



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Afghanistan Country Brief November 2020

In Numbers

In November, WFP assisted **more than 1.2 million** food-insecure people across Afghanistan.

WFP delivered **6,426 mt** of food and disbursed **US\$4,532,065** in cash-based transfers.

WFP is facing a **net funding shortfall of US\$138.44 million** for the next six months (December 2020 – May 2021).

WFP SAYS NO to GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

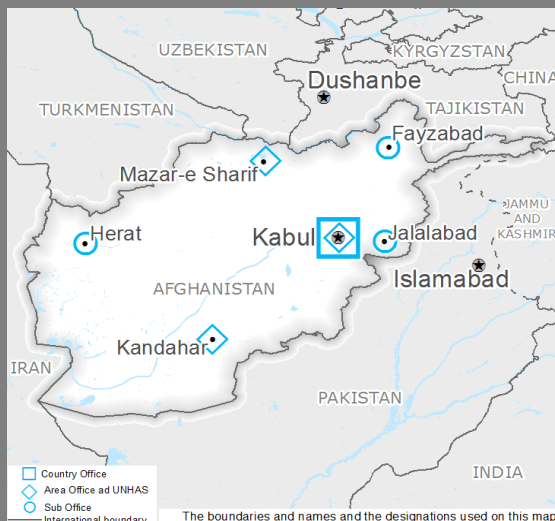
Operational Context

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: **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)**

Operational Updates



- In November, WFP reached **1,271,251 food-insecure girls, boys, women and men** in 26 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces.
- WFP provided **278,089 people struck by the socio-economic impact of COVID-19** with a total of **US\$2,502,231 in cash-based transfers (CBT)** and **166 mt of food**.
- Other people assisted under WFP's emergency response included **286,776 seasonally food insecure people, 63,833 people displaced by conflict, 69,993 refugees** from Pakistan and **9,730 returnees** from Pakistan.
- To **prevent the malnutrition of 24,742** children aged 6-59 months, WFP distributed **50 mt** of specialized nutritious foods together with general food distributions.
- To treat **176,725 malnourished children** and **58,130** pregnant and lactating women, WFP distributed **734 mt** of specialized nutritious foods through its nutrition programme.
- Some **121,848 primary school female students** received **238 mt of vegetable oil** to take home and **14,502 secondary school female students** received **US\$75,679** to encourage their attendance and to maintain their enrolment. Further, WFP dispatched **323 mt** of high energy biscuits for **180,163 primary school students** as mid-morning snacks.
- WFP provided **92,848 participants of ongoing asset creation activities** with **US\$ 578,421** and **719 mt** of food, benefitting **649,936 food-insecure family members**.
- In November, WFP **completed** asset creation projects in Badakhshan, Kunar, Nangarhar and Takhar provinces. These included building 20 km irrigation canals, 12 km of agricultural roads and 880 m of flood protection walls and planting 1.5 million poplar and willow trees. Some 1,985 food-insecure people participated in these completed projects, benefiting a total of 13,895 vulnerable households over six months. As part of the projects, 150 women-headed households were trained on food processing, hygiene and nutrition practices and 600 women established their own fruit orchards.

Contact info: Philippe Kropf (philippe.kropf@wfp.org)
Country Director: Mary-Ellen McGroarty. [@mcgroarty](https://twitter.com/mcgroarty)
Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/afghanistan

WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)		
Total CSP Requirement (in USD)	Total Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Dec. 2020 – May 2021 Funding Requirements (in USD)
1 billion*	521.88	138.44 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.

COVID-19

- The socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in Afghanistan is even more devastating than the disease itself with far-reaching impact on the food security of communities that will last far into the coming year.
- WFP's response continued to reach the most vulnerable communities. As mentioned above, WFP provided **278,089 people struck by the socio-economic impact of COVID-19** with a total of **US\$2,502,231 in CBT** and provided **166 mt of food** to help cover families' food needs for two months.
- In November, WFP expanded its COVID-19 response to Faryab Province, where rural farmers struck by the socio-economic impact were assisted with in-kind food assistance.

Supply Chain & Access

- In November, 4,208 mt of food were received in-country. WFP's backlog of food commodities stuck in Karachi port, Pakistan, has been cleared with the arrival of the last 54 containers in country with vegetable oil and wheat soya blend (WSB), following almost six months of delays due to COVID-19.
- Nearly 9,000 mt of food were dispatched to cooperating partners for further distribution to 114 destinations across the country.
- The northern road connecting Ghor and Herat provinces was blocked by a local commander of a non-state armed group (NSAG) who demolished a bridge. This forces WFP to use the southern route for food deliveries to Ghor Province, adding two days to the round-trip and delaying the arrival of food.

Common Services – UNHAS

- In November, the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) transported **1,253 passengers** to **20 locations** across the country and between Kabul and Doha on the international airbridge.
- As no funding for the international airbridge is available, UNHAS will discontinue the service by the end of December 2020.

Funding

- Funding requirements for the coming six months (December 2020 – May 2021) are **US\$228.42 million**, of which **US\$138.44 million** remain to be resourced.
- In view of spiralling levels of food insecurity in Afghanistan, WFP has increased its planning figures for 2021 to reach 13.9 million people with 320,000 mt of food and US\$67 million at a total cost US\$462 million, up from US\$352 in 2020.
- Early contributions are crucial, as current funding levels allow WFP only to reach 16 percent of the highly vulnerable communities with winterization support from January to April 2020.

Donors

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