

Crisis response revision of Afghanistan country strategic plan and corresponding budget increase

	Current	Change	Revised
Duration	1 July 2018– 31 December 2025	2-year extension	1 July 2018– 31 December 2027
Beneficiaries	29 915 706	8 545 854	38 461 560
Total cost (USD)	9 028 365 110	1 536 835 777	10 565 200 887

Rationale

1. This revision extends the Afghanistan country strategic plan (CSP) for two years through 2027, in order to maintain alignment with the revised United Nations Strategic Framework for Afghanistan (UNSFA) (2023–2027) and without introducing new CSP outcomes, while building on major shifts in WFP's role and operating environment since August 2021. A CSP evaluation (2022–2026) is planned to guide the CSP formulation, strategic priorities, and implementation modalities of the Afghanistan country office, post 2027.
2. WFP will provide vital seasonal support and scale up resilience and safety nets programming to ensure fragile food security gains can be protected and sustained, while introducing anticipatory action elements. Priority focus is areas in Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Phase 4 and those at greatest risk of further deterioration.
3. Despite modest gains, Afghanistan remains one of the world's worst humanitarian crises: over 17 million people are projected to be in IPC phase 3+ in 2025/2026.¹ The impact of recurring drought, the return of Afghans from Iran and Pakistan, and drastic reduction of humanitarian assistance further compound acute food insecurity in the country.
4. Malnutrition persists, with 3.5 million children and 1.1 million women requiring treatment, reflecting poor diets and limited income. Women and girls are particularly affected amidst ongoing breaches of their rights, as are returnees and the landless poor.
5. With declining funding and changing donor priorities, life-saving operations are at risk. In 2025, according to the humanitarian response plan for Afghanistan, humanitarian needs exceeded USD 2.4 billion, mostly for food and nutrition, yet only 13 percent was funded by the first quarter of 2025, triggering ration cuts and health facility closures.² Despite hotspot targeting and stricter criteria, operations remain below minimum thresholds, contributing to avoidable loss of life – especially among women and children, and households headed by women. Without additional support, WFP will need to further adapt modalities and downsize operations.
6. Where feasible, households are expected to move over time from short-term emergency assistance toward more predictable safety nets and, for those with some productive capacity, into livelihoods and resilience support, based on vulnerability analysis and community feedback.

¹ IPC Technical Working Group: Acute Food Insecurity analysis, November 2025 to March 2026 (projection), forthcoming 2025.

² United Nations Office for the coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 2025. *The Cost of Inaction: Afghanistan*.

Changes

Strategic orientation

7. This revision reflects a shift in scale and prioritization, not direction, driven by resource constraints. While maintaining a focus on seasonal assistance and famine prevention this revision introduces anticipatory action and expands preventive nutrition and economic support components with an increased focus on human capital development by advancing more integrated safety net, school feeding, and livelihoods programming.
8. Despite overall budget contraction, planned beneficiaries increase due to new anticipatory action, expanded stunting prevention and scaled-up livelihoods support under activities 1, 4 and 10.

Country strategic plan outcomes

9. Under activity 1, WFP will adopt seasonal general food assistance (GFA): scaling assistance during the winter lean season – when famine risk peaks – and focusing on famine prevention throughout the rest of the year by targeting only the most vulnerable populations in hunger hotspots.
10. Early warning and contingency response capacities will be complemented with anticipatory action to prevent the impact of weather-related shocks. Recovery efforts in affected areas aim to reduce reliance on recurring emergency assistance.
11. Should GFA need to scale down further, high-burden districts will be prioritized as part of interagency efforts to prevent acute malnutrition among children under 5 years and pregnant and breastfeeding women. In these high-burden districts, GFA will be delivered as part of an integrated, nutrition-sensitive assistance package and complemented by social and behaviour change communication, nutrition-sensitive livelihoods support and measures to strengthen local service delivery capacity. Implementation will be coordinated with United Nations partners, in line with the United Nations Strategic Framework for Afghanistan and Inter-Agency Standing Committee guidance on principled engagement with de facto authorities and does not imply political recognition.
12. Furthermore, WFP will contribute to the prevention and treatment of malnutrition by prioritising the early identification and treatment of moderate acute malnutrition through the Community-Based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) approach, in line with updated WHO guidelines and the UNICEF-WFP Global Action Plan on Child Wasting. In high-burden districts, WFP will support community-based screening and the provision of specialised nutritious foods, complemented where appropriate by cash-based transfers and cost-effective community delivery platforms. Pilot interventions will include the use of lipid-based nutrient supplements, both medium-quantity supplements and those for pregnant and breastfeeding women, implemented in coordination with UNICEF and MoPH to ensure complementarity with the treatment of severe acute malnutrition and continuity of care.
13. As part of activity 4, school-based safety nets will expand through home-grown school feeding, targeting 1.3 million children with meals from women-run community kitchens, subject to dedicated and cost-efficient multi-year resourcing. Stunting prevention for over 300,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women and children under 2 will use context-

