



World Food Programme

SAVING
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CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Afghanistan Country Brief November 2023



WFP's food-for-training programme empowers women in Afghanistan like Bibi Zarin, to learn new skills, generate income, and have access to better child nutrition. ©WFP/Hasib Hazinyar

Operational Context

Afghanistan remains one of the world's largest humanitarian crises with 29.2 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 May and October 2023, an estimated 15.3 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 livelihood 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)**

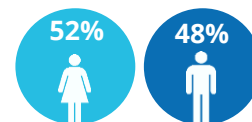
In Numbers

35,000 mt of food distributed in November 2023

US\$13.5 million in cash-based transfers made

US\$856 million six months (December 2023 – May 2024) net funding requirements.

5.9 million people assisted
in November 2023



Operational Updates

- In November, WFP reached **5.8 million** people with emergency food, cash, nutrition, and livelihoods support. WFP distributed **35,000 mt** of in-kind assistance and made cash-based transfers worth **US\$13.5 million** across various programmes.

General Food Assistance

- In November, WFP reached **4.3 million** people with general food assistance and **1.6 million** people received cash-based transfers (including commodity and value vouchers). WFP is working around the clock to mobilize and [transport](#) food to remote regions which are expected to become inaccessible this winter. WFP has scaled up its assistance to reach 6.5 million people this winter with mixed food commodities across 386 districts, resources permitting.

Nutrition Support

- Since January 2023, WFP has provided specialized nutritious foods for the prevention of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) to over **1.2 million children** (aged 6-59 months) and **970,000** acutely malnourished pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PLBW/G). For the prevention of acute malnutrition, WFP has provided support to **1.9 million** children and **1 million** PLBW.
- Furthermore, WFP has finalized the training of **5,200** health workers on the Integrated Management Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) in partnership with UNICEF to strengthen the capacity of health workers in delivering treatment services.

School Feeding

- In November, WFP provided Fortified Biscuits or Bread+¹ to more than **816,000 primary school students** in various locations, reaching 100 percent of its target for the month.

Asset Creation and Livelihoods

- In November, WFP reached **201,866 people** through food assistance for asset creation (FFA) schemes, and **32,109** through food assistance for training schemes in **25 provinces**, all seeking to strengthen community resilience.

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¹ Bread+ is an initiative where WFP works with local smallholder farmers and bakeries to produce nutritious bread for schoolchildren using local ingredients.

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2023)

CSP Requirements	Allocated Contributions	Six-month Net Funding Requirements
US\$9.82 b	US\$3.77 b	US\$856 m

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: 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:

- 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: Resilience Building

Activities:

- Common service provision (SCOPE, Supply Chain, ICT)
- UN Humanitarian Air Service

Herat Earthquake

- This month, WFP reached **92,274 people** in five earthquake-affected districts of Herat, providing essential support through food, cash and voucher distribution. A second round of distribution through cash-based transfers commenced in November and will conclude in December. Beneficiaries for this response were selected based on door-to-door verifications conducted by a third-party monitoring team.

Winter Prepositioning

- As part of WFP's winter prepositioning, 91 percent of the total 67,000 mt of food allocated has been dispatched to various distribution points across the country. The remaining commodities will also be dispatched before the end of the year. Further, winter prepositioning food distribution has concluded in WFP's Faizabad Area Office while remains ongoing in Bamiyan, Ghor and Daikundi.

Afghan Returnees

- WFP continued to provide food, nutrition and cash support to Afghan returnees from Pakistan at the Spin Boldak and Torkham borders. In November, WFP reached over 278,800 people with 24.41 mt of fortified biscuits, 1,632 mt of mixed food commodities, and over US\$3 million with multi-purpose cash assistance. Due to a reduction in the flow of returnees at both borders, WFP has concluded food and multi-purpose cash distributions for this phase.

Market Monitoring

- At the end of November, the average prices of all food items (except wheat flour) were significantly higher than the pre-COVID pandemic. The AFN value continued to show gradual appreciation against the US\$ since 1st week of February 2023 with some fluctuation in between.

Funding Shortfalls

- In 2023, WFP requires US\$2.2 billion to deliver emergency food, nutrition, and livelihood support to those most in need. WFP faces a funding shortfall of **US\$856 million** to sustain operations over the next six months and calls for urgent funding of US\$400 million to help the most vulnerable 7 million people survive the harsh winter.

2023 Donors

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