



# WFP Afghanistan Country Brief September 2024

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



WFP's Samosa provide Afghan schoolchildren with a healthy balanced meal that they often lack at home. ©WFP/Rana Deraz

## Operational Context

Following peak hunger levels in 2021 and 2022 when massive food and nutrition assistance averted a catastrophe, 2024 has seen a reprieve from three consecutive years of drought. Nevertheless, more than a quarter of the Afghan population is still hungry, including 2.4 million people facing emergency levels of food insecurity. These figures 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: **44.5 million**

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

Income Level: **Low income**

Life Expectancy: **62.88 years**

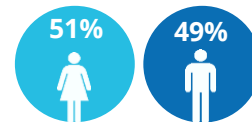
## In Numbers

**7,736 mt** food distributed

**US\$5.5 million** cash-based transfers made

**US\$ 646 million** six months (October 2024 - March 2025) net funding requirements

**3.2 million people assisted\***



## Situation Update

- Since the ratification of the Law on the Promotion of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice (PVPV) on 21 August, which imposes stringent restrictions on Afghan women and men, WFP has observed with concern an increasing level of scrutiny of the humanitarian activities of international and national non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Although WFP's operations have not yet been significantly affected, the agency continues to monitor the situation and is engaging proactively with the de facto authorities to ensure the safety and protection of its staff, cooperating partners (CPs), and beneficiaries.

## Operational Updates

- In September, WFP reached **3.2 million** people with emergency food and nutrition assistance and livelihoods support. Due to a global funding decline, WFP had to prioritize its assistance from May to September to the most vulnerable through a sub-district targeting approach, leaving 11 million vulnerable Afghans without support.
- **General food assistance:** WFP reached **1.3 million beneficiaries** with emergency food assistance, of which around **42 percent** received cash-based transfers and commodity vouchers. Food assistance allows households to meet their immediate food and nutrition needs, preventing families from resorting to harmful coping strategies. In areas where markets are functioning, WFP provides cash and voucher assistance, equipping communities with an informed choice for using their assistance.
- On 24 September, under its contingency response, WFP participated in a joint distribution to 273 households displaced by the clashes between Pakistan and Afghanistan border forces in Zazai Maidan district of Khost Province. Affected people received cash assistance, fortified biscuits and specialized nutritious food from WFP along with non-food items from other agencies.

**Contact info:** Janerose Alvers: [janerose.alvers@wfp.org](mailto:janerose.alvers@wfp.org)  
**Country Director:** Hsiao-Wei Lee: [hsiaowei.lee@wfp.org](mailto:hsiaowei.lee@wfp.org)  
Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/Afghanistan](http://www.wfp.org/countries/Afghanistan)

## Country Strategic Plan (2018-2025)

CSP Requirements	Allocated Contributions	Six-month Net Funding Requirements
<b>US\$ 9.03 b</b>	<b>US\$ 4.52 b</b>	<b>US\$ 646.49 m</b>

### 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
- Social protection/Safety nets

### 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 September is subject to change following validation.*

## Nutrition

- WFP reached **523,230** children aged 6-59 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 **241,530** children aged 6-59 months and PBW/G.

## School Feeding

- WFP reached over **894,000 schoolchildren** across 1,700 primary schools and community-based education centres in eight provinces with either on-site or take-home meals.

## Resilience and Food Systems

- Thanks to newly confirmed contributions, starting from October, WFP will be able to resume its food for assistance activities, paused since July 2024 due to funding constraints, in 50 villages to enhance the resilience of some 50,000 food-insecure people against climate shocks.
- In September, WFP in partnership with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) kicked off a joint pilot to provide vocational training (tailoring) and psychosocial support for 40 women in one of UNICEF's safe spaces for women and girls in Jalalabad. Protection messages are being developed while preparations are underway to replicate the pilot in Mazar Province.

## Maternal and Child Benefit Programme (MCBP)

- Under the World Bank-funded MCBP, WFP supported around 28,870 pregnant women and women with children in Warduj and Zaranj districts with health & nutrition awareness sessions and CBT transfers, benefitting around 144,000 people (including their household members) so far.

## Accountability to Affected Populations

- In September, WFP Afghanistan's Community Feedback Mechanism (CFM) registered **13,564 calls** so far, showing a downward trend compared to the previous months. Around one quarter of the callers were female. Most of the reported cases were requests for assistance and queries about WFP assistance. Almost all the cases were resolved on the spot while 1 percent was referred to the area offices for verification and response.

## Funding Outlook

- 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\$646 million** to sustain operations over the next six months.

## 2024 Donors

Australia, Canada, the European Union, Finland, France, Iceland, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America; and private donors.