appropriate modalities, including specialized nutritious foods, cash or food, alongside SBCC, based on evidence from Badakhshan³.

14. Under activities 2 and 10, WFP will support youth and women through skills training, cash transfers and vocational opportunities. Through the maternal and child benefit programme, 10,000 youth will benefit from an economic support component that layers on livelihoods support, skills training and financial literacy. Resilience programming will reach 690,000 people annually, with market-relevant training and food assistance for assets for disaster risk reduction. All livelihoods and vocational initiatives are designed and implemented based updated analysis, with specific measures to safeguard women's participation despite current restrictions. In line with the new localization policy, WFP will increase direct engagement and capacity strengthening of local non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations, supported by robust due diligence and risk-mitigation measures to uphold humanitarian principles.

Targeting, beneficiary analysis and transfer modalities

15. WFP will use a layered targeted approach across its programmes, guided by early warning systems and activity-specific eligibility criteria. Geographic prioritisation of hotspots areas is combined with need-based, demographic and community-level selection, in line with WFP Afghanistan's Targeting Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and Global Targeting Assurance Framework. Special attention is given to people-centred targeting to ensure that women, female-headed households, returnees, and other relevant groups are prioritised. Community engagement and validation mechanisms will be used to enhance transparency and local relevance.
16. Cash-based transfers are the preferred modality wherever markets are functioning, essential items are sufficiently available and affordable, and people, including women and persons with disabilities – can safely access and use cash. In-kind assistance will be used mainly in remote or highly vulnerable locations. Additionally, school feeding programmes will gradually transition to home-grown models, using locally sourced food and creating employment opportunities – particularly for women.
17. In a context of sustained resource constraints and persistently high vulnerability, the Country Office has adjusted its targeting approach to prioritise severity of needs while optimising coverage, through reduced transfer values and fewer distribution cycles.
18. Annual beneficiary figures reflect the seasonality of food insecurity, including winter response activities in the first and fourth quarters, complemented by seasonal hotspot-based assistance and contingency responses. The planned annual reach of 13.4 million people in 2026⁴ and 12.1 million in 2027 represents cumulative reach across the portfolio, against an IPC Phase 3+ projection of approximately 17.4 million people⁵.
19. In particular, regarding the GFA, the CO plans to adopt a hotspot-based approach, where communities will be targeted with three-months assistance on a rotational basis which will

³ In Badakhshan, the stunting prevention operational research (2021–2022) indicates that provision of specialized nutritious foods in combination with SBCC during the first 1,000 days of life was associated with improvements in several key outcomes, including reduction in stunting and underweight and improvements in infant and young child feeding practices.

⁴ Needs-based requirements for 2026 are estimated at USD 977 million, supported by an Implementation Plan of approximately USD 462 million, currently projected to be funded at around 50 percent, with implementation aligned to confirmed and realistically anticipated resources.

⁵ <https://www.ipcinfo.org/ipc-country-analysis/details-map/en/c/1159816/?iso3=AFG>
<https://www.ipcinfo.org/ipc-country-analysis/details-map/en/c/1159817/?iso3=AFG>



be extended as resources allow. Under this GFA modality, the CO plans to reach 9 million people in 2026 and 7.3 million people in 2027.

