



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Afghanistan Country Brief August 2024



Afghan schoolgirls enjoy nutritious samosas. ©WFP/Rana Deraz

Operational Context

Four decades of conflict have resulted in the destruction of much of the country's infrastructure and displacement of millions of Afghans. The return of the Taliban has ushered in a tenuous peace, but whatever progress was made in human rights and the rights of women and girls in the republic era is now at serious risk.

Following peak hunger levels in 2021 and 2022, food security in Afghanistan has somewhat improved thanks to unprecedented levels of humanitarian aid and economic stabilization efforts by the international community. Nevertheless, more than a quarter of the Afghan population is still hungry, including 2.4 million people facing emergency levels of food insecurity. Political and economic instability as well as natural disasters inhibit recovery.

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: **43.4 million**

2022 Human Development Index: **193 out of 204 countries and territories**

Income Level: **Low income**

Life Expectancy: **62.88 years**

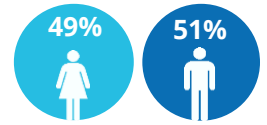
In Numbers

12,138 mt food distributed

US\$ 3.1 million cash-based transfers made

US\$677 million six months (September 2024-February 2025) net funding requirements

2.54 million people assisted*



Situational Updates

- The de-facto authorities (DFA) ratified the "Law on the Promotion of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice" in August with 35 articles imposing severe restrictions on personal conduct and freedoms. The rules range from i) requiring women to cover their faces and bodies and be accompanied by a male guardian outside the home; ii) banning music; and iii) requiring men to grow beards. The law gives the DFA with wide-ranging powers of enforcement. The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan raised concerns over the new law and sought clarification from the DFA on several articles and plans for enforcement. So far, WFP has not experienced any impact on its operations but continues to monitor the situation.
- On 12 August, clashes between Afghan and Pakistan forces at the Torkham border led to its closure, causing significant disruptions to WFP operations. Two WFP-contracted trucks loaded with wheat grains and over 60 trucks carrying specialized nutritious foods (SNF) were stranded in Pakistan. While a ceasefire has been reached and the border has reopened, the situation remains volatile.

Operational Updates

- WFP reached more than **1.5 million** people with emergency food, cash, and nutrition support. Due to funding shortfall, WFP has had to scale down its assistance from May to October, leaving 11 million people facing crisis or emergency levels of food insecurity without lifesaving emergency assistance.
- General Food Assistance:** WFP reached more than **1.2 million** people assessed to be residing in pockets of extreme food insecurity through emergency food and cash assistance. Furthermore, WFP assisted approximately **25,000** people affected by disasters such as rain-induced floods.
- Nutrition:** WFP reached **510,000** children aged 6-59 months and acutely malnourished pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBW/G) with SNF to treat moderate acute malnutrition. To prevent acute malnutrition, WFP provided SNF to **306,000** children aged 6-59 months and PBW/G.

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Country Strategic Plan (2018-2025)

CSP Requirements (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)	Six-month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$)
9.02 b	4.3 b	676.7 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

Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from 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
- Social Protection/Safety Nets

Strategic Result 4: Food systems are sustainable

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 August is subject to change following validation.*

School Feeding

- WFP reached more than **600,000** schoolchildren across 1,700 primary schools and community-based education centres with either on-site snacks or take-home rations, such as vegetable oil. In Afghanistan, school feeding activities have demonstrated a positive impact on student attendance, participation, and learning.

Maternal and Child Benefit Programme

- Under the Maternal and Child Benefit Programme (MCBP), WFP provided health and nutrition awareness sessions as well as cash transfers to **16,000** pregnant women and women with children in Zaranj district. The programme aims to reach over **500,000** beneficiaries across seven districts when fully implemented, with the support of the World Bank.

Cash-Based Transfers

- WFP is expanding access to formal financial services through the opening of beneficiary-owned digital and traditional bank accounts for **1,800** households in Kabul, providing cash transfers complemented with training on how to maximize the use of the new financial services. This offers a potentially more dignified and discreet form of assistance – a positive element that has been highlighted particularly by women. WFP is further expanding traditional and digital banking services to **1,100** of WFP's Food-for-Training (FFT) beneficiaries in Mazar (with 84 percent women beneficiaries) and Herat (62 percent women beneficiaries).

Supply Chain and Logistics

- While the Torkham crossing point re-opened after the ceasefire, the highway on the Pakistan side of the border subsequently closed for all types of traffic due to ongoing demonstrations in Waziristan Province. WFP utilized the brief time window between the closures to move virtually all remaining stocks in the country. WFP monitors the situation and examines different scenarios including moving stocks through the Quetta-Spin Boldak crossing point, as needed.

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\$ 677 million** to sustain operations over the next six months.

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