



WFP Afghanistan Country Brief

April 2023

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



Operational Context

Afghanistan remains one of the world's largest humanitarian crises with 28.3 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. Between April and May 2023, an estimated 17.2 million people are acutely food insecure, including 3.4 million that require sustained humanitarian support to prevent catastrophic levels of hunger.

In response to unprecedented levels of hunger and vulnerability, WFP scaled-up humanitarian operations to reach 23 million people with emergency food, nutrition, and livelihoods support in 2022 and plans to support 21 million people in 2023. 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.



Population: **41.7 million**

2021 Human Development Index: **180 out of 191 countries**

Income Level: **Low income**

Chronic malnutrition: **54% of children between 6-59 months (WB)**

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In Numbers

71,017 mt of food distributed in April 2023

US\$17 million in cash-based transfers made

US\$882 million six months (May-October 2023) net funding requirements

10.7 million people assisted in April 2023



Operational Updates

- In April, cash-based transfers accounted for **22 percent** of WFP's assistance provided across all activities. More than 2 million people received direct cash and value vouchers, totaling **US\$14 million**. This comes on top of some 483,000 people who received commodity vouchers worth a total of **US\$3 million**.

General Food Assistance

- Severe funding constraints forced WFP to cut its emergency food assistance for **4 million** people in April. Meanwhile, reduced ration sizes were distributed to recipient households.
- Overall, **8.9 million** people received emergency food assistance, including **6.6 million** via in-kind transfers and **2.3 million** via cash-based transfers.

Nutrition Support

- WFP provided specialized nutritious foods for the prevention of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) to more than **1.46 million** children (aged 6-59 months), and pregnant and breastfeeding women (PBW). Additionally, WFP provided malnutrition treatment services to more than **547,500** women and children.
- WFP and partners continued to negotiate with de facto authorities for an extension to the transition period for all mobile health clinics to be converted to fixed health centres.

Asset Creation and Livelihoods

- WFP provided in-kind and cash-based assistance to approximately **353,000** people through Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) projects, to strengthen household and community resilience through local asset creation and rehabilitation.
- WFP assisted more than **20,600** people with cash-based transfers and livelihoods training through Food Assistance for Training (FFT) projects. While activities are ongoing in 8 provinces, they remain suspended in 8 other provinces due to restrictions on women working for non-government organizations (NGOs).

School Feeding

- WFP provided daily nutritious snacks to some **860,000** primary students through its School Feeding programme. Take-home rations of vegetable oil were also provided to more than **10,600** primary schoolgirls.

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2023)

CSP Requirements	Allocated Contributions	Six Month Net Funding Requirements
US\$6.05 billion	US\$3.2 billion	US\$882 million

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 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 2: End malnutrition

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: Sustainable food systems

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 6: Policy coherence

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 8: Enhance global partnerships

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.

2023 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, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund, United Kingdom, and USA

Vulnerability Assessments & Monitoring

- Results of the Post-Lean Season Assessment indicated that **17.2 million** people are acutely food-insecure between April and May 2023, a slight improvement from the 20 million food-insecure during the peak winter period.
- In April, WFP registered **36,311 cases** through Community Feedback Mechanism (CFM) channels – a substantial decrease compared to previous months.
- WFP observed a decline in requests for programme information for the second month in a row. On the other hand, CFM cases were primarily requests for assistance, and queries related to the operational scale-down and the continuation of assistance following new restrictions on female staff working for the the United Nations (UN).

Market Monitoring

- The national average price of basic food commodities decreased significantly in April, compared to March. The price of wheat grain, wheat flour, and cooking oil decreased by 8, 7, and 6 percent, respectively.
- The price of WFP's in-kind food basket declined by 3 percent for the tenth consecutive month, from its peak in June 2022 (US\$99) to April 2023 (US\$78.1).
- Diesel prices decreased for the ninth consecutive month, after peaking a 122 AFN/L in July 2022.

Supply Chain

- In April, WFP procured **3,589 mt** of locally produced fortified wheat flour, valued at **US\$1.8 million**, for onward distribution to populations in need. The quantity of fortified wheat flour produced in April is 56 percent less than what was produced in March, largely due to WFP's operational scale-down.

Challenges & Funding Shortfalls

- On 04 April, de facto authorities extended restrictions on women working for NGOs in Afghanistan to include those working for the UN. Most national staff worked from home during the month of April, as WFP and UN partners assessed the security situation, advocated for the rights of women to work, and established alternate work modalities in the interim.
- Humanitarian activities were once again suspended in Ghor Province. Negotiations with de facto authorities are ongoing for adherence to operational red lines.
- WFP food distributions resumed in two districts of Ghazni Province following a three-month suspension that affected 93,450 people.
- In 2023, WFP requires **US\$2.2 billion** to deliver emergency food, nutrition, and livelihood support to those in need. WFP faces a shortfall of **US\$882 million** to sustain operations between May and October 2023.