Partnerships

20. WFP Afghanistan will progressively increase the share of cooperating partners that are local NGOs, Women-Led Organizations (WLOs), and Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs). WFP is rationalizing its cooperating-partner portfolio in response to funding constraints to focus on partners with strong field presence and accountability systems.

Monitoring and evaluation

21. WFP will expand risk-based monitoring in 2026, prioritizing high-risk sites and using the centralized monitoring system for routine oversight. The centralized monitoring system will help the country office keeping track of real-time monitoring coverage and prioritize monitoring visits ensuring the country office will meet minimum monitoring requirements even with reduced resources. A CSP evaluation will assess overall performance. A decentralized evaluation will focus on the resilience and food systems project, while an ongoing impact evaluation will further inform future programming and modalities.

Accountability to affected people, protection risks, restrictions of gender and disabilities

22. WFP will support women's safe participation throughout activities and continue efforts to safely deploy women staff. WFP will strengthen protection and accountability by deepening various analyses, maintaining strong community feedback mechanisms and expanding the use of SugarCRM. In the context of WFP Afghanistan's operations, partnerships with civil society organizations, particularly organizations of persons with disabilities and women-led organizations, will be instrumental in strengthening referral mechanisms. These partnerships will help ensure that the unique protection needs of affected people, especially women, women-headed households and persons with disabilities, are identified and referred appropriately.

Risk management

23. WFP Afghanistan operates in a high-risk environment marked by political volatility, access constraints and fiduciary exposure. In line with WFP's Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) framework and Country Office integrated assurance plan, risks are recorded in a CO risk register and reviewed regularly through ERM and Oversight and Compliance Committee Processes. Strategic risks, including restrictions on women's participation are managed through conflict-sensitive analysis, principled access strategies, structured engagement with authorities via the UNCT and HCT, informed by early-warning and scenario analysis.
24. Operational risks include limited access for women to WFP assistance, restrictions on female staff, pipeline disruptions, substandard food quality, and sexual exploitation and abuse. Mitigation measures include regular context analyses, deployment of female staff, access monitoring, strengthened community feedback mechanisms, flexible logistics arrangements, and robust food safety protocols.
25. Fiduciary risks, including fraud, corruption and weak financial oversight, are addressed through structured cooperating partner management (micro-assessments, spot checks and performance reviews), segregation of duties, strengthened invoice controls and use of biometric verification and digital solutions in CBT operations. Implementation of the integrated assurance plan, together with internal and external audits, third-party



monitoring and regular risk-review meetings, help ensure mitigation measures are applied and adapted as the context evolves.

Supply chain

26. WFP will maintain an agile, cost-effective supply chain strategy that balances diversified sourcing and optimized routing, with the need to maximize beneficiary reach under severe resource constraints. Food will be transported via five main corridors: the two northern routes (Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan), two southern routes from/through Pakistan, and the newly operationalized eastern route from Mersin, and Türkiye going through Iran by rail to Rahsanak/Herat as an alternative. To support high-volume GFA during the winter, timely funding permitting, WFP aims to front-load more food inside Afghanistan and minimize stocks at the logistics hubs outside the country, pre-positioning in snow-affected districts and adjusting delivery schedules accordingly. This includes strengthening efforts to diversify suppliers and routes, including contingency routes, noting the significant delays posed by recent Pakistan-Afghanistan border closures.

27. Under the UN80 initiative, WFP will also strengthen supply chain and logistics collaboration amongst UN agencies to find opportunities for cost reduction, sharing of logistics facilities and assets, provision of logistics services, and joint procurement activities.

