



# AFGHANISTAN



COUNTRY BRIEF  
MAY 2026

## IN NUMBERS



**2.9 million** people assisted in April 2026



**51%**  
Male



**49%**  
Female



**7,600 mt** food distributed



**USD 11.2 M** cash transferred



**USD 359 M** (May – Oct 2026) net funding requirements

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Compounding shocks are intensifying pressure nationwide. Flash floods across multiple provinces and rising levels of cross-border returns are overwhelming already overstretched services, while WFP continues to support affected communities with life-saving food and nutrition assistance.
- WFP operations continue under critical constraints. Funding shortfalls and pipeline breaks are forcing severe prioritization, notably in nutrition programmes. WFP will be unable to sustain returnee assistance at five border points beyond May, while famine-prevention and winter prepositioning for up to 1.5 million people are at high risk.

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

Rapid assessments continue after recent flash floods across Afghanistan in Logar, Nangarhar, Laghman, Jawzjan, Samangan, Balkh, Takhar, Baghlan, Hirat, Badghis, Helmand, and Kandahar provinces. Where assessments are complete, WFP provides fortified biscuits and two months of food assistance through in-kind support or cash transfers. So far, over 7,400 affected families have been approved for assistance, with distributions ongoing.

Overall, more than half a million returnees arrived during the first four months of the year. Returnee movements increased sharply in April compared to March, indicating a significant escalation in cross-border returns. In April, WFP assisted 6,970 returnee families from Pakistan and Iran.

Funding gaps, compounded by rising costs and operational constraints, are significantly reducing WFP's reach across programmes. From early June 2026, WFP will be unable to sustain returnee assistance at five key border points, leaving newly arriving families without immediate food assistance. Planned famine prevention activities in high-risk hotspot areas between July and November 2026 will not proceed, affecting approximately 1.5 million people. In addition, without additional resources, WFP will be unable to fully preposition assistance ahead of winter, placing planned assistance for millions of people between November 2026 and January 2027 at serious risk.

## OPERATIONAL UPDATES

### General Food Assistance

In April, WFP assisted 2.1 million people through its General Food Assistance programme, delivering 6,900 mt of food and USD 8.5 million in cash assistance.

Since the conflict with Pakistan began on 26 February, with 72 districts across 12 provinces affected, WFP has distributed fortified biscuits to over 10,000 households across five provinces. The first round of cash distributions has been completed for over 7,000 households, while the first round of in-kind distributions has been completed for over 2,400 households. Assessments continued in some locations, where ground and air strikes between Afghanistan and Pakistan persist.

### Nutrition

Through the Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programme (TSFP), WFP provided approximately 650 mt of Specialized Nutritious Food (SNF) to nearly 128,000 acutely malnourished children aged 6-59 months and pregnant and breastfeeding women.

For stunting prevention, WFP provided 20 mt of SNF to nearly 13,000 children aged 6-23 months and pregnant and breastfeeding women.

WFP Afghanistan has a full pipeline break for nutrition commodities, which will last through end June. Conflict in Iran has caused the suspension of the Dubai-Iran pipeline, placing greater strain on the operations's nutrition support programmes. This is compounded by persistent challenges linked to the border closures between Afghanistan and Pakistan, as well as funding constraints.

Even if supply chain disruptions are resolved, funding shortages mean that WFP's nutrition services can reach only one in four acutely malnourished children and one in three pregnant or breastfeeding women—leaving millions at heightened risk of deterioration, illness, and death.

### School-Based Assistance

In April, WFP provided targeted food assistance, including Bread+ and fortified biscuits, to more than 440,000 primary school children in Nangarhar and Farah provinces.

### Maternal and Child Benefit Programme

Through the World Bank-funded maternal and child benefit programme, approximately 22,400 pregnant women and mothers of children under the age of 5 years received social and behavior change communication (SBCC) on nutrition, health, and immunization, complemented by USD 1.5 million in cash assistance.

### Resilience and Livelihood Support

In April, WFP's livelihoods initiatives continued to create jobs and support resilience-building across Afghanistan, reaching more than 1,900 people and distributing more than USD 33,000 in cash transfers.

### Supply Chain and Logistics

The closure of the Afghanistan–Pakistan border since 12 October 2025 has halted the delivery of over 8,800 mt of nutritious food, comprising Specialized Nutritious Food (SNF), biscuits, and vegetable oil.

As the Dubai-Iran supply route, previously used as next-best alternative, is also disrupted due to the regional conflict in the Middle East, WFP Afghanistan has had to activate new alternative supply corridors, using both the Türkiye-Iran rail corridor and the Lapis Lazuli Corridor transiting via Türkiye, Georgia, Azerbaijan, the Caspian Sea and Turkmenistan to deliver food commodities sourced from Europe, Asia, and Türkiye. The first 700 mt of biscuits and vegetable oil are currently in transit via the Lapis Lazuli route and are expected to arrive in-country at the end of May. A further 6,000 mt of SNF sourced from Europe is planned to be delivered during the coming two months through the northern and western corridors. These alternative supply routes have resulted in transport costs tripling due to longer distances and additional transshipment points.

### UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

UNHAS operated a total of 183 flights to 13 destinations and facilitated the movement of approximately 1,220 passengers from 44 organizations, including UN agencies and non-governmental organizations.

## WFP Afghanistan in the Media

### The Guardian: Calls for humanitarian corridor through strait of Hormuz as Iran war hits vital aid

In the Guardian, WFP warned that the closure of the Strait of Hormuz is severely disrupting humanitarian access to Afghanistan. WFP Afghanistan Country Director John Aylieff highlighted that fortified biscuits must now be rerouted by road through seven countries from Dubai, causing delays and directly affecting vulnerable Afghan children.

Read the full article [here](#)

### Humanitarian assistance to conflict-affected communities in Nuristan Province



In April, WFP, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) coordinated a multi-day operation to deliver urgently needed assistance to communities in previously inaccessible areas of eastern Nuristan Province, where ongoing armed conflict has left thousands without access to basic needs and essential services for a period of over six weeks.

Read the [full article](#) and [operational update](#)

### Donor Spotlight – Social Media

- With the [support of the United Kingdom](#), WFP is supporting mothers and children by tackling the growing silent emergency: rising hunger and malnutrition.
- WFP has received the first delivery of 420 metric tons of [fortified wheat flour from Russia](#), which will help provide lifesaving nourishment to the most vulnerable food-insecure Afghan families.
- [Backed by the European Union](#), WFP Afghanistan is supporting families, including returnees, in their time of greatest need.

## FUNDING OVERVIEW

### Country Strategic Plan (2018-2027)

**USD 359 M**



Six-months net funding requirement  
(May 2026 – October 2026)

**5%**

resourced

### Donors

European Union, Germany, Japan, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, United Kingdom.

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