



World Food Programme

WFP Afghanistan Situation Report

August 2023

Homina collected her food assistance at the WFP site at Ghor Province.

In Numbers

15.3 million people are projected to be acutely food-insecure between May and October 2023, including 2.8 million people in Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Phase 4 (Emergency)

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

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

Highlights

- **WFP has reached 16.4 million people** since the beginning of 2023.
- **WFP is forced to scale down its plan** to around 3 million beneficiaries from September to November 2023. This follows a drastic reduction from reaching 13 million people in March to only 5 million in July.
- **WFP initiated a phased resumption of operations and movement in the Lal district of Ghor province** following extensive UN engagement with the de facto authorities. A comprehensive resumption plan with robust safeguards and monitoring mechanisms is in place.

Situation Update

- **Overall, the food security situation in the country remains of great concern.** A slowdown in economic activity compounded by the effects of drought, especially in the northern wheat belt and rainfed agricultural areas, continues to put stress on already vulnerable households. However, the return of most large markets' food prices to 2021 levels, the steady recovery of daily casual labour demand, and the increase in wheat production compared to previous drought years helped alleviate the situation. This slight uptick in the food security situation has been confirmed at the April 2023 Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) IPC, though most provinces remain at IPC 3 – Crisis levels.
- **WFP has been forced to drastically scale down its humanitarian response.** WFP can only support around 3 million beneficiaries under emergency response from September to November 2023 due to a massive funding shortfall. This is a drastic reduction of 10 million, from reaching 13 million people in March to only 5 million in July, to 3 million now.
- **The timeliness of resource mobilization remains crucial as winter approaches.** Pre-positioning and delivering in-kind food assistance to IPC Phases 3 and 4 populations that might be cut off by winter weather is a top priority. The emergence of famine conditions (IPC Phase 5 – Catastrophe) is a possibility if timely and sufficient assistance is not provided. If WFP does not receive funding within the next few weeks, it will be unable to fill the shortfall in November.

WFP Response

- **WFP initiated a phased resumption of operations and movement in the Lal district of Ghor province** following extensive UN engagement with the de facto authorities. A comprehensive resumption plan with robust safeguards and monitoring mechanisms is in place.
- **WFP concluded district-level post-IPC rapid vulnerability assessments** that further examined the food security situation in six provinces, including Jawzjan, Sar-e-Pul, Herat, Badghis, Badakhshan, and Daikundi. The results, following IPC-compatible analysis, put all these areas in IPC Phase 3, with the main areas of concern being people in Darzab and internally displaced people in Herat.
- **WFP Country Director Hsiao-Wei Lee visited the remote Wakhan corridor, a rugged, mountainous part of northeast Afghanistan.** On 17 - 24 August, the Country Director visited WFP's resilience and food system project sites, as well as food distribution points and clinics in the corridor. The visit aimed to observe the impact of WFP activities, engage with beneficiaries, and pay tribute to employees whose work in dangerous locations makes it possible to reach for the most vulnerable. In Wakhan, WFP provides general food assistance to nearly 12,600 beneficiaries (1,800 recipients households), specialized nutritious foods to 2,800 children and 2,223 pregnant and breastfeeding women. In addition, WFP assists 576 recipients through various Resilience and Food Systems projects.

Food and Nutrition Assistance

In August, WFP reached nearly **6.1 million*** people with emergency food, cash, nutrition, and livelihood support. Of this, 4.8 million people received **37,813 mt** in-kind assistance across various programmes, while more than 1.2 million people received cash-based transfers worth **US\$7.2 million**.

General Food Assistance

- With the reduction in beneficiaries due to funding constraints since May 2023, in August WFP reached **4.8 million** people with emergency in-kind food assistance and assisted **1.2 million** people with cash transfers.
- In August, a digital payment system 'HesabPay' was piloted in Kabul. The pilot project will continue with the scale-down caseload in September 2023.

Nutrition

- WFP provided specialized nutritious foods for the prevention of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) to more than **863,570** children (aged 6-59 months), and pregnant and breastfeeding women (PBW). Additionally, WFP provided malnutrition treatment services to more than **689,200** PBWs and children.
- WFP continues to support more than **285** mobile health and nutrition teams across Afghanistan as it awaits further guidance on their transition to fixed health clinics as mandated by facto authorities.

School Feeding

- In August, WFP provided High Energy Biscuits (HEBs) or Bread+ to more than **503,000** primary school students. After several months of suspension, distribution activities resumed in Paktika, Jawzjan and Ghor provinces.
- Cash-based transfers for secondary-level schoolgirls continue to be on hold, while schools are closed to secondary-level girls across the country.

Resilience and Food Systems

- WFP reached **24,000** people through food assistance for asset creation (FFA) schemes, **693** people through food assistance for training schemes and **63,700** farmers through smallholder agriculture market support activities in 26 provinces.

Supply Chain and Logistics

- In August, WFP dispatched **37,795 mt** of mixed food across Afghanistan, representing approximately 100 percent of its target for the month. About **57,406 mt** of food is available in the country at WFP warehouses, while **58,694 mt** of food is in transit or within WFP warehouses outside the country.
- WFP supported four UN agencies in five areas of operations with storage space and power provision.

UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

- UNHAS currently operates flights to **24** destinations (20 domestic and 4 airbridges connecting Kabul to Islamabad, Dushanbe, Doha and Dubai (DWC)).
- UNHAS has operated **2,436 flights** from January to August 2023 and transported **14,579 passengers** (9,720 on Domestic and 4,859 on International Flights). UNHAS carried **31.946 mt** of humanitarian light cargo (medical equipment, vaccines and office supplies) including transportation of six MEDEVAC patients in August.
- Weekly flight schedules and route maps can be found on the [Humanitarian Booking Hub](#).

Resourcing Update

- In 2023, WFP required **USD 2.2 billion** to deliver emergency food, nutrition, and livelihood support to those in need.
- WFP is currently facing a net funding shortfall of **US\$1.08 billion** to sustain operations over the next six months (September 2023 – February 2024). This includes the funding needed to preposition food commodities ahead of the 2023/2024 winter season, especially in areas that will become completely cut off once snow and ice make roads impassable. If sufficient funding is not received in the next few weeks, WFP will be unable to achieve its re-prioritized target.
- WFP's needs are reflected in [Afghanistan's 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan](#).

**Distribution figures for August are subject to change.*

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<https://www.wfp.org/countries/afghanistan>

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