



# WFP Afghanistan Country Brief

## May 2023

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



©WFP/Sadeq Naseri

### 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**

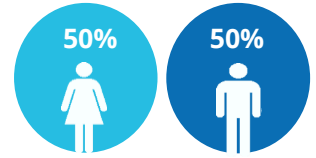
## In Numbers

**42,042 mt** of food distributed in May 2023

**US\$ 9.1 m** in cash-based transfers made

**US\$ 918 million** six months (June-November 2023) net funding requirements.

**6.4 million people assisted** in May 2023



### Operational Updates

- Overall, cash-based transfers accounted for **18 percent** of assistance provided across all activities in April. More than 981,000 people received direct cash and value vouchers, totaling nearly **US\$7.3 million** transferred. Some 285,000 people received commodity vouchers, worth a total **US\$1.8 million**.

#### General Food Assistance

- Severe funding constraints forced WFP to cut a further **4 million** people from emergency food assistance programming for the second consecutive month, while ration sizes for IPC Phase 4 households remained reduced to cover 50 percent of one's basic needs, instead of 75 percent.
- Since April 2023, **8 million** people have been cut from emergency food assistance programming due to funding shortfalls.
- Overall, **4.7 million** people received emergency food assistance, including **3.6 million** via in-kind transfers and more than **1 million** via cash-based transfers.

#### Nutrition Support

- WFP provided specialized nutritious foods for the prevention of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) to more than **888,300** children (aged 6-59 months), and pregnant and breastfeeding women (PBW). Additionally, WFP provided malnutrition treatment services to more than **533,600** PBW and children.

#### Asset Creation and Livelihoods

- WFP provided in-kind and cash-based assistance to nearly **278,000** people through Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) projects, which seek to strengthen community resilience through asset creation and rehabilitation.
- WFP assisted more than **11,670** people with cash-based transfers and livelihoods training through Food Assistance for Training (FFT) projects in eight provinces.

#### School Feeding

- In May, WFP reached nearly **909,000** primary students with High Energy Biscuits or Bread+ through its School Feeding programme.
- Take-home rations of vegetable oil were also provided to more than **28,300** primary schoolgirls.

**Contact info:** Hannah Barry: [hannah.barry@wfp.org](mailto:hannah.barry@wfp.org)  
**Country Director:** Hsiao-Wei Lee: [hsiaowei.lee@wfp.org](mailto:hsiaowei.lee@wfp.org)  
Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/Afghanistan](http://www.wfp.org/countries/Afghanistan)

## Country Strategic Plan (2018-2023)

CSP Requirements	Allocated Contributions	Six Month Net Funding Requirements
<b>USD 6.05 billion</b>	<b>USD 3.3 billion</b>	<b>US\$ 918 million</b>

## 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 &amp; Monitoring

- In May, WFP registered **31,798 cases** through its Community Feedback Mechanism (CFM) channels, of which 98 percent were immediately resolved. WFP observed a 45 percent increase in urgent requests for support as it scaled down emergency food assistance operations due to a lack of funds.
- WFP has observed an increase in the number of requests for assistance received from extremely vulnerable groups, namely female-headed households, and persons with disabilities. Those in need have reiterated their reliance on WFP assistance as the only source of food they have.

## Market Monitoring

- The price of sugar continued to rise in May due to supply shortfalls, with price increases recorded for 12 consecutive weeks. During the fourth week of May, the price of sugar was 18 percent higher than the same time last year.
- Based on information received from local flour millers, the average price of wheat flour in local markets in May was US\$390/mt, a decrease of approximately US\$10/mt compared to April. The decrease is largely driven by increased supply due to the wheat harvest season and additional imports from Kazakhstan.

## Supply Chain

- In May, WFP procured **4,697 mt** of locally produced fortified wheat flour, valued at **US\$2.4 million**, for onward distribution to populations in need. An additional **7,285 mt** of fortified wheat flour was produced by WFP-supported millers for commercial markets.

## Challenges &amp; Funding Shortfalls

- In May, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) warned of a severe locust outbreak affecting at least eight provinces in northern Afghanistan threatening to destroy approximately one quarter of this year's harvest. WFP estimates that approximately 360,000 people may require food assistance over the summer months as a result of the outbreak.
- Most WFP national staff continued to work from home, except those deemed critical, following the UN Country Team's review of alternative working modalities in light of de facto authority restrictions on Afghan women working for the UN.
- Humanitarian activities remained suspended in Ghor province as negotiations with de facto authorities continue for strict adherence to the Humanitarian Principles and operational red lines.
- In 2023, WFP requires **US\$2.2 billion** to deliver emergency food, nutrition, and livelihood support to those in need. WFP faces a net funding shortfall of **US\$918 million** to sustain operations between June and November 2023.