Beneficiary analysis

28. Table 1 reflects changes to planned beneficiary numbers (tier 1)⁶.

TABLE 1: DIRECT BENEFICIARIES BY COUNTRY STRATEGIC PLAN OUTCOME, ACTIVITY AND MODALITY

CSP outcome	Activity and modality	Period	Women (18+ years)	Men (18+ years)	Girls (0-17 years)	Boys (0-17 years)	Total
1	1 (in-kind)	Current	4 702 004	4 601 961	5 102 175	5 602 388	20 008 528
		Increase/ (decrease)	(31 241)	(30 577)	(33 900)	(37 224)	(132 942)
		Revised	4 670 763	4 571 385	5 068 274	5 565 164	19 875 586
	1 (cash-based transfers (CBTs))*	Current	1 632 663	1 597 926	1 771 614	1 945 302	6 947 505
		Increase/ (decrease)	174 490	170 777	189 339	207 901	742 507
		Revised	1 807 153	1 768 703	1 960 953	2 153 203	7 690 012
	9 (in-kind)	Current	2 842 087	-	3 225 634	3 357 293	9 425 014
		Increase/ (decrease)	2 146 336	-	1 707 998	1 777 712	5 632 046
		Revised	4 988 423	-	4 933 632	5 135 005	15 057 060
2	2 (in-kind)	Current	574 606	562 381	623 509	684 637	2 445 133
		Increase/ (decrease)	(85 468)	(83 650)	(92 742)	(101 834)	(363 694)

⁶ Figures reflect cumulative unique direct beneficiaries planned for the full CSP period (2018–2027). Given Afghanistan's protracted crisis and large-scale operations, these represent multi-year reach, not annual figures, and annual caseloads are expected to be lower than peak emergency years due to shorter assistance durations, seasonal targeting and ration reductions.

TABLE 1: DIRECT BENEFICIARIES BY COUNTRY STRATEGIC PLAN OUTCOME, ACTIVITY AND MODALITY

CSP outcome	Activity and modality	Period	Women (18+ years)	Men (18+ years)	Girls (0-17 years)	Boys (0-17 years)	Total
2 (CBTs)*		Revised	489 138	478 731	530 767	582 803	2 081 439
		Current	462 596	453 001	531 464	582 764	2 029 825
		Increase/ (decrease)	119 390	116 841	128 479	141 104	505 813
		Revised	581 986	569 842	659 943	723 868	2 535 639
3	4 (in-kind)	Current	517 281	-	2 035 452	1 434 164	3 986 897
		Increase/ (decrease)	27 030	-	1 015 012	490 684	1 532 725
		Revised	544 310	-	3 050 464	1 924 848	5 519 622
	4 (CBTs)*	Current	-	-	351 750	224 400	576 150
		Increase/ (decrease)	-	-	81 750	56 100	137 850
		Revised	-	-	433 500	280 500	714 000
	10 (in-kind)	Current	19 740	19 320	21 420	23 520	84 000
		Increase/ (decrease)	20 793	20 350	22 562	24 774	88 480
		Revised	40 533	39 670	43 982	48 294	172 480
	10 (CBTs)*	Current	627 388	614 040	680 783	747 527	2 669 738
		Increase/ (decrease)	1 111 879	1 088 222	1 206 507	1 324 791	4 731 398
		Revised	1 739 267	1 702 261	1 887 290	2 072 318	7 401 136

TABLE 1: DIRECT BENEFICIARIES BY COUNTRY STRATEGIC PLAN OUTCOME, ACTIVITY AND MODALITY

CSP outcome	Activity and modality	Period	Women (18+ years)	Men (18+ years)	Girls (0-17 years)	Boys (0-17 years)	Total	
4	5 (capacity strengthening)	Current	9 640	38 560	-	-	48 200	
		Increase/ (decrease)	(4 820)	(19 280)	-	-	(24 100)	
		Revised	4 820	19 280	-	-	24 100	
Total (without overlap)		Current	7 164 703	7 012 261	7 491 353	8 247 389	29 915 706	
		Increase/ (decrease)	1 873 764	1 833 898	2 316 345	2 521 848	8 545 854	
		Revised	9 038 467	8 846 159	9 807 698	10 769 237	38 461 560	

* CBTs include commodity vouchers.

Transfers

TABLE 2: FOOD RATION (g/person/day) AND CASH-BASED TRANSFER VALUES (USD/person/day) BY COUNTRY STRATEGIC PLAN OUTCOME AND ACTIVITY*

