



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Afghanistan Country Brief January 2024



A participant in WFP's asset creation activity. ©WFP/Fezeh Hosseini

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 November 2023 and March 2024, an estimated 15.8 million (36 percent) people were likely to experience high levels of acute food insecurity.

In response to unprecedented levels of hunger and vulnerability, WFP supported 21 million people with emergency food, nutrition, and livelihood support in 2023. Present in Afghanistan since 1963, WFP's current country strategic plan, which was extended to 2025, 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)**

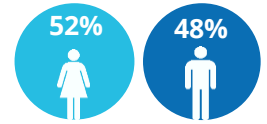
In Numbers

38,408 mt food distributed

US\$21.01 million cash-based transfers made

US\$759 million six months (February – July 2024) net funding requirements.

7.9 million people assisted



Operational Updates

- The recent [Integrated Food Security Classification Phase](#) (IPC) placed 15.8 million people in IPC phase 3 (crisis) and IPC 4 (emergency). A grim funding outlook is preventing WFP from reaching millions in need.
- In January, WFP reached **7.9 million people** through in-kind, cash-based transfers and nutritional assistance out of a planned 8.2 million (91 percent of target for the month). WFP faced several supply chain challenges which have now been resolved.

General Food Assistance

- WFP reached **6.9 million** people with general food assistance and cash-based transfers (including commodity and value vouchers). General food assistance (GFA) aims to address deficiencies in household food access through the provision of fortified food to address the disparity between their food consumption needs and what they can provide for themselves without resorting to harmful coping strategies.

Nutrition Support

- Due to a shortage in wheat soy blend (WSB+) due to supply chain issues, WFP prioritized the implementation of a targeted supplementary feeding programme (TSFP) over a blanket supplementary feeding programme (BSFP) in certain districts, reaching **1.7 million** pregnant women and girls and children. Undernutrition stands as a primary contributor to mortality rates, hence, the implementation of effective nutrition programmes to prevent and treat malnutrition is a key component to WFP's emergency response.

School Feeding

- WFP reached **392,243 boys and girls** attending primary schools and community-based education with on-site and take-home ration support. Unfortunately, secondary schools remain closed for girls with no definite information nor timeline for resumption. Launched in Afghanistan more than 20 years ago, WFP's school feeding programme aims to link food security and better nutrition with education among school age children.

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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\$3.84 b	US\$759 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

Asset Creation and Livelihoods

- Various livelihood and asset creations projects engaged **4,798** smallholder agricultural market support participants, **31,787** food assistance for training participants, and **96,334** food assistance for assets participants. WFP strives to lessen humanitarian needs and enhance food security and nutrition by combining emergency assistance with enhanced resilience in individuals, communities, and systems.

Lack of precipitation and snowfall

- Afghanistan received less than half the expected rainfall over the last four months and temperatures continue to increase. The lack of snowfall in January is also an ominous sign of the worsening climatic and drought conditions. Given that over 80 percent of the country's population depend on agriculture for their livelihood, the implications of prolonged drought are particularly dire on vulnerable families.

Market Monitoring

- At the end of January, average prices for both food and non-food items saw minimal changes, compared to previous weeks, due to fluctuations in exchange rates and seasonal influences. Wheat and rice prices rose marginally, with wheat flour increasing by 13 percent and 16 percent, while sugar showed a 13 percent increase. Cooking oil and salt experienced small decreases (0.2 and 0.5 percent, respectively).
- The Afghan Afghani (AFN) value against the US dollar continued to fluctuate, appreciating from AFN 90/USD to AFN 69.4/USD in December 2023 but depreciating to AFN 73.6/USD by January 2024, marking a 1.7 percent increase.

Funding Shortfalls

- WFP requires **US\$1.98 billion** to deliver emergency food, nutrition and livelihood support to those most in need. WFP faces a funding shortfall of **US\$759 million** to sustain operations over the next six months (February to July) and calls for urgent funding support to help the most vulnerable 7 million people survive the harsh winter and lean season.

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.