



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Afghanistan Country Brief June 2024



Displaced and flood-affected people in Baghlan Province. ©WFP/Rana Deraz

Operational Context

Despite ongoing challenges, Afghanistan's food security has marginally improved. The IPC projects that approximately 12.4 million people will face high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) between May and October 2024, a decrease from previous periods. Nevertheless, more than a quarter of the Afghan population are still going hungry, including 2.4 million people facing emergency levels of food insecurity.

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**

2024 Human Development Index: **182 out of 191 countries**

Income Level: **Low income**

Chronic malnutrition: **54% of children between 6-59 months (WB)**

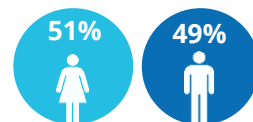
In Numbers

14,183 mt food distributed

US\$ 3.2 million cash-based transfers made

US\$617 million six months (July-Dec 2024) net funding requirements

2.3 million people assisted*



Situational Updates

- Floods continued into June, significantly affecting northern provinces of Baghlan and Badakhshan, as well as parts of Ghor. Over 350 deaths, including children, were reported, together with extensive infrastructure damage and the internal displacement of thousands of families.
- The floods were a part of a larger pattern of extreme weather events exacerbated by climate change, highlighting the urgent need for increased investment in climate resilience activities. WFP has been actively providing food, nutrition, and cash assistance to support affected populations.

Operational Updates

WFP reached **2.3 million** people with emergency food, cash, and nutrition support. However, due to a global funding decline, WFP had to reduce its assistance from May to September, leaving 11 million vulnerable Afghans without support.

- General food assistance:** WFP reached **853,500** people with general food assistance and cash-based transfers (CBT), including commodity and value vouchers. General food assistance (GFA) addresses deficiencies in households' food access by providing fortified food, preventing families from resorting to harmful coping strategies.
- During the reduced assistance period, WFP focused on approximately 1–1.2 million people monthly in food insecurity hotspots. Based on current projections, WFP will only be able to assist around six million people during the upcoming winter season, covering less than half of those experiencing acute food insecurity.
- Financial Inclusion Bank Account Pilot:** The first phase of the financial inclusion bank account pilot in Kabul successfully enrolled 1,789 households. Participants opened their first bank accounts and received training in financial literacy, including ATM usage for withdrawing and saving money. Twenty-eight percent of the targeted participants were female-headed households.

Contact info: Kessang Lama: kessang.lama@wfp.org
Country Director: Hsiao-Wei Lee: hsiaowei.lee@wfp.org
Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/Afghanistan

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2025)

CSP Requirements	Allocated Contributions	Six-month Net Funding Requirements
US\$9.02 b	US\$4.11 b	US\$617 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

**Distribution figures for June is subject to change following validation.*

- Nutrition:** WFP’s nutrition-specific assistance aims to assist vulnerable women and young children to prevent and treat malnutrition. WFP reached **378,400** 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 **82,500** children aged 06-59 months and PBW/G.

School Feeding

- WFP reached **951,000 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, impacting thousands of girls who are unable to pursue their education beyond primary school across Afghanistan.
- Bread+ and Commodity Vouchers:** WFP initiated a pilot of Bread+ distribution to schools, using ingredients sourced from WFP’s Commodity Voucher suppliers. This initiative lowered the costs and improved the quality of commodities while supporting local markets.

Resilience and Food Systems

- WFP’s asset creation activities supported over **16,700** individuals through food assistance for assets activities.
- In June, WFP and UNICEF approved a joint project designed to provide integrated support for 80 women in Kunar and Mazar. WFP will focus on delivering training in vocational skills, business, and marketing, establishing connections with income-generating opportunities, and providing startup kits. Additionally, throughout the six-month project, WFP will offer cash assistance to help participants meet their immediate food and basic needs. UNICEF will enhance this support by offering psychosocial assistance. The project is scheduled to begin by the end of July or early August.

Funding Shortfalls & Challenges

- 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\$ 617 million** to sustain operations over the next six months (July-Dec 2024). This includes US\$78 million required for 2024/2025 winter prepositioning.
- In addition, WFP needs **US\$17.7 million** for the [returnee response](#) (at the border and areas of return) and **US\$14.5 million** of the ongoing [flood response](#).

2024 Donors

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