



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Afghanistan Country Brief

August 2019



After 30 years in service driving across Afghanistan, half of WFP's fleet needs to be replaced. 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 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**

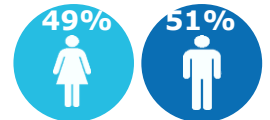
Gender Inequality Index: 153 out of 160 (UNDP)

In Numbers

In August, WFP assisted **416,814 people** in need with **3,763 metric tons** of food.

WFP distributed **US\$ 611,781** in cash transfers to cover families' food needs.

US\$ 15 million is the net funding shortfall for the next six months (September 2019 – February 2020).



Operational Updates

- In August, **WFP reached 416,814 girls, boys, women and men across 29 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces**, distributed **3,763 mt of food** through its partners and transferred **US\$ 611,781** to food insecure families.
- This included **33,012 people displaced by conflict, 4,970 returnees from Iran and Pakistan and 3,948 people affected by flooding**. A total of **37,534 drought-affected people** in Herat and Kandahar provinces received assistance in August as previous distributions in those areas had been delayed due to conflict and insecurity.
- WFP dispatched food to provide seasonal support to **27,902 highly vulnerable people** in Parwan and Wardak provinces that were not part of the 22 provinces selected for the full-scale drought response from October 2018 to June 2019. While needs and food insecurity are high in these provinces, the communities were less affected by the drought and are being served now.
- In provinces with high rates of moderate acute malnutrition, WFP supplied health centers with **489 mt of specialized nutritious foods for 97,495 children aged 6-59 months and 47,657 pregnant and breastfeeding mothers**. Some 1,000 children received specialized nutritious foods as part of general food distributions to prevent the deterioration of their nutritional status.
- Under **WFP's school-feeding programme, 77,974 primary school students** received high energy biscuits each day at school. Among them, **49,623 girls** also received vegetable oil to take home for themselves and their families to **encourage school attendance and reduce gender disparity**.
- The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) **transported 2,079 passengers from 105 different agencies and organizations to 19 locations**. Since January, UNHAS has transported 16,949 passengers, an 18 percent increase compared to the same period in 2018.

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total CSP Requirement (in USD)	Total allocated Contributions (in USD)	September 2019 – February 2020 Funding Requirements (in USD)
890 m*	321 m	15 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.

Operational Updates continued

- During [World Breastfeeding Week](#) from 1–7 August, WFP supported the broadcasting of public health awareness campaigns, including TV and radio spots.
- In August, 82,145 food insecure people received in-kind assistance for taking part in **asset creation activities**.
- As part of its programme at the **humanitarian-development-peace nexus**, WFP launched a new asset creation project with 1,100 food insecure participants in Nuristan. Participants will build roads in 12 villages and receive food assistance to cover their families' food needs in return. The project will last until January 2020.
- WFP completed construction of two irrigation canals of 500m and 100m length in Kunar and Kandahar provinces respectively. These canals are now **supplying water to 580 hectare of fields** which benefit more than 1,500 households.
- 410 women and 46 men enrolled in **vocational skills training** in Herat received value vouchers to buy food for their 3,200 family members.
- On 27 August, the **Kabul provincial committee of the Afghanistan Food Security and Nutrition (AFSeN)** was inaugurated with a one-day awareness workshop for local officials. To date, WFP has supported establishing 23 provincial committees across the country with an aim to strengthen the Government's structures to ensure that no Afghan suffers from hunger and that all are well-nourished at all times.

Challenges

Access

- Food delivery for 1,100 drought-affected families in **two districts of Kandahar Province** was put on hold in August due to a disagreement among the communities and stakeholders where to located food distribution points. All parties have come to an agreement and the delivery go forward next month.

Funding

- Funding requirements for the coming six months (September 2019 – February 2020) are US\$ 132 million, of which US\$ 117 million has been provided, leaving a current **funding gap of US\$ 15 million**.
- This includes additional funding required to assist an additional 600,000 people per month expected to be in need of assistance in the coming months, including families newly displaced by conflict, families unable to return to their areas of origin and returnees from Iran.
- The replacement of half of WFP's fleet trucks is becoming urgent after three decades of service, which will cost an estimated US\$ 8 million for 40 trucks.

Donors

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