



In Numbers

15.7 million people moderately (12 million) and severely (3.7 million) food insecure in rural Afghanistan
 (WFP analysis of EFSA results, 2018)

2.5 million drought-affected people targeted by WFP for food assistance
 (WFP analysis of EFSA results, 2018)

255,000 people displaced by conflict
 (OCHA 14 October)

Highlights

- **WFP has started its full-scale drought response.** Beneficiary registration and verification is a priority and is ongoing across the 20 drought-affected provinces.
- **Some distributions have started** in Badghis, Balkh, Samangan and Sar-e-Pul provinces; 133,000 people have already received assistance in this phase.
- **WFP assisted 14,300 conflict IDPs** across the country since 1 October.

Situation Update

Drought: Afghanistan is currently facing a severe drought in 20 of its 34 provinces. Preliminary results of the recent Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) suggest that 2.5 million people need urgent food assistance.

Displacement: Conflict has displaced 255,000 people in 2018. Drought has also caused displacement, especially in Herat, Baghis and Kandahar Provinces.

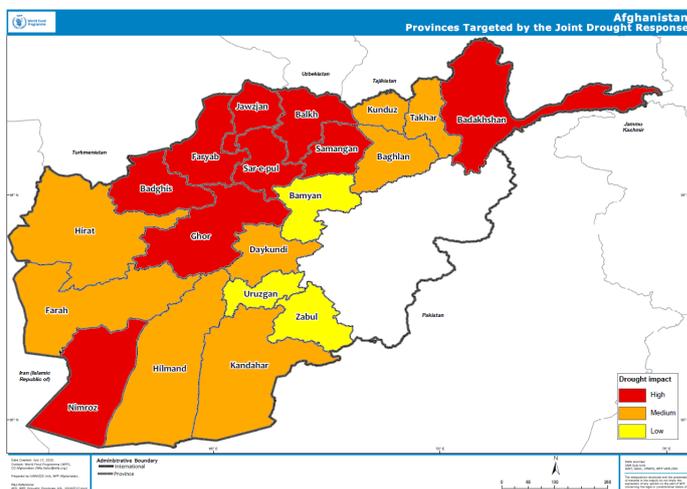
Climatic conditions for the 2018/19 cultivation: FEWSNET reports that *El Niño* weather conditions will lead to an increased likelihood of average to above-average precipitation during the 2018/19 wet season. However, there remains a large spread of possible precipitation outcomes for the season.

WFP's Response to the Drought

- **WFP started its full-scale drought response.** WFP Afghanistan's overall response to the drought has three stages. The early response was completed in June and reached 463,000 people across 14 provinces. The enhanced response completed in September and reached 525,000 people across the five worst-hit provinces. The full-scale response began in late September.
- **The full-scale response aims to reach 2.5 million drought-affected people with packages of assistance tailored to their levels of need.** The most affected 600,000 people will receive a 9-month package of support between October 2018 and June 2019. A second group of 800,000 people will receive a 6-month package, while a third group will be given a 3-month package. WFP aims to reach the full 2.5 million people by January 2019.

Other Emergency Needs

- Aside from the needs in drought-affected areas, WFP continues to monitor and respond to **other needs** arising among internally displaced people (IDPs), malnourished women and children, people affected by natural disasters, returnees and the seasonally food insecure.
- **Drought-affected IDPs** remain a serious concern. While the caseload in Qala-e-Naw is decreasing as a result of distributions in areas of origin, WFP continues to assist over 11,000 drought-affected IDPs in Herat.
- **Conflict-affected IDPs** are WFP's most persistent caseload and WFP constantly assesses their needs across the country. Between 1 and 15 October, WFP assessed 54,670 IDPs, verified 17,500 IDPs and assisted 2,040 households with emergency food or cash assistance (equivalent to 14,300 individuals).



Photo, top left: WFP's partners registers families who have been displaced by the drought to Herat city into SCOPE. SCOPE is WFP's beneficiary registration and management system. Credit: WFP/Afghanistan Herat Area Office
Map: Map of drought affected provinces based on May 2018 estimations.

Key challenges:

- **Localised access challenges** including some related to the parliamentary elections have delayed or prevented WFP distributions in certain areas including in Kunduz province and parts of the southern region. However, overall WFP's access remains strong, with only 14 districts fully inaccessible to WFP assistance.
- **Anti-government elements (AGE)** have abducted staff from WFP partners on two occasions since 1 October. Seven staff were abducted in Sar-e-Pul Province on 3 October and a further two staff were abducted in Pasaband District of Ghor Province on 8 October. Following interventions by WFP, its partners and community elders, all staff were subsequently released. Negotiations continue to obtain written guarantees from AGEs before distributions can resume.
- **Parts of Ghor remain inaccessible.** Disputes between provincial and local AGE commanders have prevented WFP from using the main supply route to Ghor Province from Herat. WFP's Herat access team is working with transporters to identify alternate routes.
- **AGEs have confiscated SCOPE equipment**, which includes fingerprint scanners and laptops, in Ghor Province. This equipment continues to attract some suspicion and WFP is careful to explain its purpose—beneficiary registration and transfer management—to avoid further difficulties.
- WFP expects **snow and inclement weather** to block supply routes in some regions and is prepositioning food to strategic locations to distribute in the winter.
- **Long lead times** on certain commodities, especially fortified vegetable oil and specialised nutritious foods, mean WFP must purchase up to three months before they are required. Timely donor funding is therefore essential to avoid pipeline breaks.



Photo: WFP country director gives food to a man who was displaced by conflict from Faryab province in Mazar-e-Sharif city. Credit: WFP/Afghanistan Mazar area office.

mVAM

- Prices have remained stable over the last three months in the nine provinces worse affected by drought. According to WFP's mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping unit, which published a follow-up assessment of market prices in the nine most drought-affected provinces by conducting 250 key-informant interviews over mobile phones. [Read the full report.](#)

Cash-based transfers

- The Government of Afghanistan's generous and timely contribution of 60,000mt of wheat to WFP for the drought enabled WFP to quickly scale up its response; however it also meant much of WFP's assistance was in-kind. Since WFP has increased its targeting to 2.5 million people, it is now seeking additional resources to provide cash assistance where appropriate.
- Providing assistance in cash will significantly reduce lead times and empower beneficiaries to exercise choice over their use of resources.

SCOPE

- Despite challenges, WFP is using SCOPE, its cloud-based beneficiary registration and management system, to effectively track assistance and prevent duplications by verifying beneficiaries with fingerprints.

Supply Chain

- The Government has contributed wheat grain from the Strategic Grain Reserve (SGR) for the drought response, which WFP is milling, fortifying and distributing to drought affected people.

UNHAS

- UNHAS serves 20 destinations in Afghanistan providing air service to all humanitarian agencies. Due to demand from its users, UNHAS has added additional flights from Kabul to the cities of Herat and Qala-e-Naw to its weekly schedule.

Resource update

- To meet all of the budgeted needs across the country, WFP urgently requires USD 72.9 million over the next six months.

Contacts

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