WFP Afghanistan
Country Brief
October 2022

Operational Context

Afghanistan remains one of the world’s largest humanitarian crises with 24.4 million people in need of humanitarian assistance. Decades of conflict, extreme climate shocks, and severe economic decline characterised by high unemployment, cash shortages, and rising food prices have plunged millions into poverty. Preliminary results of the latest IPC Analysis, based on findings of the September 2022 Whole of Afghanistan Assessment (WoAA), 17 million people were estimated to be acutely food insecure between September and October 2022. This number is projected to rise to 19.9 million people between November 2022 and March 2023.

In response to unprecedented levels of hunger and vulnerability, WFP has scaled-up humanitarian operations with the aim to reach 23 million people in 2022 with emergency food, nutrition, and livelihoods support. Present in Afghanistan since 1963, WFP’s current Country Strategic Plan (2018-2023) has adapted to the new operating environment, providing lifesaving support to those who need it most, while continuing, where possible, to support long-term community resilience, gender, and education initiatives.

In Numbers

- 69,000 mt of food assistance distributed
- US$23.7 million cash-based transfers made
- US$1.44 billion six-month (November 2022-April 2023) net funding requirements
- 10 million people assisted

Operational Updates

General Food Assistance

- In October, WFP reached 10 million people across Afghanistan with emergency food, nutrition, and livelihood support, including 16,639 internally displaced persons (IDPs).
- WFP provided emergency food and nutrition support to 9 million people, of which 74 percent received assistance in-kind, while 26 percent received cash-based transfers (CBT).

Asset creation and livelihoods

- WFP assisted more than 250,000 people through Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) activities to meet their basic food needs while building their resilience against recurrent shocks and stressors.
- In October, nearly 30,000 people received CBT assistance and livelihoods training under WFP’s Food for Training programming, including more than 14,000 women.
- WFP provided technical capacity support to 1,575 women through Smallholder Agriculture Market Support and FFA projects in Badakhshan and Takhar provinces. WFP seeks to enable more women to engage with Afghanistan’s dairy value chain, from dairy cow keeping to the processing and marketing of dairy products.

Nutrition Support

- WFP provided nutritious food commodities for the prevention of malnutrition to 432,000 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) and children aged 6-59 months. WFP provided treatment to a further 654,000 malnourished children and women.
- WFP currently supports 2,205 health centers and 421 mobile health and nutrition teams across the country to ensure continued and equitable access to nutrition services in hard-to-reach areas.

School feeding

- WFP distributed 489 mt of high-energy biscuits and Bread+ to 560,000 primary school girls and boys and provided take-home rations of vegetable oil to more than 102,000 primary school girls.
- Cash-based incentives were provided to approximately 2,700 secondary school girls in four provinces (Balkh, Jawzjan, Sar-e-Pol, Zabul) where they are permitted to attend school.

Contact info: Hannah Barry hannah.barry@wfp.org
Country Director: Mary-Ellen McGroarty
Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/Afghanistan
**WFP Country Strategy**

**Country Strategic Plan (2018-2023)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CSP Requirements (in US$)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in US$)</th>
<th>Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US$)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6.05 billion</td>
<td>2.7 billion</td>
<td>1.44 billion</td>
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**Strategic Result 1:** Everyone has access to food

**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
- Prevention and treatment of malnutrition of crisis-affected

**Strategic Result 2:** End malnutrition

**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 building

**Activities:**
- Livelihood support
- Emergency preparedness capacity strengthening

**Strategic Result 3:** Sustainable food systems

**Strategic Outcome 3:** Vulnerable people at each stage of the life cycle in target areas have improved nutrition by 2022

**Focus area:** Resilience building

**Activities:**
- School feeding

**Strategic Result 4:** Policy coherence

**Strategic Outcome 4:** People throughout the country can have access to a wide range of fortified nutritious food products at affordable prices by 2022.

**Focus area:** Resilience Building

**Activities:**
- Nutritional value chains

**Strategic Result 5:** Enhance global partnerships

**Strategic Outcome 5:** National and subnational institutions have a strengthened policy approach to food security and nutrition by 2022

**Focus area:** Resilience building

**Activities:**
- Policy coherence support on food security and nutrition

**Strategic Result 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

**2022 Donors**

Asian Development Bank, Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, European Commission, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Malta, New Zealand, Norway, Private Donors, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, UNCRF, United Kingdom, United States of America, World Bank

**Monitoring**

- In October, WFP logged **12,914** cases via Community Feedback Mechanism (CFM) channels, including 12,786 via WFP’s toll-free hotline, and 89 via email. WFP is strengthening community-level messaging and communication channels to improve information provision to affected populations.

- Post-distribution monitoring (PDM) results from WFP’s earthquake response in Paktika and Khost provinces show that reliance on crisis-level coping strategies was higher among households headed by pregnant and lactating women (PLW). Stress-level coping strategies were also higher among households hosting PLW compared to those without. These results underscore the heightened level of vulnerability for both PLW and households headed by women, particularly in the aftermath of severe shocks. WFP assisted more than **101,000** people as part of its Earthquake Response between July and September.

**Supply chain**

- WFP continues to support the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) with warehousing and transportation services for non-food items, including fertilizers, seeds, and farming tools for smallholder farmers.

- WFP continues to preposition food in hard-to-reach areas across Afghanistan ahead of the winter season, with a target of 100,000 mt to feed 1.5 million people for five months.

**Flour Fortification and Prepositioning**

- In October, WFP procured **46,936 mt** of wheat flour locally, valued at **US$25.8 million**, to distribute to beneficiaries across Afghanistan.

- The amount of fortified wheat flour produced in October by WFP-supported millers was **52 percent higher** than the previous month and **119 percent higher** than in October 2021.

**Challenges/Funding Shortfalls**

- WFP urgently requires **US$ 1.44 billion** to sustain operations over the next six months (November 2022 - April 2023), with severe shortfalls beginning in January 2023. As the winter period approaches, more than 6 million people in IPC Phase 4 teeter on the brink of famine and require urgent humanitarian support to avoid catastrophic levels of hunger.