



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Afghanistan Country Brief

February 2020



Trucks leave WFP warehouse to deliver food to families in remote areas, where normal trucks get stuck. © World Food Programme

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**

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

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

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

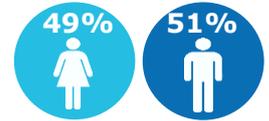
Gender Inequality Index (2018): **143 out of 189 HDI listed countries (UNDP)**

In Numbers

In February, WFP assisted **755,000 people** in need with **5,983 mt** of food and cash.

WFP disbursed more than **US\$1.3 million** in cash transfers to cover families' food needs.

US\$57.8 million is the net funding shortfall for the next six months (March – August 2020).



Operational Updates

- In February, **WFP reached 755,000 food-insecure girls, boys, women and men across 29 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces.**
- WFP's emergency response activities included food assistance and cash-based transfers to a total of **536,928 people**. This included seasonal support for **479,451 highly vulnerable people** in 15 provinces to get through winter and assistance to **34,944 conflict-affected people** in 15 provinces.
- WFP provided **5,817 returnees from Iran and Pakistan** with food assistance. In addition, WFP assisted **7,763 people affected by flooding** with in-kind food assistance and disbursed **US\$50,059** in cash transfers to **8,953 people** in Kabul Province under its social safety nets initiative.
- WFP, in partnership with health centres and partners, distributed **329 mt of specialized nutritious foods** for **110,484 children aged 6-59 months** and **15,901 pregnant and lactating women**. WFP also provided **11,470 children** and **357 PLW** with **10 mt** of specialized nutritious foods to prevent the deterioration of their nutritional status.
- Under the **school feeding programme**, WFP provided **34,170 primary school students** with high energy biscuits each day at school. Further, **5,728 girls** were provided with fortified vegetable oil to take home, to encourage school attendance and reduce gender disparity.
- In Nangarhar, WFP completed **SCOPE** registration of **2,178 secondary girl students**. They will receive monthly cash assistance of **AFN 1,200 (US\$15)** starting in March, to encourage their school attendance and reduce gender disparity.
- The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) **transported 1,907 passengers from 85 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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- As part of its work at the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, WFP assisted **340,048** food-insecure participants of asset creation activities or vocational skills training and their families.
- WFP, together with [Afghanistan Food Security and Nutrition Agenda](#) (AFSeN-A) and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), organized workshops to government and non-government stakeholders in Laghman and Nangarhar. The workshops centred on planning, budgeting and implementation of the nutrition agenda and effective multisectoral coordination.

COVID-19

- Afghanistan confirmed its first case of the coronavirus in Herat on 24 February. WFP started taking mitigation measures, by printing **sensitization materials for passengers and staff at all UNHAS terminals** and for cooperating partners in **Dari and Pashto** to inform precautionary measures.

Access

- To reach 3,550 highly vulnerable families** in five districts of Badghis, Ghor and Kandahar, **WFP continues negotiating humanitarian access** with the non-state armed group (NSAG) in control of the areas. Regular food supply to villages is disrupted due to roadside bombs and roadblocks. As shops are empty, families are struggling to meet their basic food needs.
- The **temporary closure of 33 clinics** in Paktia Province in January by members of the NSAG deprived communities of not only medical services but treatment of malnutrition. Via community elders, WFP continues negotiating humanitarian access with members of the NSAG in control of the areas to deliver **25 mt of specialized nutritious foods** for **1,500 children aged 6-59 months** and **900 PLW**.

Funding

- Funding requirements for the coming six months (March – August 2020) are **US\$141 million**, of which **US\$55 million** remain 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.
- 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

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total CSP Requirement (in USD)	Total Allocated Contributions (in USD)	March – August 2020 Funding Requirements (in USD)
890.2 m*	358.3 m	57.8 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.