



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Afghanistan Country Brief October 2020



A girl and her mother in Jawzjan who received food assistance after being displaced by conflict. © CTG / Sayed Hadi Abdullahi

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.

The latest [IPC report](#) shows that 16.9 million people are experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity, according to the UN's population count (see report annex). The report projects that 11.4 million people will be in IPC phase 3 (crisis) and 5.5 million people in IPC phase 4 (emergency) of food insecurity from November 2020 to March 2021.

WFP has been present in Afghanistan since 1963.



Population (Oct. 2020): **40.4 million**

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

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

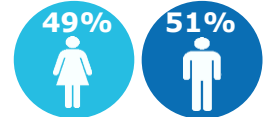
Gender Inequality Index (2018): **143 out of 189 HDI listed countries (UNDP)**

In Numbers

In October, WFP assisted **more than 1.8 million** food-insecure people across Afghanistan.

WFP delivered **9,192 mt** of food and disbursed **US\$5.5 million** in cash-based transfers.

WFP is facing a **net funding shortfall of US\$126.14 million** for the next six months (November 2020 – April 2021).



Operational Updates

- In October, WFP reached **1,803,387 food-insecure girls, boys, women and men** in 33 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces.
- WFP provided **652,603 people struck by the socio-economic impact of COVID-19** with a total of **US\$4.6 million in cash-based transfers (CBT)**.
- Under its emergency response activities, WFP further assisted **367,878 seasonally food insecure people, 69,993 refugees** from Pakistan, **52,465 internally displaced people (IDPs), 10,542 returnees** from Iran and Pakistan and **3,416 people struck by natural disasters** with in-kind food rations or through CBT.
- As part of general food distributions, WFP distributed **87 mt** of specialized nutritious foods to **prevent the malnutrition of 18,847 children** aged 6-59 months and **4,178 pregnant and lactating women**.
- As part of its nutrition programme, WFP distributed **688 mt** of specialized nutritious foods for **159,752 children** aged 6-59 months and **62,706 pregnant and lactating women**.
- WFP dispatched **164 mt** of high energy biscuits for **241,369 primary school students**. As schools remained closed due to COVID-19, WFP provided the high energy biscuits as monthly take-home rations.
- Among them, WFP distributed **139 mt of vegetable oil to the 138,531 girl students** at primary schools and **US\$66,934 to 11,574 girl students** at secondary schools to maintain their enrolment.
- WFP disbursed **US\$760,610** and distributed **1,429 mt** of food to **148,064 participants of ongoing asset creation activities**, benefitting **more than 1 million food-insecure family members**.
- New asset creation projects included the **start of the construction of a 143 m long check dam, the rehabilitation of 8 traditional irrigation systems and of an irrigation canal of 8 km length** in Uruzgan Province. **More than 950 participants selected from vulnerable families** will receive CBT to cover their families' food needs for six months.

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- The socio-economic impact of the pandemic continues to be felt across the country.
- As mentioned above, WFP provided **652,603 people struck by the socio-economic impact of COVID-19** with a total of **US\$4.6 million in CBT** to help cover families' food needs for two months.
- WFP expanded its COVID-19 response from Kabul and Herat provinces to Nangarhar, Kandahar and Mazar-e-Sharif provinces.
- After a rapid price surge from March to May, most food prices stabilized around July, although they have not dropped back to pre-COVID-19 levels.
- By the end of October, wheat flour costed 11 percent more than in mid-March and cooking oil was 28 percent more expensive.

Supply Chain & Access

- 157 out of 211 containers with vegetable oil and wheat soya blend (WSB) arrived in country in October, following almost six months of delays at Karachi port, Pakistan, due to reduced capacities and administrative bottlenecks caused by COVID-19.
- After lengthy negotiations, a local commander of a Non-State Armed Group controlling parts of the northern road connecting Herat with Chaghcharan, Ghor, allowed WFP to use the route.
- Two convoys travelled the route without incident, transporting food for seasonally food-insecure families in six districts. Travel on this route is two days shorter than on the alternative route that WFP was forced to use before the successful access negotiations.

Common Services - UNHAS

- In October, the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) transported **1,350 passengers to 21 locations** across the country.
- In October, **72 passengers** travelled on the international airbridge connecting Kabul with Doha, Qatar, which runs three times a week.

Funding

- Funding requirements for the coming six months (November 2020 – April 2021) are **US\$236.69 million**, of which **US\$126.16 million** remain to be resourced.
- **In view of the latest [IPC analysis](#) according to which 16.9 million people are experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity** (IPC Phase 3 "crisis" and IPC Phase 4 "emergency") until March 2021, **WFP is currently revising its plans to reach more people.** The total requirements for WFP in 2021 are **expected to surpass US\$460 million.**

Donors

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

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total CSP Requirement (in USD)	Total Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Nov. 2020 – April 2021 Funding Requirements (in USD)
1 billion*	520.8 m	126.14 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.