



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Afghanistan Country Brief March 2024



A family came with their children to pick up their food ration from WFP's food distribution site in Logar. ©WFP/Mohammad Hasib Hazinyar

Operational Context

Afghanistan remains one of the world's largest humanitarian crises with over 23 million people in need of humanitarian assistance. Decades of conflict, extreme climate shocks, and severe economic decline characterized by high unemployment and cash shortages have plunged millions into poverty and hunger. 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 reached 18.6 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)**

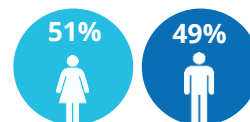
In Numbers

34,869 mt food distributed

US\$18.7 million cash-based transfers made

US\$590 million six months (April-September 2024) net funding requirements

7.6 million people assisted



Operational Updates

- In March, WFP reached over **7.6 million people** across all its activities – particularly through in-kind food, cash-based transfers, and nutritional assistance.
- Many parts of Afghanistan continued to receive heavy rainfall triggering flash floods in March, posing a threat to lives and livelihoods in at least ten provinces. WFP has an active contingency response plan, including the distribution of high-energy biscuits, followed by 100% food rations once affected households are confirmed.

Crisis Response

WFP reached **7 million** people with emergency food, cash, and nutrition support.

- General Food Distribution:** WFP reached **6.5 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's 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:** WFP's nutrition-specific assistance aims to assist vulnerable women and young children to prevent and treat malnutrition. This month, WFP reached **253,600** children aged 06-59 months and **277,600** acutely malnourished pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBW/G) with specialized nutritious foods (SNF) to treat moderate acute malnutrition. To prevent acute malnutrition, WFP provided SNF to **671,500** children aged 06-59 months and **252,200** PBW/G.

School Feeding

- WFP reached **424,800 boys and girls** attending over 1,700 primary schools and community-based education centres with either on-site or take-home meals. Secondary schools for girls have remained closed since September 2021 when de facto authorities announced that girls were barred from continuing their education beyond sixth grade. Currently, there is no indication of when these schools will reopen.

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Country Strategic Plan (2018-2025)

CSP Requirements	Allocated Contributions	Six-month Net Funding Requirements
US\$9.82 b	US\$4.01 b	US\$590 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

Resilience and Food Systems

- WFP's asset creation activities supported over **124,400** individuals through food assistance for assets and more than **48,100** with food assistance for training. In addition, WFP trained over **1,200** smallholder farmers under its smallholder agriculture market support project.
- WFP's asset creation and livelihood activities have not only addressed immediate hunger but also laid the groundwork for self-sufficiency and building longer-term community resilience.



Annual Country Report 2023

- On 29 March, WFP published its **2023 Annual Country Report**. WFP reached 18.6 million people in 2023, with 80 percent being women and children. Women continue to access aid, though challenges persist for women humanitarian workers to be fully deployed. Learn more about WFP's work here: [full report](#).

UNHAS

- On 25 March, the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) decided to discontinue flights to and from Doha effective 2 June 2024. The decision was made in alignment with operational adjustments and consideration of various factors impacting flight services. The last flight from Kabul to Doha will depart on 30 May 2024, and from Doha to Kabul on 2 June 2024.

Funding Shortfalls

- WFP requires **US\$1.98 billion** for 2024 to deliver emergency food, nutrition and livelihood support to those most in need. WFP faces a funding shortfall of **US\$590 million** to sustain operations over the next six months (April-September 2024). This includes US\$111 million required for 2024/2025 winter prepositioning.

2024 Donors

Australia, Canada, Finland, France, Japan, Private Donors, the Republic of Korea, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America.