



World Food Programme

# WFP Afghanistan Country Brief

## June 2020

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



People recently displaced by conflict receive food assistance in Jawzjan Province. © 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 [2020 IPC report](#) shows that 10.9 million people are acutely food insecure. The report projects that 10.3 million people (34% of the population) will be in IPC phase 3 or higher from June to November and hence in need of humanitarian assistance.\* The provinces of Badakhshan, Daikundi and the urban areas of Herat and Kandahar are 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**

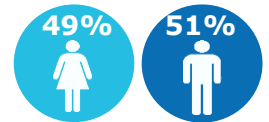
Chronic malnutrition: **41% of children between 6-59 months**

### In Numbers

In June, WFP assisted **1.8 million people** in need with **13,774 mt** of food.

WFP disbursed **US\$3.6 million** in cash-based transfers to cover families' food needs.

**US\$135 million** is the net funding shortfall for the next six months (July – December 2020), including additional needs due to COVID-19.



### Operational Updates

- In June, despite the challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic, **WFP reached more than 1.8 million food-insecure** girls, boys, women and men across **31 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces**.
- WFP's emergency response activities through food assistance and cash-based transfers for **1,402,338 people** included seasonal support for **1,198,569 highly vulnerable people** in 27 provinces and assistance to **32,570 people displaced by conflict** in 14 provinces.
- WFP also assisted **7,602 returnees from Iran and Pakistan** with food or cash and assisted **15,148 people affected by natural disasters** with in-kind food assistance.
- WFP assisted **148,449 people** with a total of **US\$1.62 million** as part of WFP's social safety nets initiative in Badghis, 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 **1,045 mt of specialized nutritious foods** for **172,400 children aged 6-59 months** and **78,600 pregnant and lactating women (PLW)** to health centres. WFP further distributed **255 mt** of specialized nutritious foods to prevent the malnutrition of **54,465 girls and boys**.
- The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) **transported 873 passengers from 80 agencies and organizations to 19 locations**. This included **310 passengers** that were flown between Afghanistan and Qatar, as part of the **international airbridge** put in place until commercial air transport to Afghanistan resumes.

\* 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 Flowminder population figures used by the UN to plan assistance 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)	July – December 2020 Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>949.22 m*</b>	<b>451.77 m</b>	<b>135 m</b>

\* based on the budget revision approved in 2020

### 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.

## COVID-19

- Average prices of almost all main food commodities remained significantly higher compared to pre-COVID-19 prices. In June, the price of wheat flour dropped by 3 percent but still remains 15 percent more expensive than pre-COVID-19, according to WFP's [weekly countrywide market price monitoring](#).
- In Balkh, Herat, Kandahar and Takhar provinces, **participants of WFP's vocational skills training (VST) are volunteering to use their newly acquired skills in tailoring and sewing to produce face masks** that help prevent the spread of the coronavirus. **To date, they produced more than 23,000 masks in total.**
- WFP completed excavation of terraces and started **plantation of 650,000 Jujube trees in Qarghayi district of Laghman Province.** WFP will support 400 households, including families displaced by conflict, with AFN 5,000 (US\$65) a month to help them cover their immediate food needs. The project will enhance soil and water conservation, mitigate flood and drought risks and provide a habitat for honey bees.

## Supply Chain & Access

- **9,400 mt of wheat grains from Central Asia arrived through the northern border crossings.** WFP is procuring 20,000 mt of grains for milling in country, as local millers were at risk of defaulting on existing contracts for fortified wheat flour due to price hikes and lack of grain availability caused by COVID-19.
- Due to COVID-19, **procurement lead times for internationally sourced food commodities have increased to 8-9 months for Wheat Soya Blend, 5 months for vegetable oil and 4 months for ready-to-use supplementary food.**
- On 31 May, **WFP fully recovered 133 mt of wheat flour previously offloaded by villagers** in Paktya after they stopped WFP fleet trucks. All recovered food was distributed to the intended beneficiaries.
- Members of an armed group **halted WFP's delivery of 279 mt of food in Daykundi** Province, delaying assistance to more than 21,000 people. In Ghor, members of the same armed group **stopped 78 mt of food reaching a district centre** for distribution to families selected for assistance. With the support from community elders, WFP continues negotiating humanitarian access.

## Funding

- Funding requirements for the coming six months (July – December 2020) are **US\$218 million**, of which **US\$135 million** remain to be resourced. **This figure includes US\$53 million towards WFP's response to COVID-19 to cover the needs of 3 million people.**
- Funding of US\$52.9 million for WFP's winterization programme for 1.59 million people is becoming increasingly urgent.

## Donors

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