



WFP Afghanistan Country Brief April 2021

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



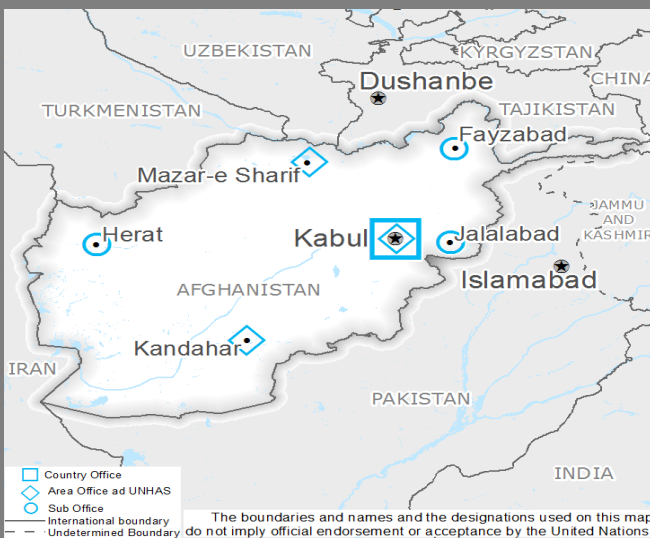
Operational Context

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 [IPC report](#) (March 2021–November 2021) indicates 14 million people are experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity, out of which 9.9 million people are in IPC phase 3 (crisis) and 4.1 million people in IPC phase 4 (emergency) of food insecurity.

WFP has been present in Afghanistan since 1963.



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

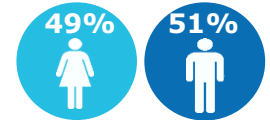
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In Numbers

In April, WFP assisted **more than 1.9 million** food-insecure people across Afghanistan.

WFP delivered **20,280 mt** of food, disbursed over **US\$4.8 million** in cash-based transfers.

WFP is facing a **net funding shortfall of US\$196.9 million** for the next six months (May 2021 – October 2021).



Operational Updates

The COVID-19 pandemic 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 levels of food insecurity. Snow water equivalent is almost 39 percent lower compared to this time last year. WFP satellite imagery demonstrates some regions are the driest they have been in the last 27 years, auguring a drought event in the country.

The Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) acute food insecurity analysis report, which examines food insecurity in all 34 provinces of Afghanistan and informs emergency response in the country has been published. The report currently projects 14 million people experiencing food insecurity in the following months. IPC figures are likely to remain high, and combined with climate change, a poor economic outlook, COVID-19 and the ongoing conflict, food security is expected to remain concerning.

WFP is ready and prepared to scale up operations to meet emergency food needs, invest in community resilience, and expand nutrition coverage for the most vulnerable people in Afghanistan.

Since the last week of April, WFP has assisted over 7,200 people affected by the recent flash floods in Kunar, Nangarhar, Laghman, Samangan and Hirat provinces with more than 140 metric tons (mt) of emergency food assistance. The needs assessment is currently ongoing, and assistance will continue as per assessment results.

As of 9 May, the Ministry of Public Health recorded 61,842 people across all 34 provinces in Afghanistan as confirmed to have had COVID-19. Only 388,760 people out of a population of 40.4 million have been tested.

Relief Assistance

- WFP assisted 204,520 people suffering from COVID-19's socio-economic impacts with a total of US\$2.6 million in cash-based transfers (CBT).
- Other people assisted under WFP's emergency response included almost 1,141,000 seasonally food insecure people, 43,975 people displaced by conflict, nearly 74,400 refugees, 9,100 returnees and 5,900 people affected by natural disasters.

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total CSP Requirement (in USD)	Total Allocated Contributions (in USD)	May 2021 – October 2021 Funding Requirements (in USD)
1 billion*	642.3 m	196.9 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.

Livelihoods Support

- WFP provided over 2,200 participants of ongoing asset creation and vocational training activities with US\$9,655 in CBT and 40 mt of food.
- April saw the completion of projects in four provinces resulting in the construction of various flood diversion structures, such as, a 4 km irrigation canal, a 400 m canal intake, a 4 km flood diversion canal, 500 m of flood protection walls, a 1.5 km long gabion protection wall and 9 km of tertiary roads. Moreover, more than 1 million saplings were planted to enhance forestation, while trainings on market cultivation and marketing were also provided to women.

Treatment and Prevention of Malnutrition

- In April, WFP provided 346,200 children and pregnant and lactating women with nutrition assistance and services to prevent and treat moderate acute malnutrition.

School Health and Nutrition

- WFP provided over 3,140 girls with fortified vegetable oil as take-home rations as well as cash-based assistance to encourage attendance and increase retention. WFP also provided over 98,000 primary school students 200 mt of high energy biscuits as mid-morning snacks.

Supply Chain and Access

- In April, 1,160 mt of Wheat Soya Blend and sunflower oil were received in-country via the Spinboldak and Torkham borders, while 4,230 yellow split pulses and sunflower oil entered Afghanistan via Hairaton and Torghundi borders.
- WFP dispatched more than 19,500 mt of food to cooperating partners for distribution to 156 destinations across the country.
- The main supply route from Hirat to Ghor has been blocked for WFP assistance delivery in Takhtapu area, where a NSAG commander poses threat of diverting humanitarian cargo. WFP is using an alternate southern corridor to deliver humanitarian assistance adding two days to the round-trip and delaying the arrival of food.

Common Services - UNHAS

- In April, the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) transported 1,545 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\$7.6 million**.

Funding

- In 2021, WFP aims to **meet the needs of 13.9 million** people, out of which 11.1 are classified as IPC 3 and IPC 4 throughout the country. Funding requirements for the coming six months are **US\$271.7 million**, of which **US\$196.9 million** remain to be resourced.

Donors

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