



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Afghanistan Country Brief

## July 2019



A girl eats WFP specialized nutritious food "Acha mum" at a food distribution site in Jawzjan Province. Photo: WFP/Hadi Abdulahi

### 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 in rural and urban areas 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), which was conducted in rural areas only 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

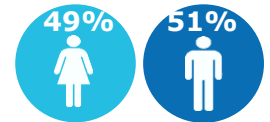
Gender Inequality Index: 153 out of 160 (UNDP)

## In Numbers

In July, WFP assisted **475,800 people in need** with over **4,914 metric tons** of food.

WFP distributed **US\$ 655,000** in cash transfers to cover families' food needs.

**US\$ 10.95 million** is the funding shortfall for the next six months (August 2019 – January 2020).



### Operational Updates

- In July, WFP reached **218,800 girls, boys, women and men across 22 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces as part of its emergency response**, dispatching more than 2,944 mt of food for distribution to partners and transferring US\$ 655,000 to food insecure families.
- This included **124,440 people affected by drought, 20,500 by flooding, 50,500 displaced by conflict, and 5,500 returnees from Iran and Pakistan**. WFP's response to the worst drought to hit Afghanistan in a decade ended in June, however some drought-affected families in Ghor, Herat and Kandahar provinces received assistance in July as previous distributions in those areas had been delayed due to conflict and insecurity. An additional **17,800 highly vulnerable people received seasonal support** prior to the summer harvest.
- To prevent the deterioration of the nutritional status of children affected by crisis, WFP dispatched 4 mt specialized nutritious food to partners for distribution to **2,400 children age 6-59 months at risk of malnutrition**.
- WFP supplied health centers in provinces with high rates of moderate acute malnutrition with 353 mt of specialized nutritious foods for **79,370 children age 6-59 months and 35,900 pregnant and breastfeeding mothers**.
- Under **WFP's school-feeding programme**, 77,200 **primary school students** received high-energy biscuits each day at school. Among them, **55,000 girls** also received vegetable oil to take home for their families to **encourage school attendance and reduce gender disparity**.
- WFP supported the Afghanistan Food Security and Nutrition Agenda (**AFSeN-A**) by holding the first **Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Joint Annual Assessment** workshop in mid-July. WFP also led the SUN Network reporting exercise for the first half of 2019 together with other UN agencies committed to achieving **Zero Hunger**.

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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*	314.46 m	10.95 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 supported the establishment of a **provincial food security and nutrition committee in Ghor Province** within the framework of AFSen-A.
- The families of **8,800 participants of asset creation activities** in seven provinces – some 62,000 people - received 1,480 mt of food while the participating family members build **irrigation canals, flood protection walls or water reservoirs, rehabilitate roads or plant trees**. These assets will benefit communities through improved **water management, climate resilience and better connections to markets and services**.
- WFP continued to co-lead the development of a **shock responsive social safety net system in collaboration with World Bank** in line with the principles of forecast-based action. The first draft of the system’s prototype has been finalized, while institutional arrangements and implementation plans are currently being developed in consultation with relevant stakeholders and partner agencies.
- The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) **transported 2,818 passengers from 106 different agencies and organizations to 20 locations**. Since January, UNHAS has transported over 14,870 passengers, an 18 percent increase compared to the same period in 2018.
- In June, in Khost and Paktika provinces, some **60,000 refugees from Pakistan** received a total of 527 mt of food to cover their food needs for two months.

**Challenges**

**Access**

- WFP was not able to assist intended beneficiaries in **four districts in Ghor, Kandahar and Nuristan** provinces during the month, while most other **access challenges** were successfully resolved.

**Funding**

- **Funding requirements** for the coming six months (August 2019 – January 2020) are US\$ 74.05 million, of which US\$ 63.09 million has been provided, leaving a **current funding gap of US\$ 10.95 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 July: **United States of America, Australia, Republic of Korea, Netherlands and Canada**.

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.