



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Afghanistan Country Brief October 2019



Fortified vegetable oil is being apportioned at a distribution point in Badghis Province. Photo: WFP/Afghanistan

Operational Context

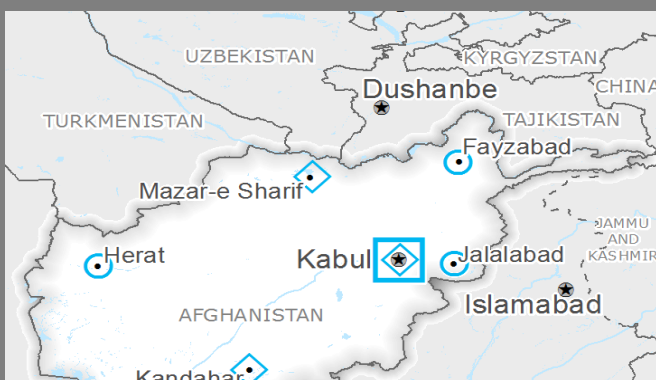
Situated between Central and South Asia, with a committed Government, rich natural resources, and a young and diverse population, Afghanistan has the potential to make significant progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

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).

The 2019 IPC report was released in early November and shows that 10.2 million people are acutely food insecure. The report further projects that in the upcoming winter season, 11.3 million people (37% of the population) will be in IPC phase 3 or higher and hence in need of humanitarian assistance.* The provinces of Badakhshan, Daikundi, Ghor, Nimroz, Nuristan and Uruzgan are all classified as emergencies.

WFP has been present in Afghanistan since 1963.



Population (Oct. 2019): **38.34 million**

Human Development Index (2019): **164 out of 184**

Income Level (2019): **Low income**

Chronic malnutrition: **31% of children between 6-59 months**

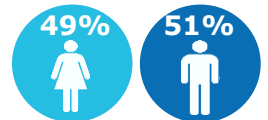
Gender Inequality Index (2017): 153 out of 189 HDI listed countries (UNDP)

In Numbers

In October, WFP assisted **1,114,795 people** in need with **9,978 metric tons** of food.

WFP distributed **US\$772,522** in cash transfers to cover families' food needs.

US\$66 million is the net funding shortfall for the next six months (November 2019 – April 2020).



Operational Updates

- In October, **WFP reached 1,114,795 girls, boys, women and men across 31 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces**, distributed **9,978 mt of food** through its partners and transferred **US\$772,522** to food insecure families.
- This included emergency food assistance and cash transfers to **522,599 people** including **52,059 conflict-affected people** in six provinces. WFP assisted 2,954 with cash-based transfers in Mazar Province after registration in [SCOPE](#), WFP's beneficiary information and transfer management system. In addition, **16,807 returnees from Iran and Pakistan, and 616 people affected by flooding** received in-kind food assistance.
- WFP dispatched food to provide seasonal support to **453,117 highly vulnerable people** in six provinces: Faizabad, Herat, Jalalabad, Kabul, Kandahar and Mazar. With the end of the drought response in June 2019, WFP is now delivering in-kind food assistance to food insecure communities in remote provinces which were not selected for the drought response.
- In provinces with high rates of moderate acute malnutrition, WFP supplied health centres and partners with **610 mt of specialized nutritious foods** for **184,040 children** aged 6-59 months and **74,812 pregnant and lactating women**. WFP also provided **5,635 children** with specialized nutritious foods as part of general food distributions to prevent the deterioration of their nutritional status.
- Under **WFP's school feeding programme, 133,977 primary school students** received high energy biscuits each day at school. Among them, **101,349 girls** were also provided with vegetable oil to take home, to encourage school attendance and reduce gender disparity.
- The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) **transported 2,665 passengers from 104 different agencies and organisations to 22 locations** in Afghanistan. Since January, UNHAS has transported 21,170 passengers, a 10 percent increase compared to the same period in 2018.

* The UN estimates a higher number (12.5 million people) are likely to experience severe acute food insecurity in the winter season. This is due to the UN's population count for Afghanistan being higher than the official government statistics, on which the IPC report is based.

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Operational Updates continued

- As part of its programme at the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, WFP completed construction of an irrigation canal of 275 m total length in Charkent District of Balkh Province. The canal will supply water to **60 ha of fields** which will benefit 267 households. Families of all participants have received food assistance for the past six months.
- WFP is continuing a food assistance-for-assets (FFA) project to rehabilitate 10 Karez irrigation systems in Daman District of Kandahar Province. Karez is an indigenous method of irrigation where groundwater is tapped by a tunnel. This project also includes construction of check dams in 150 m length with 189,000 m³ rainwater storage capacity. Together, these will provide an improved irrigation system for **865 ha of fields** to increase crop yields and benefit 10 villages. Throughout this project, WFP will assist 960 FFA participants with cash-based transfers for six months to cover the food needs of their 5,760 family members.
- Across all asset creation activities, WFP assisted 193,741 food insecure people with in-kind assistance in return for their participation, including the construction of a water intake in Daykundi and solar water pumps and irrigation canal in Ghor.

Donor Engagement

- On 24 October, WFP presented its achievements from January to September 2019 with all donors and shared its humanitarian-development-peace programming for 2020. WFP also conducted a Q&A to address donor interests on the food security situation, humanitarian access constraints and nutrition programming.

Challenges

Supply Chain

- Following a food safety incident of Super Cereals, WFP has been replacing the quarantined cargo in order that nutrition activities are not interrupted. WFP stocked up 804 mt of Super Cereal and is currently facilitating the November distribution. Another 2,044 mt of super cereal is en route to Afghanistan.

Funding

- Funding requirements for the coming six months (November 2019 – April 2020) are US\$179 million, of which US\$119 million has been provided, leaving a current **funding gap of US\$66 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\$13.5 million** for 100 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.

* The funding gap amount factors out surpluses in certain strategic outcomes.

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)		
Total CSP Requirement (in USD)	Total Allocated Contributions (in USD)	November 2019 – April 2020 Funding Requirements (in USD)
890 m*	323 m	66 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.