	CSP outcome 1												CSP outcome 2			
	Activity 1								Activity 9			Activity 2				
Sub-activity	General food assistance: displaced populations		General food assistance: crisis safety net				General food assistance: contingency response	Anticipatory action		Blanket supplementary feeding programme	Targeted supplementary feeding programme	Food assistance for assets	Vocational skills training			
Beneficiary type	Natural disasters, internally displaced persons, returnees	Refugees	IPC phase 4 (75% ration)		IPC phase 3 (50% ration)		Households		Anticipatory action (CBTs)		Children age 6-59 months	Pregnant and breastfeeding women	Children age 6-59 months	Pregnant and breastfeeding women	Households	Households
Modality	Food	CBTs**	Food	Food	CBTs**	Food	CBTs**	Food	CBTs**	Food	Food	Food	Food	Food	CBTs**	
Cereals	476.2		238.1	357.1		238.1		476.2						476.2		
Pulses	59.5		29.8	44.6		29.8		59.5						59.5		
Oil	44.9		22.5	33.7		22.5		44.9						44.9		
Salt	4.8		2.4	3.6		2.4		4.8						4.8		
High-energy biscuits	5							5								
Ready-to-use supplementary food												100				
Wheat soy flour																
Super Cereal											150		250			
Lipid-based nutrient supplements- pregnant and breastfeeding women													75			
Lipid-based nutrient supplements – medium quantity										50						
Total	590.4		292.7	439.1		292.7		590.4			50	150	100	325	585.4	

TABLE 2: FOOD RATION (g/person/day) AND CASH-BASED TRANSFER VALUES (USD/person/day) BY COUNTRY STRATEGIC PLAN OUTCOME AND ACTIVITY*

	CSP outcome 1															CSP outcome 2	
	Activity 1								Activity 9				Activity 2				
Sub-activity	General food assistance: displaced populations		General food assistance: crisis safety net				General food assistance: contingency response	Anticipatory action		Blanket supplementary feeding programme		Targeted supplementary feeding programme		Food assistance for assets	Vocational skills training		
Beneficiary type	Natural disasters, internally displaced persons, returnees	Refugees	IPC phase 4 (75% ration)	IPC phase 3 (50% ration)		Households		Anticipatory action (CBTs)		Children age 6-59 months	Pregnant and breastfeeding women	Children age 6-59 months	Pregnant and breastfeeding women	Households		Households	
Modality	Food	CBTs**	Food	Food	CBTs**	Food	CBTs**	Food	CBTs**	Food	CBT	Food	Food	Food	Food	Food	CBTs**
Total kcal/day	2340		1163	1745		1163		1745				281	572	535	953	2317	
% kcal from protein	11		11	11		11		11				8.6	17.2	10.5	17.2	11	
Cash-based transfers (USD/person/day)		0.4			0.4		0.2		0.4		0.6					0.4	0.4
Number of feeding days/year	60	60	240	240	240	180	180	120	120	30	30	180	180	90	150	180	180

Note: Table 2 in this budget revision reflects rations planned for the period 2023–2025 only, while table 2 in previous budget revisions reflected rations planned for the period year 2018–2023.

* WFP retains the flexibility to provide either food or CBTs, including commodity vouchers, given the economic and supply chain volatility in Afghanistan.

** CBTs include commodity vouchers.

TABLE 2: FOOD RATIONS (*g/person/day*) AND CASH-BASED TRANSFER VALUES (*USD/person/day*) BY CSP OUTCOME AND ACTIVITY

	CSP outcome 3										Activity 10	
	Activity 4											
Sub-activity	School snack: primary school boys and girls grades 1–6	Take-home ration: primary school girls grades 4–6	Cash-based incentive for secondary school girls grades 7–12	Bread+	Samosa	Hot meal	Stunting prevention		Nutrition safety net			
Beneficiary type	Schoolchildren	Schoolchildren	Girls	Schoolchildren	Schoolchildren	Schoolchildren	Children age 6–59 months	Pregnant and breastfeeding women	Children age 6–24 months	Pregnant and breastfeeding women	Households	
Modality	Food	Food	CBTs*	CBTs*	CBTs*	CBTs*	Food	Food	CBTs*	CBTs*	Food	CBTs*
Cereals											119.05	
Pulses											14.9	
Oil		157.3									10.8	
Salt											1.2	
High-energy biscuits	100											
Ready-to-use supplementary food												
Wheat-soy flour												
Super Cereal								150				
Lipid-based nutrient supplements – medium quantity							50					
Total	100	157.3					50	150			146	
Total kcal/day	450	1344					281	572			1163	
% kcal from protein	11	0					8.6	17.2			11	
CBTs (<i>USD/person/day</i>)			0.5	0.2	0.2	0.3			0.10	0.10		0.10
Number of feeding days/year	198	270	270	198	270	270	360	360	360	360	360	360

* CBTs include commodity vouchers.



