



World Food Programme

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WFP Afghanistan Country Brief

June 2019



Villagers look at the river in Wakhan, Badakhshan, that now irrigates their fields thanks to WFP. Photo: Rupani Foundation

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

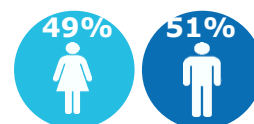
Gender Inequality Index: 153 out of 160 (UNDP)

In Numbers

In June, WFP assisted **586,500 people** with over **5,500 metric tons** of food and **US\$1.23 million** in cash transfers to cover food needs.

The **emergency drought response** ended in June, reaching nearly **491,500 people** in the last month.

US\$10.5 million is the net funding shortfall for the next six months (July – December 2019).



Operational Updates

- In June, WFP reached 586,500 girls, boys, women and men across 31 of 34 provinces with emergency assistance, distributing more than 5,500 mt of food and transferring US\$1.23 million to food insecure families.
- This included 491,500 people affected by drought, 19,100 by flooding, 53,200 displaced by conflict, and 7,100 returnees from Iran and Pakistan. An additional 15,600 people received seasonal support prior to the summer harvest, part of WFP's transition from emergency drought assistance to seasonal support and longer-term solutions.
- WFP provided US\$1.23 million in cash transfers for 156,800 people affected by drought in five districts of Herat and Daykundi provinces.
- In two districts of Nangarhar Province, 76,700 primary school students received daily high-energy biscuits and take-home rations of fortified vegetable oil for their families.
- In addition, 39,000 people benefited from food from asset creation projects. Ten projects to develop community assets like irrigation canals, tree plantations and roads are now underway. These will improve water management and climate resilience and connect villages to markets and services.
- WFP and partners began a project in June in Kandahar for 800 women and men displaced by conflict. For six months, they will learn skills such as tailoring, mobile phone and electronics repair, and solar panel installation and maintenance while they and their families receive monthly food assistance. After six months, they will participate in a month of business development and marketing training to help them start their own micro-enterprises.
- In June, WFP's **Share the Meal** campaign raised funds through individual giving for child nutrition in Afghanistan, which will provide 4,300 Afghan children with nutrition support for five months.

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Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total CSP Requirement (in USD)	Total allocated Contributions (in USD)	July-Dec Funding Requirements (in USD)
890 m*	272 m	10.5 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.

- Afghanistan's joint humanitarian hotline, [Awaaz, recognized its first anniversary](#) in June. Eight multi-lingual male and female call operators have handled 62,000 calls from people across the country in the past year. Providing US\$750,000, WFP was one of the main donors injecting initial funding to start the hotline, while also providing technical inputs through protection and accountability specialists.
- The provinces of **Kunar and Kunduz joined the Afghanistan Food Security and Nutrition Agenda (AFSeN-A)** in June, bringing the total number of participating provinces to 20 out of 34. The AFSeN-A coordinator, H.E. Nasrullah Aarsalai, also travelled to Rome to meet with WFP's Executive Director and discuss the state of nutrition in Afghanistan and to participate in a panel on women and the private sector.
- **WFP and the World Bank co-led a two-day workshop** with donors, government stakeholders and other agencies **on shock-responsive social safety net systems** to discuss how to implement the "Early Warning, Early Financing and Early Action" approach.
- WFP **procured 4,585 mt of wheat flour locally**, equalling 75 percent of the total tonnage received during the month. Local procurement reduces costs and lead times and supports the local economy.
- The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) **transported 2,110 passengers from 99 different agencies and organizations to 20 locations**. Since January, UNHAS has transported over 12,000 passengers, a 24 percent increase compared to the same period in 2018.

Challenges

Access

- WFP has **access to 396 out of 399 districts** in Afghanistan itself or through partners. In the remaining three districts, WFP has no activities.
- Food delivery for 4,770 drought-affected families in nine districts of Kandahar Province was on hold in June due to insecurity. It is anticipated that the planned distributions of 880 mt of food will go ahead in the first days of July.

Funding

- **Funding requirements** for the coming six months (July – December 2019) are US\$82.3 million, of which US\$71.8 million has been provided, leaving a **current funding gap of US\$10.5 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 30 June: United States of America, Australia, Republic of Korea, Netherlands and Canada.