



World Food Programme

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# WFP Afghanistan Country Brief July 2023



## 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)**

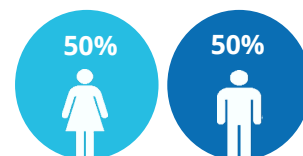
## In Numbers

**31,103 mt** of food distributed in July 2023

**US\$9.3 m** in cash-based transfers made

**US\$971 million** six months (Aug 2023-January 2024) net funding requirements.

**5.67 million people assisted** in July 2023



## Operational Updates

- In July, WFP has distributed approximately **35,105 mt** of in-kind assistance (food) to 4.4 million people across various programmes, and cash-based transfers worth **US\$9.3 million** to more than **1.27 million** people.
- Following months of activity suspension in Ghor due to reports of redistribution of aid, WFP resumed activities in the region in alignment with other UN partners, with robust safeguards and monitoring mechanisms in place.
- In response to heavy off-season rainfall, which caused 61 fatalities, 24 injuries and at least six people missing, a UN team, including WFP, conducted initial needs assessments in five flood-affected provinces. WFP distributed 82 mt of mixed commodities to 329 households in affected provinces.

## General Food Assistance

- With the reduction in beneficiaries due to funding constraints since May 2023, WFP reached **3.8 million** people in July with emergency food assistance, with an additional 1.2 million people receiving cash-based transfers (including vouchers).

## Nutrition Support

- WFP provided specialized nutritious foods for the prevention and treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) to **800,000** children (aged 6-59 months), and pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBWG).
- WFP continues to support more than **380** mobile health and nutrition teams across Afghanistan as it awaits further guidance on their transition to fixed health clinics as mandated by de facto authorities.

## Asset Creation and Livelihoods

- In July, WFP reached 367,660 people through food assistance for asset creation schemes, 11,613 through food assistance for training schemes and 7,725 farmers through smallholder agriculture market support activities, all of which seek to strengthen community resilience.

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## Country Strategic Plan (2018-2023)

CSP Requirements	Allocated Contributions	Six Month Net Funding Requirements
<b>US\$6.05 billion</b>	<b>US\$3.45 billion</b>	<b>US\$971.18 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

Australia, Canada, China, European Commission, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, India, Islamic Development Bank, Japan, Kuwait, New Zealand, Norway, Private Donors, Republic of Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund, United Kingdom, and USA

## School Feeding

- WFP reached **325,576** primary school children through the school feeding programme in ten provinces this month. Cash-based transfer incentives for secondary-level schoolgirls is on hold, as schools remain closed to secondary-level girls across the country.

## Community Feedback Mechanism

- In July, WFP received **22,367 cases** (33 percent female; 67 percent male) through Community Feedback Mechanism (CFM) channels – a slight increase from June. However, WFP has observed a three-month downward trend in total cases received, which could be linked to a combination of improved outreach, a scale-down in assistance, and reduced operational presence and footprint.
- Despite a gradual reduction in the total number of cases, requests for assistance and information regarding WFP activities remain consistently high (95 percent of calls in July), indicating the continued need for humanitarian assistance in the country.
- Continued scale-down of WFP activities due to severe lack of funding has further exposed vulnerabilities of communities and increased their appeals for assistance to humanitarian actors. Affected populations genuinely expressed that WFP assistance is their family's only source food and without it heightens the risk of them engaging in extreme coping strategies.

## Market Monitoring

- The latest country wide weekly market price bulletin showed a substantial increase in the price of rice, sugar and pulses compared to the three-year average.
- Purchasing power of unskilled casual labour and livestock keepers declined by two percent due to increased wheat prices and decreased labour wage.

## Supply Chain

- In July, WFP dispatched **38,474 mt** of food across Afghanistan, representing approximately 94 percent of its monthly target. Approximately **99,500 mt** of food is available in the country at WFP warehouses, while **56,500** of food is in-transit or within WFP warehouses outside the country.

## Challenges &amp; Funding Shortfalls

- 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\$ 1.21 billion** to sustain operations over the next six months (August 2023 – January 2024).