



WFP Afghanistan Country Brief

December 2020

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



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**

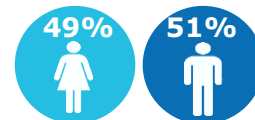
Gender Inequality Index (2018): **143 out of 189 HDI listed countries (UNDP)**

In Numbers

In December, WFP assisted **more than 600,000** food-insecure people across Afghanistan.

WFP delivered **6,832 mt** of food and disbursed **US\$5,118,620** in cash-based transfers.

WFP is facing a **net funding shortfall of US\$144.1 million** for the next six months (January 2021 – June 2021).



Operational Updates

- In December, WFP reached **637,995 food-insecure girls, boys, women and men** in 26 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces.
- WFP provided **257,369 people struck by the socio-economic impact of COVID-19** with a total of **US\$2,592,950 in cash-based transfers (CBT)** and **313 mt** of food.
- Other people assisted under WFP's emergency response included **326,460 seasonally food insecure people, 46,972 people displaced by conflict** and **7,154 returnees** from Iran and Pakistan.
- To **prevent the malnutrition of 22,300 children** aged 6-59 months, WFP distributed **33.4 mt** of specialized nutritious foods together with general food distributions.
- To treat **36,750 malnourished children** and **45,100 pregnant and lactating women**, WFP distributed **449 mt** of specialised nutritious foods through its nutrition programme.
- WFP provided **38,100 primary school female students with 17 mt** of vegetable oil to take home and **1,673 secondary school female students with US\$39,891** to encourage their attendance and maintain their enrolment. Further, WFP dispatched **138 mt** of high energy biscuits for **106,000 primary school students** as mid-morning snacks.
- WFP provided **18,550 participants of ongoing asset creation activities and vocational training** with **US\$542,821** and **1,762 mt** of food, benefitting **129,850 food-insecure family members**.
- In December, WFP **completed asset creation projects** in Badakhshan and Samangan provinces, including the construction and expansion of 15 km irrigation canals and 630 m of flood protection walls, the excavation of 7,646 new terraces that will improve water harvesting, and the plantation of 22,938 seed trees. Some 7,018 food-insecure people participated in these projects, benefitting a total of 49,126 vulnerable household members over six months. As part of the projects, WFP also engaged 113 women-headed households in nursery activities and trained on vegetable cultivation, weeding, bee-keeping and marketing.

Contact info: Teodora Delcheva (teodora.delcheva@wfp.org)
Country Director: Mary-Ellen McGroarty. [@mcgroarty](https://twitter.com/mcgroarty)
Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/afghanistan

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total CSP Requirement (in USD)	Total Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Jan. 2021 – Jun 2021 Funding Requirements (in USD)
1 billion*	521.88 m	144.06 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 2021. The current food insecurity levels are now similar to those seen during the 2018 drought.
- As of 31 December, the Ministry of Public Health found that 51,526 people across all 34 provinces in Afghanistan are confirmed to have had COVID-19. Only 165,628 people out of a population of 36.7 million have been tested.

Winterization

- In December, WFP supported **326,460 seasonally food insecure people** with more than **US\$1.7 million in cash-based transfers** and **2,605 mt** of food.

Supply Chain & Access

- In December, 2,091 mt of vegetable oil, Wheat Soya Blend and pulses were received in-country via Hairaton, Spinboldak and Torkham borders. All borders were open for cargo movement and no major obstacles were encountered. However, slow movements of empty containers on return have been reported at the Torkham border that could result in shortage of trucks in Karachi market.
- More than 7,000 mt of food were dispatched to cooperating partners for further distribution to 102 destinations across the country. In December, over 70 percent of total deliveries to cooperating partners were completed using WFP fleet trucks.
- In the past month, a total of 26 shipments of 3,736 mt of food arrived at Karachi, out of which 1,576 mt were received in country, 454 mt are in-transit through Torkham and the rest are under port clearance.

Common Services – UNHAS

- In December, the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) transported **1,267 passengers** to **20 locations** across the country and between Kabul and Doha on the international airbridge.

Funding

- Funding requirements for the coming six months (January 2021 – June 2021) are **US\$233.46 million**, of which **US\$144.06 million** remain to be resourced.
- In view of spiralling levels of food insecurity in Afghanistan, WFP is working on a budget revision to include additional needs spurred by escalating conflict and COVID-19. Its plan for 2021 is to support 13.2 million people at a total cost of US\$462 million.
- 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, European Commission, Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund (AHF) and Australia.