



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Afghanistan Country Brief

December 2019



A woman with a disability receives her cash transfer on the transport taxi at the distribution site. Photo: © WFP/David Jo

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 shows that 10.2 million people are acutely food insecure. The report further projects that in the 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**

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

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

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

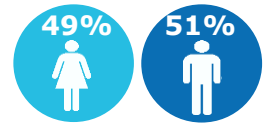
Gender Inequality Index (2017): **153 out of 189 HDI listed countries (UNDP)**

In Numbers

In December, WFP assisted **1,441,200 people** in need with **10,479 mt** of food and cash.

WFP distributed over **US\$3.9 million** in cash transfers to cover families' food needs.

US\$87 million is the net funding shortfall for the next six months (January – June 2020).



Operational Updates

- In December, **WFP reached more than 1.4 million food-insecure girls, boys, women and men across 32 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces.**
- WFP's emergency response activities included food assistance and cash-based transfers to a total of **501,067 people**. This included seasonal support in preparation of the coldest months for **432,712 highly vulnerable people** in 23 provinces and assistance to **38,374 conflict-affected people** in 14 provinces. In addition, WFP provided **28,665 returnees from Iran and Pakistan** and **1,316 people affected by flooding** with in-kind food assistance.
- In provinces with high rates of moderate acute malnutrition, WFP, in partnership with 997 health centres and partners, distributed **871 mt of specialized nutritious foods** for **314,200 children under 5** and **82,140 pregnant and lactating women**. WFP also provided **2,863 children with 15 mt** of specialized nutritious foods as part of general food distributions to prevent the deterioration of their nutritional status.
- Under the **school feeding programme**, WFP provided **131,209 primary school students** with high energy biscuits each day at school. Further, **73,852 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 1,799 passengers from 96 different agencies and organisations to 19 locations** in Afghanistan.
- As part of its work on the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, WFP completed the rehabilitation of a **25 km gravel road** connecting nine villages in Paktika. The road will improve the villagers' access to markets, health facilities and schools. 766 participants were supported with monthly food rations during the project.

* 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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- WFP completed construction of a reservoir of 600 m³ storage capacity in Kabul Province. The reservoir will irrigate more than **32 ha** of agricultural land to increase crop yields and improve living conditions of farmers. For six months, WFP provided food assistance to 160 participants for their household's food needs.
- In Kunar Province, WFP completed construction of a 700 m flood protection wall. The wall will make **20 ha** of barren land which cultivatable and protect **500 ha** of agricultural land at high risk of seasonal flooding. WFP covered the food needs of 710 participants' households through monthly cash-based transfers over the project's seven months.
- Across all resilient livelihoods activities, WFP assisted **262,017 food-insecure people** with in-kind assistance in return for their participation in asset creation activities which will benefit their communities, or for their participation in vocational skills training, including tailoring, embroidery, baking, food processing and beauty parlour.

Supply Chain

- To reflect changed transport needs, WFP relocated fleet trucks from Kabul to the Herat, Jalalabad and Kandahar Area Offices. In addition, WFP is leasing 40 trucks from WFP's Global Facility, half of which arrived in December. The trucks will improve the access to hard-to-reach areas in the Western Region.

Winterization

- From October to December 2019, WFP assisted **675,000** beneficiaries with **12,015 mt of mixed food** and **US\$2.4 million** cash transfers through its emergency response. WFP also distributed **177 mt of ready-to-use supplementary foods** and **256 mt of SuperCereal** as part of its winterization activities. These activities will continue until the end of March 2020.

Funding

- Funding requirements for the coming six months (January – June 2020) are **US\$185 million**, of which **US\$87 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 April 2020.**

Donors

Top 5: United States of America, Australia, UN Afghanistan Humanitarian Funding, Japan and Republic of Korea.

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*	348 m	87 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.