



WFP AFGHANISTAN



COUNTRY BRIEF
MARCH 2026

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The closure of Afghanistan–Pakistan border since 12 October and ongoing conflict in Iran further restricting access and disrupting WFP is life-saving food supplies.
- Cross-border violence and air and ground strikes have affected 52 districts across 11 provinces as of 5 March, resulting in an estimated 20,000 displaced families.

IN NUMBERS



2.3 million people assisted in February 2026



51%
Male



49%
Female



24,500 mt food distributed



USD 9.8M cash transferred

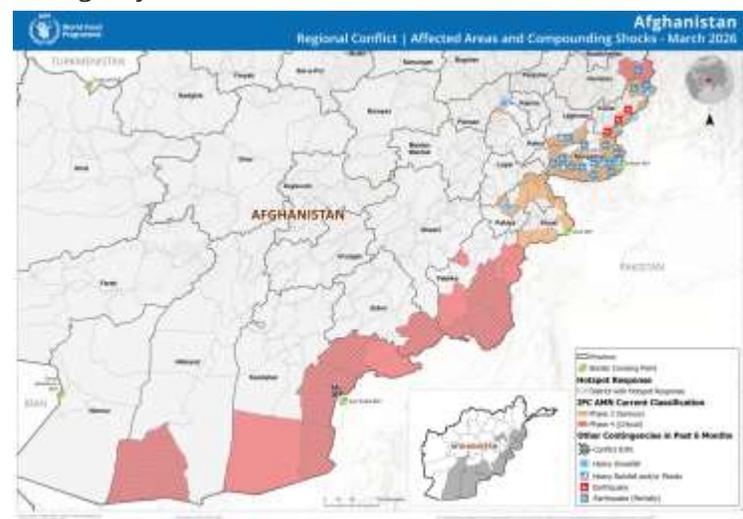


USD 313M (Mar – Aug 2026) net funding requirements

Photo Caption & Credit: General Food Assistance in Parwan. Photo credit Danijela Milic

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Cross-border violence and air and ground strikes have affected 52 districts across 11 provinces as of 5 March, resulting in an estimated 20,000 displaced families. This escalation, since 26 February, has significantly compounded existing vulnerabilities, as many of the affected districts were already facing severe food insecurity. More than half of these districts are classified at Emergency (IPC Phase 4) levels of hunger, while five of the affected provinces are experiencing Critical (IPC Acute Malnutrition Phase 4) levels of malnutrition. As a result, affected populations are in urgent need of emergency food and nutrition assistance.



Map illustrating multiple shocks affecting communities.

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The returnee responses in Torkham and Bahramcha remain suspended while the operation has resumed in Spin Boldak. Situation is being exacerbated with an expected increase in returnees from Iran. Current estimates anticipate around 800,000 Afghan returnees (based on UNHCR figures).

Inter-agency teams mobilized by OCHA have been deployed to begin Internally Displaced Person's (IDPs) data collection.

The Extended Earthquake (EQ) response has resumed in all affected districts. Hotspot distributions—initially suspended due to insecurity in 23 districts, affecting 160,000 people—have resumed. However, distributions in three districts of Paktya remain suspended, leaving 26,000 people affected.

The Maternal and Child Benefit Programme (MCBP) and MCBP Livelihoods activities have resumed in all affected districts except Kamdesh (Nuristan). MCBP EQ activities have resumed except in Khas Kunar.

School Feeding activities are disrupted in one district of Nangarhar.

Under Nutrition, several disruptions continue due to insecurity:

- In Kunar, three Health Facilities are closed.
- The mobile health and nutrition team from Khas Kunar camp has been relocated to Chapa Dara.
- In Nangarhar, the Omari Camp health sub-center has been evacuated, and one Health Post has closed in Sada Village.
- Several health centers in Paktya and Paktika have been relocated.

Resilience and Food Systems (RFS) activities have resumed in three of the affected districts but are now suspended in five districts across Khost, Paktika, Paktya, and Nuristan.

OPERATIONAL UPDATES

General Food Assistance

In February, WFP assisted 2.3 million people through its General Food Assistance programme, delivering 24,000 mt of food and USD 6.1 million in cash assistance.

[WFP Afghanistan Country Brief](#)

Reporting Period: February-March 2026

As of January 2026, WFP assisted 65,000 returnees from Iran and Pakistan with 58 mt of food—including fortified biscuits and other nutritious commodities—and provided USD 810,000 in cash-based support.

Nutrition

The Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programme (TSFP) treated malnutrition by providing nearly 220 mt of Specialized Nutritious Food (SNF) to nearly 82,000 acutely malnourished children aged 6-59 months and pregnant and breastfeeding women.

Through the Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme (BSFP), more than 250 mt of SNF were provided to prevent acute malnutrition, reaching nearly 11 children aged 6-59 months and pregnant and breastfeeding women.

For stunting prevention, WFP provided more than 30 MT of SNF to nearly 14,600 children aged 6-23 months and pregnant and breastfeeding women.

School-Feeding

In February, WFP provided targeted food, including Bread+, samosas and fortified biscuits, to nearly 68,000 primary school children in Nangarhar, Jawzjan and Farah provinces.

Maternal and Child Benefit Programme

Through the World Bank-funded maternal and child benefit programme, approximately 25,200 pregnant women and mothers of children under the age of 5 years received social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) on nutrition, health, and immunization and USD 1.7 million in cash assistance.

Resilience and Livelihood Support

In February, WFP's livelihoods initiatives continued to create jobs and support resilience-building across Afghanistan, reaching more than 37,600 people and distributing more than USD 348,000 in cash transfers.

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Supply Chain and Logistics

As part of its cost-efficiency measures, WFP continued importing wheat grain from the region for local milling instead of higher priced local procurement of wheat flour. At the end of February, over 4,000 mt of wheat flour has been milled locally in support of the winter lean season response.

With the Afghanistan–Pakistan border closed since 12 October and ongoing conflict in Iran further restricting access, WFP is facing disruptions to life-saving food and nutrition supplies critical for emergency response.

To sustain delivery of assistance, WFP is working to activate the Lapis Lazuli Corridor, connecting Turkey, Georgia, Azerbaijan, the Caspian Sea and Turkmenistan, onward to Afghanistan. This corridor provides a critical alternative for moving life-saving food assistance into the country.

Ongoing disruptions are affecting essential nutrition commodities and vegetable oil critical to WFP's emergency operations, with rerouted supplies expected to extend lead times and add significant costs.

UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

UNHAS operated a total of 166 flights to 15 destinations and facilitated the movement of nearly 1,000 passengers from 43 organizations, including the UN agencies, Non-Government Organization, diplomatic missions and donors.

WFP Afghanistan in the news and Social Media

WFP shared urgent messaging on Afghanistan's deepening hunger crisis, as recent conflict along the Pakistan border continues to limit access to health services. The update featured key points from WFP Country Director John Aylieff's remarks at the UN Geneva briefing held on 3 March, where he underscored the rising humanitarian needs across the country.

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Watch WFP Country Director briefing video [here](#)

WFP Regional Director for Asia and Pacific, in the video below explains how WFP's resilience work is creating lasting change across Afghanistan.



Watch the video [here](#)

FUNDING OVERVIEW

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2027)



USD313.2 M

Six-months net funding requirement
(MAR 2026 – AUG 2026)

14%
resourced

Donors:

Germany, Japan, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

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