



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Afghanistan Country Brief May 2021



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 over 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)**

In Numbers

In May, WFP assisted **more than 1.7 million** food-insecure people across Afghanistan.

WFP delivered **17,700 mt** of food, disbursed over **US\$ 2.5 million** in cash-based transfers.

WFP is facing a **net funding shortfall of US\$ 246 million** for the next six months (June 2021 – December 2021).

49%



51%



Operational Updates

- The COVID-19 pandemic has resurged in Afghanistan. This comes as the conflict intensifies, and the impact of La Niña begins to take root 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, 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.
- Afghanistan's political and security situation remains highly complex, volatile and uncertain. Escalating levels of conflict and unpredictable security dynamics pose increasing constraints to access people in need.
- As part of the contingency planning for possible relocation flights, the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) launched an online survey to understand the additional aircraft capacity for UNHAS should there be a demand for mass relocation. This was done in coordination with the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General and Humanitarian Coordinator (DSRSG/HC), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the United Nations Safety and Security (UNDSS), the International NGOs Safety Organisation (INSO) and the Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief (ACBAR). UNHAS is exploring the possibility of an international airbridge due to COVID-19 measures that might affect international flights.
- As of 4 June, the Ministry of Public Health recorded 76,628 people across all 34 provinces in Afghanistan as confirmed to have had COVID-19 though it is believed actual cases are much higher. Only 484,939 people out of a population of 40 million have been tested.

Relief Assistance

- WFP assisted 25,200 people suffering from COVID-19's socio-economic impacts with a total of US\$ 320,000 in cash-based transfers (CBT).
- Other people assisted under WFP's emergency response included 1 million seasonally food insecure people, almost 34,000 refugees, 68,000 people displaced by conflict, nearly 11,000 people affected by natural disasters and 8,000 returnees from Iran and Pakistan.

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Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total CSP Requirement (in USD)	Total Allocated Contributions (in USD)	June 2021 – December 2021 Funding Requirements (in USD)
1 billion*	705.4 m	245.78 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 66,000 participants of ongoing asset creation activities with almost US\$ 132,000 in CBT and almost 1,000 mt of food.
- Eight projects in five provinces were completed in May 2021, resulting in the construction and rehabilitation of various irrigation canals, check dams and flood protection walls.
- More than 1.5 million saplings were planted to enhance forestation, while trainings on modern carpentry, mobile phone and home appliance repairing, bag making, handicrafts and carpet weaving were provided to a total of 600 participants.

Treatment and Prevention of Malnutrition

- In May, WFP provided 305,000 children and pregnant and lactating women with over 1,500 mt of nutrition assistance and services to prevent and treat moderate acute malnutrition.

School Health and Nutrition

- WFP provided over 77,000 girls with 263 mt of fortified vegetable oil as take-home rations as well as over US\$ 60,000 in cash-based assistance to encourage attendance and increase retention. WFP also provided over 140,000 primary school students 180 mt of high energy biscuits as mid-morning snacks.

Supply Chain and Access

- In May, some 600 mt of Ready to Use Supplementary Food were received in-country via Spinboldak and Torkham borders, while over 2,200 mt of yellow split pulses and over 1,000 mt of sunflower oil entered Afghanistan via Hairaton and Torghundi borders.
- WFP dispatched 18,500 mt of food to cooperating partners for distribution to 71 destinations across the country.
- While most of the main supply routes remain operational, the intensifying conflict poses some challenges for delivery of WFP assistance in some contested areas. Alternate corridors are used in cases where unimpeded overland access proves difficult, though this leads to increased lead time for humanitarian assistance.

Common Services – UNHAS

- In May, UNHAS transported 1,262 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\$ 1.9 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 from June to December 2021 are **US\$ 371 million**, of which **US\$ 246 million** remain to be resourced.

Donors

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