WFP Afghanistan
Country Brief
February 2021

In Numbers
In February, WFP assisted more than 1.1 million food-insecure people across Afghanistan.

WFP delivered 9,400 mt of food, disbursed US$6 million in cash-based transfers and dispatched 11,200 mt of food to cooperating partners.

WFP is facing a net funding shortfall of US$135 million for the next six months (March 2021 – August 2021).

Operational Updates
COVID-19 converges with conflict and recurrent climatic events, as the country now braces for the potential impact of La Niña. It is expected that potential below-average rainfall and snowfall could lead to crop losses, increasing already high food insecurity levels. Snow water equivalent of the same time of this year is almost 39 percent lower compared to last year. It is increasingly likely that the number of people in crisis or emergency levels of acute food insecurity (IPC 3 and 4) will grow.

In February, WFP conducted a pre-lean season assessment and found an overall deterioration in the food security situation compared to last year. Moreover, since the seasonal food security assessment in August 2020, the proportion of households experiencing some form of shock has increased from 70 percent to over 90 percent, with the primary shock being loss of livelihoods.

As of 11 March, the Ministry of Public Health indicates that 55,917 people across all 34 provinces in Afghanistan are confirmed to have had COVID-19. Only 314,516 people out of a population of 40.4 million have been tested.

Relief Assistance
• WFP assisted 120,722 people affected by COVID-19’s socio-economic impacts with a total of US$1.3 million in cash-based transfers (CBT).
• Other people assisted under WFP’s emergency response included 606,578 seasonally food insecure people, 25,172 people displaced by conflict, 2,135 people affected by natural disasters and 15,365 returnees from Iran and Pakistan.

Livelihoods Support
• WFP provided 34,972 participants of ongoing asset creation and vocational training activities with US$151,455 and 290 mt of food.

February saw the completion of projects in four provinces, resulting in 8.7 km of irrigation canals, 110 meters of flood protection walls, 50 km terraces, 54 km trenches and 6 km village roads. Moreover, some 500,000 tree seedlings were cultivated and 1.5 km plain cement concrete canal lining, three water reservoirs and 12 water ponds were constructed. WFP also supported 200 women from vulnerable households, including returnees and internally displaced people by providing 350 mt of food. WFP also assisted 1,200 women in vocational training and livelihoods activities.

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WFP Country Strategy

**Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategic Result</th>
<th>Total CSP Requirement (in USD)</th>
<th>Total Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
<th>March, 2021 – August 2021 Funding Requirements (in USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 billion*</td>
<td>567.60 m</td>
<td>135 m</td>
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* 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 Result 2:** End malnutrition (SDG target 2.2)

**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 3:** Sustainable food systems (SDG target 2.4)

**Strategic Outcome 3:** 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 4:** Policy coherence (SDG target 17.14)

**Strategic Outcome 4:** 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 5:** Enhance global partnerships (SDG target 17.16)

**Strategic Outcome 5:** 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.

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**Treatment and Prevention of Malnutrition**

- WFP provided 27,733 children aged 6-59 months with nutrition support and services to prevent moderate acute malnutrition.
- WFP provided 156,324 malnourished children and 68,280 pregnant and lactating women with treatment for moderate acute malnutrition.

**School Health and Nutrition**

- WFP provided 3,000 girls cash-based assistance to encourage their attendance and to maintain their enrolment and also reached 98,385 primary school students with 300 mt of high energy biscuits as mid-morning snacks.

**Supply Chain and Access**

- In February, 1,731 mt of What Soya Blend and Lipid-based-nutrient supplements were received in-country via Spinboldak and Torkham borders. All borders were open for cargo movement, however, the Torkham border faced a technical fault in the weighting machine on the Afghan side of the border which left hundreds of loaded trucks stranded on the Pakistan side.
- More than 11,200 mt of food were dispatched to cooperating partners for distribution to 113 destinations across the country.
- In the past month, a total of 32 containers of 787 mt of food arrived at Karachi and are currently under port clearance.

**Common Services – UNHAS**

- In February, the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) transported 1,371 passengers to 20 locations across the country.
- As a common service provider, UNHAS is dependent on sustained support from partners. Overall funding needs for 2021 are **US$ 18.8 million** and the shortfall remains **US$ 12 million**.

**Funding**

- Funding requirements for the coming six months (March 2021 – August 2021) are **US$207.66 million**, of which **US$135 million** remain to be resourced.
- In 2021, WFP aims to meet the needs of the 16.9 million people, classified as IPC 3 and IPC 4 throughout the country. However, due to spiralling levels of food insecurity in Afghanistan, WFP is currently working on a budget revision to include an anticipated increase in people requiring assistance due to escalating conflict, COVID-19, and the potential impact of La Niña.

**Donors**

- Top five: United States of America, United Kingdom, European Commission, Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund (AHF) and Australia.