



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Afghanistan Country Brief January 2020



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**

Gender Inequality Index (2018): 143 out of 189 HDI listed countries (UNDP)

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

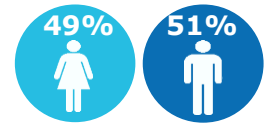
Chronic malnutrition: **41% of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

In January, WFP assisted **560,036 people** in need with **4,048 mt** of food and cash.

WFP disbursed **US\$233,184** in cash transfers to cover families' food needs.

US\$78.1 million is the net funding shortfall for the next six months (February – July 2020).



Operational Updates

- In January, **WFP reached more than 560,000 food-insecure girls, boys, women and men across 28 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces.**
- WFP's emergency response activities included food assistance and cash-based transfers to a total of **203,168 people**. This included seasonal support for **164,542 highly vulnerable people** in 12 provinces to get through winter and assistance to **24,605 conflict-affected people** in 16 provinces.
- WFP provided **2,667 returnees from Iran and Pakistan** with food assistance. In addition, WFP provided **2,401 people affected by flooding** with in-kind food assistance and disbursed **US\$49,142** in cash transfers to **8,953 people** in Kabul under its social safety nets initiative.
- WFP, in partnership with 997 health centres and partners, distributed **258 mt of specialized nutritious foods** for **107,858 children under 5** and **32,180 pregnant and lactating women**. WFP also provided **1,135 children and pregnant and lactating women (PLW)** with **3 mt** of specialized nutritious foods to prevent the deterioration of their nutritional status.
- Under the **school feeding programme**, WFP provided **80,823 primary school students** with high energy biscuits each day at school. Further, **17,905 girls** were also provided with fortified vegetable oil to take home, to encourage school attendance and reduce gender disparity.
- In Nangarhar, WFP started SCOPE registration for **2,178 secondary girl students**. WFP will provide monthly cash assistance of **AFN 1,200 (US\$15)** to each girl student, to reduce gender disparity and encourage school attendance.
- The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) **transported 1,065 passengers from 76 different agencies and organizations to 20 locations** in Afghanistan.

* The UN estimates a higher number (14.28 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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Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)		
Total CSP Requirement (in USD)	Total Allocated Contributions (in USD)	February - July 2020 Funding Requirements (in USD)
890.2 m*	348.5 m	78.1 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.

- As part of its work on the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, WFP completed the rehabilitation of **15 irrigation canals** of **173 km** in length and **400 m protection wall** in Zaranj, Nimroz. This will protect **8,009 families** and **1,200 ha** of agricultural land at high risk of seasonal flooding. WFP supported 4,767 people with monthly food rations while they participated in the project.
- Across all resilient livelihoods activities, WFP assisted **81,158 food-insecure people** with in-kind assistance in return for their participation in asset creation or vocational skills training, which included tailoring, embroidery, baking, food processing and beauty parlour.
- The [Nimroz](#) provincial committee of the [Afghanistan Food Security and Nutrition Agenda](#) was inaugurated with a one-day awareness workshop for local officials on 16 January. To date, WFP has supported the establishment of 28 provincial committees across the country with an aim to strengthen the Government's capacity in ensuring that no Afghan suffers from hunger and malnutrition.

Access

- The **temporary closure of 12 clinics** in 7 districts of Nangarhar Province in mid-January by members of an armed group deprived communities of not only medical services but also treatment of malnutrition. Thanks to negotiations via community elders, WFP resumed services to two of the clinics on 22 January, which enabled WFP to deliver **13 mt of ready to use supplementary food** for **2,100 children under 5** as planned on 26 January.
- **To reach 3,550 highly vulnerable families** in five districts of Badghis, Ghor and Kandahar, **WFP is continuing to negotiate humanitarian access** with the non-state armed group in control of the areas. Regular food supply to villages is disrupted due to roadside bombs and road blocks. As shops are empty, families are struggling to meet their basic food needs.

Funding

- Funding requirements for the coming six months (February - July 2020) are **US\$173 million**, of which **US\$76 million** remains to be resourced.
- It is 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 May 2020.**

Donors

Top 5: United States of America, European Commission, Australia, the Netherlands and Republic of Korea