



WFP Afghanistan Country Brief

May 2024

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



Displaced and flood affected person in Baghlan Province.
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Operational Context

Following peak hunger levels in 2021 and 2022, food security in Afghanistan has marginally improved, largely thanks to massive food and nutrition assistance that supported up to half the Afghan people. Nevertheless, more than a quarter of the Afghan population are still going hungry, including 2.4 million people facing emergency levels of food insecurity. These figures sadly keep the country squarely amongst other severe global hunger crises.

Increasingly erratic weather patterns are becoming the norm across the country. Devastating flash floods across the country followed years of drought conditions that forced families to go hungry and leave their villages, swelling the number of urban poor. As the climate crisis worsens, the losses from flooding are expected to increase every year.

Present in Afghanistan since 1963, the World Food Programme (WFP) works with partners to reach the most vulnerable communities in need of assistance across the country, in line with humanitarian principles.



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

23,193 mt food distributed

5.4 million cash-based transfers made

US\$510 million six months (June-Nov 2024) net funding requirements

3.7 million people assisted.*



Operational Updates

- Floods continue to affect the Northern, Northeastern, and Southern provinces. In May alone, WFP has assisted over 8,500 flood-affected households, with households in Ghor accounting for half the caseload.

Crisis Response

WFP reached **2.8 million** people with emergency food, cash, and nutrition support.

- General food assistance:** WFP reached **2.8 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.
- WFP so far has reached 69 percent of planned beneficiaries for May. Distributions are ongoing in all areas under the May hotspot response. Access issues due to road blockages throughout the month have caused delays in distribution.
- The Food Security and Agriculture Cluster has [proposed](#) a new minimum expenditure basket of 5,800 AFN (US\$82), down from 6,400 AFN (US\$90), for cash-for-food rations for a family of seven. WFP will not adjust transfer values for hotspot locations during the scale-down but will prepare to adjust to the new transfer value for the winter scale-up.
- Nutrition:** WFP's nutrition-specific assistance aims to assist vulnerable women and young children to prevent and treat malnutrition. WFP reached **464,000** children aged 06-59 months and 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 **358,600** children aged 06-59 months and PBW/G.
- From July 2024, Super Cereal/WSB+ will be substituted with LNS-PBW for TSFP, for consumption by PBWs for up to 5 months. The shift in commodity will enable WFP to use a more cost-efficient option, which could be more sustainable in the long term.

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Country Strategic Plan (2018-2025)

CSP Requirements	Allocated Contributions	Six-month Net Funding Requirements
US\$9.82 b	US\$4.09 b	US\$510 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

School Feeding

- WFP reached **896,100 boys and girls** attending 1,700 primary schools and community-based education centres with either on-site or take-home meals. Secondary schools for girls 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.
- WFP is planning a trial of Samosas in a local bakery in Sheberghan City, Jawzjan province, in June, which will focus on analyzing the process step-by-step to enhance the engagement of women in this new model.

Resilience and Food Systems

- WFP's asset creation activities supported **47,600** individuals through food assistance for assets and more than **11,200** people with food assistance for training (FFT).
- **FFT Graduates Make Abayas and Headscarves for WFP:** Eight female FFT graduates from Faizabad, Maidan Wardak, Kabul, and Nangarhar were introduced to the Communications Unit to make *abayas* and headscarves with WFP merchandise for female staff. These women graduated from WFP's tailoring vocational skills programme in 2022, and now own their businesses and have the capability to make these orders.

Funding Shortfalls & Challenges

- WFP is currently using its available resources to respond to the [flood emergency](#) amidst resource constraints. However, this response inevitably diverts attention and resources from existing and already reduced responses, including returnees from Pakistan and Iran.
- WFP requires **US\$14.5 million** over the next seven months to reach at least 80,000 people through in-kind food assistance, cash-based transfers, nutrition activities and a six-month resilience programme.
- WFP requires **US\$1.6 billion** for 2024 to deliver emergency food, nutrition and livelihood support to those most in need. WFP faces a funding shortfall of **US\$510 million** to sustain operations over the next six months (June-Nov 2024). This includes US\$111 million required for 2024/2025 winter prepositioning.

2024 Donors

Australia, Canada, European Union, Finland, Iceland, Japan, Private Donors, the Republic of Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America.

**Distribution figures for May are subject to change following validation.*