TABLE 3: TOTAL FOOD/CASH-BASED TRANSFER REQUIREMENTS AND VALUE

	Current budget		Increase/decrease		Revised budget	
	Total (mt)	Total (USD)	Total (mt)	Total (USD)	Total (mt)	Total (USD)
Cereals	4 253 276	2 122 853 703	258 524	116 335 980	4 511 801	2 239 189 683
Pulses	546 578	339 050 485	32 316	16 157 779	578 893	355 208 264
Oil and fats	461 208	675 694 908	28 004	42 005 484	489 212	717 700 392
Mixed and blended foods	604 323	890 061 049	143 017	341 618 796	747 340	1 231 679 845
Other	45 978	8 678 291	2 585	1 420 043	48 563	10 098 335
Total (food)	5 911 364	4 036 338 436	464 445	517 538 082	6 375 809	4 553 876 518
Cash-based transfers		1 751 690 905		414 879 126		2 166 570 031
Total (food and cash-based transfer value)	5 911 364	5 788 029 340	464 445	932 417 209	6 375 809	6 720 446 549

Cost breakdown

29. The revised budget reflects shifts in scale and delivery, with food transfers, CBTs and implementation costs driving most expenses – particularly under activities 1, 2 and 10. Tables 4 and 5 detail the USD 1.537 billion revision, comprising a USD 382 million reduction in 2025 and new requirements of USD 979 million and USD 941 million for 2026 and 2027 respectively. Cash-based transfers account for approximately 44 percent of the transfer value introduced by this revision and around 32 percent of the total revised CSP budget, as shown in Table 3.

TABLE 4: COST BREAKDOWN OF THE REVISION ONLY (USD)

	WFP strategic outcome 1	WFP strategic outcome 2	WFP strategic outcome 3	WFP strategic outcome 4	WFP strategic outcome 5	WFP strategic outcome 6	Total
	CSP outcome 1	CSP outcome 2	CSP outcome 3	CSP outcome 4	CSP outcome 5	CSP outcome 6	
Focus area	Crisis response	Resilience building	Resilience building	Resilience building	Resilience building	Crisis response	
Transfers	927 276 767	133 379 634	175 710 058	(1 290 000)	100 000	43 376 442	1 278 552 901
Implementation	66 219 747	9 481 446	14 161 172	70 797	2 000	1 210 580	91 145 742
Direct support costs							74 611 094
Subtotal							1 444 309 736
Indirect support costs (6.5 percent)							92 526 041
Total							1 536 835 777

TABLE 5: OVERALL COUNTRY STRATEGIC PLAN COST BREAKDOWN, AFTER REVISION (USD)

	WFP strategic outcome 1	WFP strategic outcome 2	WFP strategic outcome 3	WFP strategic outcome 4	WFP strategic outcome 5	WFP strategic outcome 6	Total
	CSP outcome 1	CSP outcome 2	CSP outcome 3	CSP outcome 4	CSP outcome 5	CSP outcome 6	
Focus area	Crisis response	Resilience building	Resilience building	Resilience building	Resilience building	Crisis response	
Transfers	7 110 801 461	665 227 387	883 528 898	49 203 799	4 696 435	380 711 081	9 094 169 060
Implementation	323 849 267	47 295 597	59 999 266	9 398 434	1 331 015	16 470 022	458 343 602
Direct support costs	274 140 820	33 174 607	44 476 952	3 523 042	437 689	16 883 584	372 636 695
Subtotal	7 708 791 548	745 697 592	988 005 116	62 125 275	6 465 139	414 064 687	9 925 149 357
Indirect support costs (6.5 percent)	501 071 451	48 470 343	64 220 333	4 038 143	420 234	21 831 027	640 051 531
Total	8 209 862 999	794 167 935	1 052 225 448	66 163 418	6 885 374	435 895 714	10 565 200 887