



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Afghanistan Country Brief September 2019



A boy consumes specialised nutritious foods in Sheberghan, Jawzjan Province. 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 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 September, WFP assisted **851,879 people** in need with **8,447 metric tons** of food.

WFP distributed **US\$939,361** in cash transfers to cover families' food needs.

US\$17 million is the net funding shortfall for the next six months (October 2019 – March 2020).



Operational Updates

- In September, **WFP reached 851,879 girls, boys, women and men across 31 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces**, distributed **8,447 mt of food** through its partners and transferred **US\$939,361** to food insecure families.
- This included **188,776 people displaced by conflict**, who received emergency food assistance in 14 provinces. 130,732 of these received cash-based transfers in Balkh, Faryab and Takhar provinces after registration in [SCOPE](#), WFP's beneficiary information and transfer management system. In addition, **980 returnees from Iran and Pakistan, and 1,169 people affected by flooding** received in-kind food assistance.
- WFP dispatched food to provide seasonal support to **200,340 highly vulnerable people** in five provinces: Faryab, Ghazni, Ghor, Khost and Maidan Wardak. With the end of the drought response in June 2019, WFP is now focusing on delivering in-kind food assistance to communities in provinces that were not selected for the drought response and are both hard-to-reach and have high levels of food insecurity.
- In provinces with high rates of moderate acute malnutrition, WFP supplied health centres and partners with **863 mt of specialised nutritious foods** for **151,582 children** aged 6-59 months and **76,985 pregnant and lactating women**. Some **6,159 children** received specialised nutritious foods as part of general food distributions to prevent the deterioration of their nutritional status.
- Under **WFP's school feeding programme, 77,677 primary school students** received high energy biscuits each day at school. Among them, **49,326 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 2,095 passengers from 104 different agencies and organisations to 20 locations** in Afghanistan. Since January, UNHAS has transported 19,044 passengers, a 10 percent increase compared to the same period in 2018.

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- As part of its programme at the humanitarian-development nexus, WFP launched a new construction project in Samangan Province to rehabilitate irrigation canals of 9 km in length. These will supply water to 1,000 ha of fields and benefit 17 villages. In addition, 150 smallholder male and female farmers will receive agricultural inputs such as improvised seeds, fertilizers and kitchen garden kits, as well as relevant training on farming techniques.
- WFP completed construction of two water catchments in Moqur District of Badghis Province. These contain 5,000 m³ storage capacity, and will harvest rainwater, replenish ground water for agriculture and provide drinking water for livestock. This also benefited 18 participants through food assistance-for-assets activities.
- Further, WFP completed construction of 80 small water reservoirs of 20 m³ storage capacity in three districts of Badghis. This will improve access to drinking water for a total of 580 people. This also benefited 80 participant households through food assistance-for-assets activities.
- Across all asset creation activities, a total of 148,211 food insecure people received in-kind assistance in return for their participation, including the construction of an irrigation canal in Badakshan and a carpet weaving training project in Herat.
- **Paktika and Badghis provincial committees of the Afghanistan Food Security and Nutrition Agenda (AFSeN-A)**, were inaugurated with a one-day awareness workshop for local officials. To date, WFP supported establishing 25 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

- WFP resumed dispatches to partners that were paused during the presidential election period and is prioritising reaching areas with high needs in Ghazni, Kandahar, and Maidan Wardak provinces. Where needed, WFP is engaging in negotiations with stakeholders via community elders to secure access and ensure safe distributions to beneficiaries.

Funding

- Funding requirements for the coming six months (October 2019 – March 2020) are US\$131 million, of which US\$114 million has been provided, leaving a current **funding gap of US\$17 million**.
- It is becoming increasingly urgent to replace half of WFP's fleet trucks after three decades of service. This will cost an estimated US\$8 million for 40 trucks.

Donors

WFP Afghanistan's top five donors for 2019 based on funding received by 30 September: United States of America, Australia, Republic of Korea, Netherlands and Canada.

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total CSP Requirement (in USD)	Total Allocated Contributions (in USD)	October 2019 – March 2020 Funding Requirements (in USD)
890 m*	323 m	17 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.