



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Afghanistan Country Brief September 2020



WFP assisted more than 219,000 people struck by COVID-19 in September with assistance under its plan to reach an additional 3 million people in 2020. © WFP / Wahidullah Amani

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**

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

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

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

In Numbers

In September, WFP assisted **1.1 million** food-insecure people across Afghanistan.

WFP delivered **7,746 mt** of food and disbursed **US\$3,345,630** in cash-based transfers.

WFP is facing a **net funding shortfall of US\$85.54 million** for the next six months (October 2020 – March 2021).



Operational Updates

- In September, WFP reached **1,114,805 food-insecure girls, boys, women and men** across 32 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces.
- WFP was able to significantly increase its response to people affected by the pandemic and provided **215,901 people struck by the socio-economic impact of COVID-19** with a total of **US\$2,549,856 in cash-based transfers (CBT)** to help cover families' food needs for two months.
- Under its emergency response activities, WFP further assisted **309,975 seasonally food insecure people, 69,993 refugees** from Pakistan, **26,593 conflict-displaced people** and **20,419 returnees** from Iran and Pakistan with in-kind rations or CBT.
- WFP supported **12,705 people struck by flash floods** end of August with in-kind food assistance.
- In Kabul, Kandahar and Kunduz provinces, WFP provided **43,127 people** with a total of **US\$266,980 as part of WFP's social safety net initiative**. WFP provides sustained assistance to help families still suffering from the 2018/2019 drought to rebuild their lives.
- As part of general food distributions, WFP distributed **83 mt** of specialized nutritious foods to **prevent the malnutrition of 10,927 girls and boys and 6,716 pregnant and lactating women (PLW)**.
- As part of its **nutrition programme**, WFP distributed **926 mt** of specialized nutritious foods for **194,952 children** aged 6-59 months and **76,345 PLW**.
- WFP dispatched **77 mt of high energy biscuits** for **58,066 primary school students**. As schools remained closed due to COVID-19, WFP provided the high energy biscuits as monthly take-home rations. WFP distributed **34 mt of vegetable oil** to **23,247 girl students** at primary schools and **US\$33,506** to **6,408 girl students** at secondary schools to encourage their enrolment.
- WFP disbursed **US\$189,641** and distributed **859 mt** of food to **8,954 participants of ongoing asset creation activities**, benefitting **62,678 food-insecure family members**.

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Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total CSP Requirement (in USD)	Total Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Oct. 2020 –Mar. 2021 Funding Requirements (in USD)
1 billion*	509.84 m	85.54 m

* Approved in budget revision 4

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.

Food Security

- The socio-economic impact of the pandemic continues to be felt across the country. WFP estimates that on average the cost of the diet has increased by 6 percent or US\$6.5 per month. Provinces in the south show an increase of more than 10 percent.
- After a rapid price surge from March to May, most food commodities stabilized around July, although they have not dropped back to pre-COVID-19 levels. By the end of September, wheat flour costed 9 percent more than in mid-March and cooking oil was 29 percent more expensive.
- Initial results of the ongoing Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) indicate a substantial increase of people experiencing severe food insecurity across the country, including a high number of people in emergency (IPC4).

Supply Chain & Access

- Following almost five months of congestion at Karachi port, all WFP shipments were cleared in September. However, the commercial transporters are struggling to secure enough trucks.
- 20 newly arrived, leased Kamaz trucks have taken up service and WFP's fleet now has reached 106 trucks, up from 76 in January 2020. The ability of the new all-terrain trucks to reach difficult to access locations easier than commercial trucks is particularly important in view of WFP's winterization efforts.
- WFP continues to plan and test alternative supply routes. This includes, transporting wheat-soya blend from Europe via Latvia through Uzbekistan to Hairatan border crossing, Balkh, via sea and rail.

Common Services – UNHAS

- The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) transported **1,517 passengers** to **20 locations** in September.
- In September, **91 passengers** travelled on the international airbridge connecting Kabul with Doha, Qatar, which runs three times a week. To reduce costs, following lower demand, the flights will be conducted with a smaller aircraft from October.
- WFP aims to continue the airbridge until the end of the year but faces an **US\$900,000 shortfall**.

Funding

- Funding requirements for the coming six months (September 2020 – February 2021) are **US\$192.5 million**, of which **US\$119.2 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.

Donors

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