the "Share the Meal" app to **raise funding for its child nutrition efforts** across the country. As of the end of May, the campaign was on track to raise the full amount requested in under one month.
- WFP supported the Government in **establishing two additional provincial-level committees in Kandahar and Helmand for the Afghanistan Food Security and Nutrition Agenda (AFSEN-A)**. WFP aims to reach the remaining 16 (of 34) provinces by the end of 2019.
- WFP is working with UNHCR, UNICEF and OCHA to develop "**Common Cash Systems**" that will enable the agencies to share delivery platforms for cash-based transfers and to strengthen programme continuity. Afghanistan is one of six pilot countries.
- The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) **transported 2,050 passengers from 99 different agencies and organizations to 20 locations**. Since January, UNHAS has transported over 9,900 passengers, a 23 percent increase compared to the same period in 2018.

## Challenges

## Access

- WFP has access to 396 out of 399 districts in Afghanistan. In the remaining three districts, WFP has no activities.
- Food deliveries to drought- and flood-affected families in Bala Murghab of Badghis Province, as well as Murgab Valley in Ghor, were put on hold due to armed clashes. Deliveries in multiple districts of Kandahar were also put on hold due to an ongoing military operation, but WFP anticipates being able to resume delivery and distribution in June.

## Supply Chain

- To resolve delays of regionally purchased goods, **WFP began implementing "Delivery at Place" terms**, with all costs and customs clearances included in delivery agreements. The first consignments under this agreement were delivered on time in Jalalabad and Spin Boldak at the end of the month.

## Funding

- Funding requirements** for the coming six months (June – November 2019) are US \$98.1 million, of which WFP has a **current funding gap of US \$15.34 million**. Additional needs of US \$30 million are expected for humanitarian response through the end of the year.

## Donors

WFP Afghanistan's top five donors for 2019 based on funding received by 31 May: Australia, Canada, The Netherlands, Republic of Korea, and the United States.