



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Afghanistan Country Brief December 2023



An elderly WFP beneficiary collects his entitlement at a distribution site.
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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)**

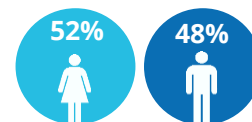
In Numbers

44,998 mt of food distributed in December 2023

US\$17.5 million in cash-based transfers made

US\$670 million six months (January – June 2024) net funding requirements.

7.4 million people assisted
in December 2023



Operational Updates

- In 2023, WFP reached **nearly 19 million** people with emergency food, cash, nutrition, and livelihoods support. WFP distributed over **602,000 mt** of in-kind assistance and an estimated **US\$189 million** worth of cash-based transfers across various programmes.

General Food Assistance

- In December, WFP reached **6.8 million** people with general food assistance and cash-based transfers (including commodity and value vouchers). WFP worked 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 7.4 million people this winter with mixed food commodities across 386 districts.

Nutrition Support

- In December, WFP provided specialized nutritious foods for the prevention of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) to over **1 million** children (aged 6-59 months) and acutely malnourished pregnant and breastfeeding women and adolescent girls (PBW/G). For the prevention of acute malnutrition, WFP has provided support to 671,046 children and PBW/G.

School Feeding

- In December, WFP reached **615,823 boys and girls** with high-energy biscuits and Bread+¹ in various locations, reaching 67 percent of its target for the month. Unfortunately, secondary schools remain closed for girls with no definite information nor timeline for its resumption.
- WFP concluded school feeding support in six cold climate provinces this month – Ghor, Paktika, Jawzjan, Nuristan, Zabul and Uruzgan). Distributions will resume in April 2024.

Asset Creation and Livelihoods

- In December, WFP reached **200,711 people** through food assistance for asset creation (FFA) schemes, and **30,625** through food assistance for training schemes in **25 provinces**, 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 (2018-2025)

CSP Requirements	Allocated Contributions	Six-month Net Funding Requirements
US\$9.82 b	US\$3.80 b	US\$670 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 2025

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 2025

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 2025

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 2025

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 2025

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 2025

Focus area: Resilience Building

Activities:

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

Herat Earthquake

- WFP completed its earthquake response operation in December, in five earthquake-affected districts of Herat. WFP reached a total of 104,965 people through the provision of food, cash, and voucher distribution. In total, WFP distributed 1,137.5 mt of in-kind food and AFN 118.1 million (US\$1.6 million equivalent) through commodity vouchers and mobile shop transfers over two months. The participants for this response were selected based on door-to-door verifications conducted by a third-party monitoring team.

Winter Prepositioning

- Dispatches for winter prepositioning were completed, while the distribution phase is currently ongoing. More than 50 percent of the prepositioning has been distributed.

Afghan Returnees

- Since the start of the support to Afghan refugees from Pakistan, WFP has reached **302,456** people through the provision of food (fortified biscuits, specialized nutritious foods) multi-purpose cash, cash for food and nutritional assistance.

Market Monitoring

- By the end of December, the average prices of all food items (except wheat flour) were significantly higher than the pre-COVID pandemic period in March 2020. Furthermore, except for wheat grain, wheat flour, and cooking oil, the costs of all other food commodities remained notably higher compared to the levels observed in June 2021, which was before the conflicts and political changes.
- Prices of non-food commodities such as coal, wood and wood flour have increased slightly aligning with the onset of the winter season.

Funding Shortfalls

- 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\$670 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.