In Numbers

In April, WFP assisted 1.3 million people in need with 12,400 mt of food.

WFP disbursed US$485,500 in cash transfers to cover families’ food needs.

US$72.79 million is the net funding shortfall for the next six months (May – October 2020), not including additional needs due to COVID-19.

Operational Updates

- In April, despite lockdowns and movement restrictions across the country to quell the spread of COVID-19, WFP reached 1,295,831 food-insecure girls, boys, women and men across 24 of Afghanistan’s 34 provinces.
- WFP’s emergency response activities included food assistance and cash-based transfers for 947,541 people. This included seasonal support for 821,492 highly vulnerable people in 21 provinces and assistance to 23,821 people displaced by conflict in 13 provinces.
- WFP also assisted 8,288 returnees from Iran and Pakistan with food or cash and assisted 11,745 people affected by natural disasters with in-kind food assistance.
- WFP assisted 49,858 people with a total of US$325,539 as part of WFP’s social safety nets initiative in Kabul, Kandahar, Kunduz and Nangarhar provinces. WFP is providing a yearlong sustained assistance to help these families still suffering from the 2018/2019 drought rebuild their lives and livelihoods.
- As part of its nutrition programme, WFP distributed 609 mt of specialized nutritious foods for 185,906 children aged 6-59 months and 45,516 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) to health centres. WFP further distributed 36 mt of specialized nutritious foods to prevent the malnutrition of 19,677 girls and boys and PLWs.
- The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) transported 335 passengers from 43 different agencies and organizations to 17 locations. This included 37 passengers that were flown from Afghanistan to Qatar, as part of the new international airbridge (more on the next page).

* The UN estimates a higher number (12.44 million people) are likely to experience severe acute food insecurity from June to November. This is due to population figures used by the UN to plan assistance being higher than the official government statistics, on which the IPC report is based.
COVID-19

- The COVID-19 situation in Afghanistan has turned from a health emergency to a food and livelihood crisis. WFP estimates that more than 16 million people across the country rely on unsustainable livelihoods that will be disrupted by the shocks due to the outbreak of COVID-19.
- In April, WFP prioritized life-saving seasonal support to families already selected for assistance who are vulnerable to the impact of COVID-19. WFP distributed food and cash assistance for two months in one go, rather than monthly, to reduce potential exposure to the coronavirus and helping families stay at home during lockdowns.
- Asset creation activities and vocational training were on hold, as physical distancing could not be ensured. Conditionality of the programmes is currently waived and 46,858 food-insecure people received 725 mt of food and US$43,285 to cover their food needs.
- On 10 April the border with Pakistan re-opened and the backlog of hundreds of trucks started to clear slowly. Low capacity at the borders is expected to prevail and the global impact of COVID-19 on supply chains increased the lead time of internationally procured food commodities from 4 to 6 months.
- Despite of the opening of the border, the food prices in cities remained high. The price of wheat flour increased by 22 percent and cooking oil by 23 percent by the end of April, compared to mid-March when the border closure provoked a price peak, according to WFP’s daily market price monitoring.
- During the reporting period, all schools in the country remained closed due to potential risk of coronavirus spread, no distribution under school-feeding programme was conducted.
- Commercial flights to and from Afghanistan have been suspended since March. On 23 April, UNHAS launched an international airbridge connecting Kabul with Doha, Qatar, three times a week.

Funding

- Funding requirements for the coming six months (May – October 2020) are US$115 million, of which US$33 million remain to be resourced.
- This figure does not include additional needs due to COVID-19 outbreak, which are estimated to amount to US$53 million for 3 million additional people.
- UNHAS received an initial US$3.7 million to ensure domestic services facilitating the COVID-19 response and to operate the international airbridge for three months. The extension of the airbridge by three months will cost an additional US$1.5 million.

Donors

Top 5: United States of America, Australia, Japan, the Netherlands and Canada