



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Afghanistan Country Brief January 2021



Operational Context

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 latest [IPC report](#) shows that 16.9 million people are experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity, according to the UN's population count (see report annex). The report projects that 11.4 million people will be in IPC phase 3 (crisis) and 5.5 million people in IPC phase 4 (emergency) of food insecurity from November 2020 to March 2021.

WFP has been present in Afghanistan since 1963.



Population (Oct. 2020): **40.4 million**

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

Human Development Index (2019): **170 out of 189 countries**

Gender Inequality Index (2018): **143 out of 189 HDI listed countries (UNDP)**

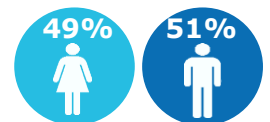
In Numbers

In January, WFP assisted **more than 900,000** food-insecure people across Afghanistan.

WFP delivered **5,365 mt** of food and disbursed **US\$4.3 million** in cash-based transfers.

The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) urgently needs US\$5.8 million in funding for the continuation of its operations from March to August 2021.

WFP is facing a **net funding shortfall of US\$144.8 million** for the next six months (February 2021 – July 2021).



Operational Updates

The socioeconomic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in Afghanistan has become more devastating than the disease itself. The far-reaching impact on the food security of communities is expected to last far into the coming year.

As of 4 February, the Ministry of Public Health estimates that 55,256 people across all 34 provinces in Afghanistan are confirmed to have had COVID-19. Only 258,011 people out of a population of 40.4 million have been tested.

COVID-19 converges with conflict and recurrent climatic events, as the country now braces for the potential impact of La Niña. It is expected that potential below-average rainfall and snowfall could lead to crop losses, increasing already high food insecurity levels. Snow water equivalent is almost 39 percent lower compared to last year. It is likely that the number of people facing acute food insecurity (IPC 3 and above) will grow.

At current funding levels, UNHAS will struggle to continue its services after March 2021. Given the current country context and potential impact of La Niña, continuation of UNHAS services is of tremendous importance for the wider humanitarian and development community. UNHAS urgently needs US\$5.8 million in funding to continue its operations from March to August 2021.

Relief Assistance

- WFP assisted 175,448 people affected by COVID-19's socio-economic impacts with a total of US\$1.8 million in cash-based transfers (CBT).
- Other people assisted under WFP's emergency response included 385,637 seasonally food insecure people, 27,159 people displaced by conflict, 1,351 people affected by natural disasters and 5,817 returnees from Iran.

Livelihoods Support

- WFP provided 77,959 participants of ongoing asset creation activities with US\$276,442 and 1016 mt of food.

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Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total CSP Requirement (in USD)	Total Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Feb. 2021 – Jul 2021 Funding Requirements (in USD)
1 billion*	567.60 m	144.81 m

* Approved in budget revision 4

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food (SDG target 2.1)

Strategic Outcome 1: Vulnerable people in Afghanistan are able to meet their food and nutrition needs during and immediately after emergencies through 2022

Focus area: Crisis response

Activities:

- Emergency food assistance

Strategic Outcome 2: Vulnerable people in Afghanistan are increasingly able to meet their food and nutrition needs on their own by 2022

Focus area: Resilience

Activities:

- Livelihood support
- Emergency preparedness capacity strengthening

Strategic Result 2: End malnutrition (SDG target 2.2)

Strategic Outcome 3: Vulnerable people at each stage of the life cycle in target areas have improved nutrition by 2022

Focus area: Resilience

Activities:

- Prevention and treatment of malnutrition

Strategic Result 4: Sustainable food systems (SDG target 2.4)

Strategic Outcome 4: People throughout the country have a wide range of fortified, nutritious food products available to them at affordable prices by 2022

Focus area: Resilience

Activities:

- Nutritious food system strengthening

Strategic Result 6: Policy coherence (SDG target 17.14)

Strategic Outcome 5: National and subnational institutions have a strengthened policy approach to food security and nutrition by 2022.

Focus area: Resilience

Activities:

- Enhancing policy coherence on food security and nutrition

Strategic Result 8: Enhance global partnerships (SDG target 17.16)

Strategic Outcome 6: The humanitarian community has enhanced capacity to respond to needs throughout the country through 2022

Focus area: Crisis response

Activities:

- Common service provision (SCOPE, supply chain, ICT)
- UN Humanitarian Air Service

WFP's Country Strategic Plan for Afghanistan has a WFP Gender & Age Marker score of 3, "fully integrates gender." A gender transformative approach with integration of Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations is applied across all strategic outcomes.

- January saw the completion of projects in five provinces resulting in 8 km of irrigation canals, 3.5 meters of flood protection walls, and 6 km tertiary roads, the repair of 5,647 terraces and construction of 784m³ of water reservoirs that will improve water harvesting, and the plantation of 17,000 seed trees. As part of the projects, WFP engaged 351 women-headed households in nursery activities and trained them on poultry keeping.

Treatment and Prevention of Malnutrition

- WFP provided 11,400 children aged 6-59 months with nutrition support and services to prevent moderate acute malnutrition.
- WFP provided 144,476 malnourished children and 50,677 pregnant and lactating women with treatment of moderate acute malnutrition.

School Health and Nutrition

- WFP provided 4,004 girls with cash-based assistance to encourage their attendance and to maintain their enrolment, and 92,258 primary school students with 116 mt of high energy biscuits as mid-morning snacks.

Supply Chain & Access

- In January, 3,536 mt of vegetable oil, What Soya Blend and pulses were received in-country via Hairaton, Spinboldak and Torkham borders. All borders were open for cargo movement.
- More than 4,821 mt of food were dispatched to cooperating partners for further distribution to 113 destinations across the country. Over 73 percent of total deliveries (3,542 mt) to cooperating partners were completed using WFP fleet trucks.
- In the past month, a total of 125 containers of 2,407 mt of food arrived at Karachi, out of which 1,889 are in-transit through Torkham and Spinboldak and the rest are under port clearance. Moreover, 29 out of 30 Renault trucks purchased by WFP from France arrived in Herat.

Common Services – UNHAS

- In January, the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) transported 723 passengers to 18 locations across the country.

Funding

- Funding requirements for the coming six months (February 2021 – July 2021) are **US\$236.2 million**, of which **US\$144.8 million** remain to be resourced.
- In 2021, WFP aims to meet the needs of the 16.9 million people, classified as IPC 3 (crisis) and IPC 4 (emergency) throughout the country. However, due to spiralling levels of food insecurity in Afghanistan, WFP is working on a budget revision to include an anticipated increase in people requiring assistance due to escalating conflict, COVID-19, and the potential impact of La Niña.

Donors

- Top five: United States of America, United Kingdom, European Commission, Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund (AHF) and Australia.