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.

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.
WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2023)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CSP Requirements</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions</th>
<th>Six Month Net Funding Requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USD 6.05 billion</td>
<td>USD 3.3 billion</td>
<td>USD 918 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Vulnerability Assessments & 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 & 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.