



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



# WFP Afghanistan Country Brief November 2019

## In Numbers

8,078 mt of food distributed

US\$1,541,158 cash-based transfers

US\$82 million six months (December 2019-May 2020) net funding requirements, representing 45 percent of total

863,895 people assisted in November 2019



WFP SAYS NO to GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

## 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 percent 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**

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

Human Development Index (2019): **170 out of 189 countries**

Chronic malnutrition: **41% of children between 6-59 months**

Gender Inequality Index (2018): 170 out of 189 HDI listed countries (UNDP)

## Operational Updates

- In November, **WFP reached almost 864,000 girls, boys, women and men across 31 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces.**
- WFP's support included emergency food assistance and cash-based transfers to **364,530 people** including **39,275 conflict-affected** in 15 provinces. WFP assisted 82,523 with cash-based transfers in Balkh Province after registration in **SCOPE**, WFP's beneficiary information and transfer management system. In addition, **14,398 returnees from Iran and Pakistan** in six provinces: Herat, Kabul, Kandahar, Logar, Nangarhar and Paktiya, **and 833 people affected by flooding** in Kunar, Laghman, Nangarhar and Samangan provinces received in-kind food assistance.
- WFP dispatched food as seasonal support to **310,024 highly vulnerable people** in 17 provinces. WFP is currently delivering in-kind food assistance to highly food-insecure communities in remote provinces.
- In provinces with high rates of moderate acute malnutrition, WFP, in partnership with health centres and partners, distributed **297 mt of specialized nutritious foods** for **117,958 children** aged 6-59 months and **43,597 pregnant and lactating women**. WFP also provided **818 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**, **113,144 primary school students** received high energy biscuits each day at school. Among them, **101,880 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 2,353 passengers from 105 different agencies and organizations to 20 locations** in Afghanistan. Since January, UNHAS has transported 24,063 passengers, a 7 percent increase compared to the same period in 2018.

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\* 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.

## Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total CSP Requirement (in USD)	Total Allocated Contributions (in USD)	December 2019 – May 2020 Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>890 m*</b>	<b>323 m</b>	<b>82 m</b>

\* 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

- As part of its work at the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, WFP established **750 orchards** for 750 households headed by women in four districts: Ishkashim, Sheghnan, Wakhan and Zebak, and **168 kitchen gardens** for the same population group in three districts: Fayzabad, Kishim and Shuhada of Badakhshan Province. This project will diversify day-to-day diet of rural households by including vegetables and fruit in their meal, and participants received horticultural support and training on cultivation and fruit gardening. Throughout the project, participants received cash-based transfers to cover their food needs for six months.
- Across all Resilient Livelihoods activities, WFP assisted **223,848 food-insecure people** with in-kind assistance in return for their participation, including the installation of a drip irrigation system in Takhar, vocational skills training (tailoring, embroidery, food processing and beauty parlour) for food-insecure women and construction of flood protection walls in Nangarhar and Balkh provinces.

## Challenges and Updates

### Supply Chain

- Due to a strike in the manufacturing company, **2,044 mt** of SuperCereal (wheat soya blend) will be ready for distribution only in mid-February 2020. Another **1,338 mt** of SuperCereal will arrive from Belgium and be ready for distribution in mid-March 2020. WFP is seeking ways to reduce this pipeline break by reaching out to neighbouring country offices for potential loans.
- With an aim to increase efficacy of food delivery, WFP is positioning its fleet trucks to Herat, Jalalabad and Kandahar Area Offices. In addition, WFP is leasing 40 trucks from its Global Facility, to increase direct access to locations where food commodities are dispatched. These new trucks are expected to be operational early 2020.

### Funding

- Funding requirements for the coming six months (December 2019 – May 2020) are **US\$183 million**, of which **US\$82 million** remain to be resourced.
- It is becoming increasingly urgent to replace and augment half of WFP's fleet trucks after three decades of service. This will cost an estimated **US\$13.5 million** for 100 trucks.
- The UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) annual budget requirement is US\$17.5 million. Taking into account carryover funds available, cost reduction measures, received and anticipated contributions, and ongoing cost recovery, **UNHAS will be able to operate at the current level until 25 April 2020.**