



WFP Afghanistan Country Brief August 2020

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP conducted flood assessment in Parwan Province prior to its immediate response. © WFP

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 13.4 million people are acutely food insecure (April – May 2020). The report projects that 12.4 million people 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**

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

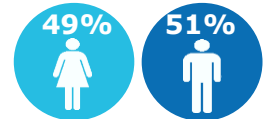
Chronic malnutrition: **41% of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

In August, WFP delivered **7,777 mt** of food and reached **1.04 million food-insecure people**.

WFP disbursed **US\$2.6 million** in cash-based transfers to cover families' food needs.

WFP is facing a **net funding shortfall of US\$120.42 million** for the next six months (September 2020 – February 2021).



Operational Updates

- Despite the challenges created by the pandemic, **WFP reached 1.04 million food-insecure** girls, boys, women and men across **32 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces** in August.
- WFP's emergency response activities assisted **536,500 people**. Of these, **464,000 people received seasonal support**. WFP further assisted **22,500 people displaced by conflict, 7,000 returnees from Iran and Pakistan, and 2,500 people affected by natural disasters** with food or cash. WFP, in coordination with key partners, [provided immediate food assistance to households affected by flash floods](#) in central and eastern Afghanistan in late August and will continue to respond to urgent needs in September.
- WFP assisted **20,500 people** in Badghis, Kandahar and Kapisa provinces with a total of **US\$355,000** as part of WFP's **social safety net initiative**. WFP is providing a yearlong sustained assistance to help these **families, still suffering from the 2018/2019 drought, rebuild their lives and livelihoods**.
- WFP further distributed **32 mt** of specialized nutritious foods to prevent the malnutrition of **11,000 girls and boys** in line with emergency response.
- As part of its nutrition programme, WFP distributed **1,000 mt of specialized nutritious foods** for **211,000 children aged 6-59 months** and **79,000 pregnant and lactating women (PLW)**.
- WFP dispatched **180 mt** of high energy biscuits for **103,000 primary school students**. As schools remain closed due to the pandemic, families received the high energy biscuits as monthly take-home rations. **US\$33,500** was disbursed to **6,500 girl students** respectively at secondary schools to encourage families to keep them enrolled in school.
- WFP **disbursed US\$273,000** and **distributed 1,000 mt** of food to **6,700 participants of asset creation activities**, benefitting **46,700** family members.

- WFP provided **77,329 people** in July in Herat and Kabul cities with a total of **US\$890,146** to partially cover their food need until the end of August. CBT will resume in September.
- WFP completed the beneficiary identification, registration, verification and scoping for CBT under COVID-19 response for September.
- WFP restarted halted asset creation due to COVID-19 and launched several new projects. **2,540 people** will take part in these new projects for the next six months. These projects will also relieve the burden caused by the pandemic in the communities.
- Higher food prices across the country continue to have a negative **impact on food accessibility**. In August, the price of wheat flour was [nine percent higher compared to pre-COVID-19](#).

Supply Chain & Access

- WFP continues to experience **increased lead times** and **slow arrivals of internationally procured food** due to high global demand, delays in Karachi port and low cargo crossing capacities at the border. **WFP is testing an alternative supply route** for internationally procured food commodities via Central Asia.
- The **Seasonal Food Security Assessment (SFSA) in Balkh, Ghor, Herat and Nuristan provinces has been delayed due to access challenges** caused by a lack of understanding by local armed groups regarding the process. WFP's Country Office and Herat Field Office are working on a solution and the assessment is ongoing, where possible.

Common Services – UNHAS

The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) transported **1,124 passengers to 20 locations**. **113 passengers travelled on the international airbridge** connecting Kabul with Doha put in place by UNHAS until reliable commercial air transport returns to Afghanistan. WFP is planning to extend the airbridge until the end of this year and requires urgent funding to maintain this critical service.

Funding

- Funding requirements for the coming six months (September 2020 – February 2021) are **US\$194.49 million**, of which **US\$120.42 million** remain to be resourced.
- Funding requirements include **US\$53 million towards WFP's response to COVID-19** to reach an additional 3 million people until the end of the year and **US\$53 million as part of WFP's planned winterization activities** for 1.59 million people.
- Additional funding for the response to COVID-19 and early funding for winterization is urgent.**

Donors

Top 5: United States of America, Australia, Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund (AHF), Japan and Netherlands

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total CSP Requirement (in USD)	Total Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Sept. 2020 – Feb. 2021 Funding Requirements (in USD)
949.22 m*	480.54 m	194.49 m

* 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.