



WFP Afghanistan Country Brief

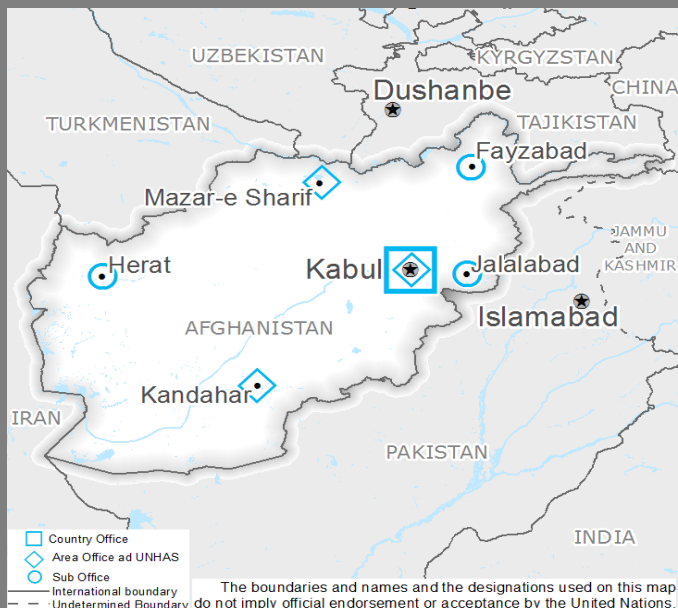
April 2018

Operational Context

Strategically situated between Central and South Asia, with a committed Government, rich natural resources, and a young and diverse population, Afghanistan has the potential to make significant progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. However, a complex and protracted conflict combined with other challenges including climate change and natural disasters, demographic shifts, limited job opportunities, pervasive gender inequalities, food insecurity and transparency concerns, has dramatically constrained the country's wider development efforts.

The level of food insecurity has increased significantly in recent years to 44.6 percent of the population, or 13.2 million people.

WFP has been present in Afghanistan since 1963.



Population: **30 million**

2016 Human Development Index:
169 out of 188

Income Level: **Low income**

Chronic malnutrition: **41% of children between 6-59 months**

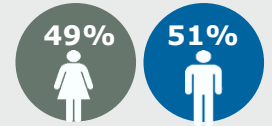
In Numbers

83,345 people have been displaced by conflict since 1 January 2018

9,000mt of food assistance and **US\$ 250,000** cash based transfers distributed

US\$60.9 m approximate six months net funding requirements (May-Oct 2018)

1.2 million people assisted in April 2018



Operational Updates

- **The ongoing drought** has damaged crops and limited access to fodder and grazing, forcing pastoralists in affected regions to sell their animals before they grow thin and die for lack of food.
- WFP Afghanistan vulnerability analysis and mapping unit (VAM) recorded a 3.6 percent **deterioration in the terms of trade of livestock** (adult female sheep) when compared to wheat in urban areas across the country from March to April. This is higher in Faizabad (10.4 percent) and Mazar (8.8 percent) in the northeast and north of the country. Reports from Helmand also show a 40 percent decrease in the price of newborn sheep.
- This trend is of particular concern as pastoralists will have fewer assets to avert the impact of the drought when it is at its most severe following the harvest season in August and September 2018.
- WFP has already assisted 460 families who have been displaced by drought to Herat in eastern Afghanistan and will assist a further 2,200 predominantly pastoralist families in Herat in the coming weeks.
- Meanwhile, WFP has made contingency plans (currently unfunded) to meet the food and nutrition needs of 1.4 million drought-affected people as part of the wider plan coordinated by UN OCHA and the humanitarian clusters.
- WFP is also exploring collaboration with the Government's Strategic Grain Reserve and the National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) to respond to targeted communities.
- **WFP has dispatched 225 mt of food to assist 1,250 vulnerable people in Warduj District** of the northeastern province of Badakhshan. This is a significant improvement in access as the district has been out of reach since September 2016 and follows intense negotiations with the provincial and district authorities.
- **The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service** (UNHAS) transported 2,038 aid workers and 6.4mt of light cargo. In Afghanistan, 160 organizations rely on UNHAS to reach populations in need.

Main Photo

Credit: WFP & Rupani Foundation/Inayat Ali
Caption: Workers supported by WFP build an irrigation canal in Ishkashim District

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	Total Requirements (in USD)	Confirmed Contributions (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
Assistance to Address Food Insecurity and Undernutrition			
PRRO 200447 (Jan 2014 - Jun 2018)	763.7 m	445.9 m (58%)	11.9 m*
Provision of Humanitarian Air Services in Afghanistan			
SO 200870 (Jan 2016 - Jun 2018)	41.3 m	35.6 m (86%)	0.9 m‡
Capacity Development in Support of the Strategic Grain Reserve			
SO 200635 (Sept 2014 - Jun 2018)	14.1 m	1.6 m (11%)	0 m†

* Includes the duration of these projects (April 2018 - June 2018) only, note that these projects will finish in June 2018 and transfer to the County Strategic Plan (CSP).
† Activities under this project are on hold and will resume in June 2018 under the CSP
‡ Includes shortfalls until October 2018 under both SO 200870 and the CSP.



Challenges

Access

- Access challenges persist in the southern, northern, eastern and western regions due to insecurity on main supply routes and ongoing military operations.
- On 24 April 16 mt of WFP food was diverted by anti-government elements in Duab District in the western province of Nuristan. WFP's area office in Jalalabad is leading negotiations through 30 community elders to secure the release of the food, which remains intact and is expected to be recovered.

Insecurity

- The declaration in April of Taliban spring offensive will lead to an intensification of conflict and resulting displacement. WFP stands ready to assist those in need.
- April saw the initiation of voter registration for upcoming elections. Registration centres have recently been particularly targeted for attack by anti-government elements.
- Cross-border shelling from Pakistan continued in the western province of Kunar in April, killing and injuring a number of civilians. WFP has assisted 167 vulnerable families that have been displaced so far.
- Mobile Network coverage is limited by AGEs in Helmand and Uruzgan districts 24/7 for the past weeks. Lashkergah and Tarinkot cities have only limited hours during the day; this has affected communication seriously and may impact WFP operations if it continues.

Resources

- WFP urgently needs US\$84 million to provide assistance to the 1.4 million people targeted under the drought response in the second half of 2018.

- The upcoming **country strategic plan remains significantly underfunded**. Between July and October, the country office needs US\$48.1 million to continue its emergency response, food for assets and nutrition activities.

Humanitarian interventions as opportunities for peace and development.

While WFP supports people in need of life-saving assistance with humanitarian aid, it also tries, wherever it can, to do so in a way that creates economic benefits and builds their resilience. **Overall, these initiatives contribute to stability and peace.**

For example, WFP sources all of the wheat flour for its humanitarian work from local millers who must purchase **40 percent of this wheat from Afghan farmers**. WFP then supports the millers to fortify the wheat flour and transports it to the distribution sites using Afghan transport companies. This way, farmers and businesses benefit from multiplier effects throughout the value chain.

WFP also targets internally displaced people in urban centres, many of whom have previously received life-saving assistance, with vocational skills training to improve their livelihoods so that **they do not need to rely on humanitarian aid in the future.**

In both cases, WFP's work will help strengthen livelihoods and stabilise the economy, providing people with greater hope for the future, reducing incentives to join armed groups and thereby **contributing to a reinforcing cycle that promotes peace.**

Donors

WFP Afghanistan's top five donors are the U.S.A., the Republic of Korea, Japan, Australia and Canada.