



# WFP Afghanistan Country Brief June 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 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**

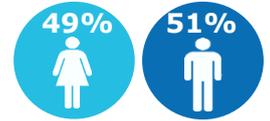
Gender Inequality Index (2018): **143 out of 189 HDI listed countries (UNDP)**

## In Numbers

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

WFP delivered **16,300 mt** of food, disbursed over **US\$ 4.7 million** in cash-based transfers.

WFP is facing a **net funding shortfall of US\$ 234 million** for the next six months (July 2021 – December 2021).



## Operational Updates

- The COVID-19 pandemic has resurged in Afghanistan. This comes as the conflict intensifies, and the impact of drought 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. 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.
- On 22 June 2021, President Ghani declared drought in 23 percent of Afghanistan's districts. WFP is deeply concerned about the impact on people and communities across the country. Currently, WFP is providing food assistance to Internally displaced people (IDPs) due to conflict, people economically distressed due to COVID-19 and drought affected people. WFP has also developed contingency plans to meet additional displacement and possible cross-border population movement.

## Relief Assistance

- WFP assisted almost 310,000 people suffering from COVID-19's socio-economic impacts with a total of over US\$ 3.7 million in cash-based transfers (CBT).
- Other people assisted under WFP's emergency response included 800,000 seasonally food insecure people, 75,000 people displaced by conflict, 8,500 people affected by natural disasters and 9,500 returnees from Iran and Pakistan.

## Treatment and Prevention of Malnutrition

- In June, WFP provided over 375,000 children and pregnant and lactating women with 1,400 mt of nutrition assistance and services to prevent and treat moderate acute malnutrition.

## Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total CSP Requirement (in USD)	Total Allocated Contributions (in USD)	July 2021 – December 2021 Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>1.5 billion*</b>	<b>714.5 m</b>	<b>234 m</b>

\* Approved in budget revision 5

### 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 112,000 participants of ongoing asset creation activities and vocational skills training (VST) with almost US\$ 280,000 in CBT and 1,700 mt of food.
- As part of WFP's VST activities, trainings on carpet weaving, jewellery making, fruit drying and processing, hydroponic fodder production, gabion weaving, nursery management activities and kitchen gardening were provided to a total of 600 participants, out of whom 500 are women.

## School Health and Nutrition

- WFP provided families of 730 female students in secondary school with over US\$ 22,400 in cash-based assistance to encourage attendance and increase retention. WFP also provided 68,000 primary school students with 100 mt of high energy biscuits as mid-morning snacks.

## Supply Chain and Access

- In June, some 700 mt of Ready to Use Supplementary Food and oil were received in-country via Spinboldak and Torkham borders, while 450 mt of yellow split pulses and 400 mt of sunflower oil entered Afghanistan via Hairaton and Torghundi.
- While most of the main supply routes remain operational, the intensifying conflict poses some challenges for delivery of WFP assistance in areas where ongoing clashes between the Government and Anti-Government Elements (AGEs) are taking place. All borders remain open except from Sher Khan Bandar.

## Common Services – UNHAS

- In June, the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) transported 1,671 passengers to and from 19 locations across the country. In total, from January to June, UNHAS transported 7,527 passengers from 131 organizations (UN, NGOs, Donors, Embassies and their implementing partners). At the request of the humanitarian community, UNHAS has also begun relocations due to rising insecurity, and thus, needs additional aircraft capacity to maintain regular operations. From January to June, UNHAS has performed security relocation flights and has transported 263 staff and their dependents, and 9 MEDEVAC including 7 COVID-19 on regular and charter flights.
- As a common service provider, UNHAS is dependent on sustained support from partners. Overall funding needs for 2021 are US\$ 25.9 million, with shortfalls of US\$ 2.4 million for regular flights, US\$ 2.8 million for relocations within the country and US\$ 3.1 million for evacuations out of country. The total funding shortfall remains US\$ 8.3 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\$ 341.13 million**, of which **US\$ 234.11 million** remain to be resourced.

## Donors

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