

WFP Afghanistan

Situation Report

31 March 2023



Fortified wheat flour is stocked at WFP's main warehouse in Jalalabad. ©WFP/Danijela

In Numbers

Nearly 20 million people are projected to be acutely food-insecure between November 2022 and March 2023, including more than 6 million people in Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Phase 4 (Emergency)*

4 million people are acutely malnourished, including 3.2 million children under 5

28.3 million people – two-thirds of Afghanistan's population – require multi-sectoral humanitarian assistance in 2023

Highlights

- **In March, WFP has reached 9.2 million people** with emergency food, nutrition, and livelihood support. Between January and March 2023, WFP has assisted approximately 15 million people.
- **In April, WFP will cut assistance to 4 million people due to severe funding constraints**, to reach only 9 million people instead of 13 million planned for general food assistance. If additional funds are not urgently received, WFP will be forced to further cut assistance to an additional 4 million people in May.

Situation Update

- **Since December 2022, women have been banned from working for NGOs** and pursuing higher education. The de facto authorities banned secondary schoolgirls from attending school in most provinces since taking power in 2021.
- **All 100 WFP partners are implementing activities;** 82 are fully operational and 18 are partially operational. In total, female staff from 80 partners are engaged in activities across all 34 provinces.
- **Nearly 20 million people in Afghanistan are acutely food-insecure (IPC 3+),** including more than 6.1 million people on the brink of famine-like conditions in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency), according to preliminary projections for November 2022 to March 2023.
- **Afghanistan continues to face the highest prevalence of insufficient food consumption globally.** According to WFP's [Food Security Update: Round Fifteen](#), from December 2022, 92 percent of households struggle to meet their basic needs. Hunger is primarily driven by the economic crisis that has gripped Afghanistan since August 2021, compounded by decades of conflict, climate shocks, and severe restrictions on the rights of women and girls to work and pursue higher education.
- **Afghanistan is the fourth most at-risk country for humanitarian crises and disasters.** As it enters the third consecutive year of drought, the country is the eighth most vulnerable to [climate change](#) and the least prepared to adapt.

WFP Response

- **In March, WFP has reached 9.2 million people in Afghanistan** with food, nutrition, and livelihood support. Distributions are ongoing.
- **Severe funding shortfalls continue to impact WFP operations.** In March, WFP was forced to reduce ration sizes from 75 percent to 50 percent for 4 million people already on the brink of famine in IPC Phase 4.
- **In April, WFP will be able to reach only 9 million people instead of 13 million planned for general food assistance,** due to persistent funding constraints. If additional resources are not urgently received, further cuts to assistance will be necessary in May. Such a significant reduction in assistance to populations already vulnerable to food insecurity raises serious concerns for the emergence of famine-like conditions across the country in the heart of the lean season.
- **WFP food distributions resumed in Ghor on 25 March,** following the blanket ban on humanitarian activities since January, after successful negotiations with de facto authorities.
- **Distributions remain suspended in two districts of Ghazni.** While negotiations with authorities continue, approximately 93,450 people are impacted by the suspension.
- **On 21 March, a 6.5 magnitude earthquake struck Badakhshan,** followed by flash flooding across the country. WFP is awaiting the results of joint assessment missions to determine the scale of assistance required in affected areas. Preliminary results indicate that at least 6,300 people require support.

Food and Nutrition Assistance

- In March, WFP has distributed approximately **65,637 metric tons** (mt) of food in-kind. A total **1.1 million** people have been reached with **US\$25.3 million** in direct cash and value vouchers, while **690,000** people have received a total of **US\$5.4 million** in commodity vouchers.
- **General Food Assistance:** In March, WFP has assisted **9.2 million** people with emergency food assistance. More than **7 million** people have received in-kind food baskets, **1.1 million** people received direct cash and value vouchers, and 690,000 people received commodity vouchers.
- **Nutrition:** In March, WFP has provided specialized nutritious foods for the prevention of malnutrition to **933,000** pregnant and lactating women and children aged 6-59 months, and **328,000** women and children for existing cases of moderate acute malnutrition.
- WFP supports more than **1,800** health centres and **439** active mobile health and nutrition teams across Afghanistan.
- The Ministry of Public Health mandated the transition of all mobile health clinics to fixed health centres by the end of March. Through the Nutrition Cluster, WFP and partners successfully negotiated a **one-month extension to the transition period**. WFP and partners continue to negotiate with authorities for a possible exception to this decision for particularly remote areas where fixed health clinics cannot be established.
- **School feeding:** In March, WFP has provided High Energy Biscuits (HEB) or Bread+ to more than **578,000** primary school students. WFP has reduced the daily ration size for HEB by 50 percent due to funding constraints. WFP currently supports approximately **1,950** public schools and community-based education centres across the country.
- **Asset creation and livelihoods:** Thus far in March, WFP assisted **21,140 people** through Food Assistance for Assets programming.
- More than **4,000 people** received assistance through Food Assistance for Training projects.

** This is according to preliminary estimates
All distribution figures for March are currently being reconciled and subject to change.*

Supply Chain and Logistics

- WFP has dispatched **71,215 mt** of food for the month of March, representing **93 percent** of its monthly target.
- A total of **97,965 mt** of food is available in the country at WFP warehouses, while **50,570 mt** of food sits in WFP warehouses outside of the country.
- WFP expects a shortfall of HEB for the month of April.
- Following heavy rain and snowfall, the supply chain route to the Dulayna District in Ghor is blocked. WFP is closely monitoring the situation to resolve the issue.

UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

- UNHAS has conducted **824 flights** thus far in 2023. A total of **4,766 passengers** (3,034 on domestic and 1,732 on international flights) and **12.47 mt** of humanitarian light cargo (medical equipment, medicine vaccine, and office supply) have been transported.
- UNHAS currently operates flights to 24 destinations - 20 domestic destinations and four airbridges that connect Kabul to Islamabad, Dushanbe, Doha, and Dubai. Weekly flight schedules and route maps can be found on the [Humanitarian Booking Hub](#).

Resourcing Update

- In 2023, WFP requires **US\$2.2 billion** to deliver emergency food, nutrition, and livelihood support to those in need.
- WFP urgently requires **US\$75 million** to sustain operations as planned through April.
- WFP is currently facing a net funding shortfall of **US\$763 million** to sustain operations over the next six months (April-September 2023).
- **US\$24 million** is urgently needed to sustain UNHAS airbridge operations past June 2023.
- WFP's needs are reflected in [Afghanistan's 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan](#).

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