



World Food Programme

WFP Afghanistan

Situation Report

18 January 2023

Women and children continue to receive assistance in Kabul. ©WFP Afghanistan

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 IPC Phase 4 (Emergency), according to preliminary estimates

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

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

Highlights

- **WFP's emergency food and nutrition activities continue.** This remains in line with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee's (IASC) response to the recent de facto authority directive, which bans female Afghans from working for national and international non-governmental organizations.
- **Food assistance for training and most school feeding activities are suspended** in line with the IASC decision to suspend non-life saving humanitarian activities for three weeks.
- **All humanitarian activities have been suspended in Ghor** province by the Humanitarian Coordinator for Afghanistan. Negotiations with de facto authorities are ongoing.

Situation Update

- **On 24 December 2022, de facto authorities issued a directive banning Afghan women** from [working](#) for international and national non-governmental organizations.
- **Nearly 20 million people in Afghanistan are acutely food-insecure (IPC 3+)**, including more than 6 million people on the brink of famine-like conditions in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency), according to preliminary projections for November 2022 to March 2023.¹
- **Afghanistan continues to face the highest prevalence of insufficient food consumption globally.** Results from WFP's October [Food Security Update](#) show that nine in ten households consumed insufficient food, with little change over the past 12 months. On average, **90 percent** of household income is spent on food, while 50 percent of households rely on coping strategies to meet their basic food needs.
- **Female-headed households are disproportionately affected**, as **84 percent** are unable to consume sufficient food amid restrictions. Women are twice as likely to sacrifice their meals so that their families can eat, compared to male-headed households.
- **The current food crisis is perpetuated by a concurrent climate crisis**, as 30 out of 34 provinces in Afghanistan report extremely low water quality. The proportion of households feeling the impact of drought in 2022 **is six times** greater than in 2020 as Afghanistan enters its third consecutive drought year.

WFP Response

- **WFP is concerned that the ban on Afghan women working for NGOs will exacerbate the dire humanitarian situation**, where 9 out of 10 Afghans cannot get enough to eat.
- **In January, WFP has so far reached 1.36 million people with emergency food and nutrition assistance.** WFP plans to reach 15 million people this month; however, some activities have been suspended due to the directive.
- **Nineteen WFP partners suspended operations** following the directive banning female NGO workers. Five partners have indicated they may resume activities in some areas. WFP holds field-level agreements with 98 NGOs, which employ 18,000 national staff members, of which 3,600 are women.
- **The prevention and treatment of moderate acute malnutrition programme continues**, aiming to reach 783,000 people in January; however the ban saw 115 of 437 mobile health clinics temporarily suspended in January, affecting 82,000 children, and pregnant and lactating women.
- **WFP school feeding activities were suspended** in line with the IASC's decision to pause non-lifesaving activities. WFP continues to support 59,000 students via Community-Based Education centers.
- **Food assistance-for-training activities have been suspended** where the lack of female instructors impedes activities. The suspension impacts 39,300 people, most of whom are women.

1. Based on September 2022 [Whole of Afghanistan Assessment](#). WFP awaits the official endorsement of the latest IPC Analysis.



Food and Nutrition Assistance

- **2023 Implementation Plan:** In 2023, WFP plans to reach **16.8 million** people with emergency food, nutrition, and livelihood support through the distribution of more than 1 million MT of food and disbursement of USD 268 million in cash-based transfers.
- **General Food Assistance:** In January 2023, WFP has so far assisted **1.36 million** people with emergency in-kind food assistance. Cash-based transfers for January have not yet commenced.
- **Nutrition:** In January 2023, WFP has so far provided specialized nutritious foods for the prevention of malnutrition to **65,635** pregnant and lactating women (PLW) and children aged 6-59 months. WFP plans to provide treatment services to 783,000 women and children suffering from existing cases of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM).
- WFP supports more than 1,770 health centers and 400 mobile health and nutrition teams in hard-to-reach areas; however, the suspension of activities by seven nutrition partners in January reduced the number of active mobile clinics by 115, impacting 82,000 children, pregnant and lactating women.
- **School feeding:** School Feeding activities are suspended, in line with IASC's decision to pause non-lifesaving activities. The temporary suspension impacts 616,000 students; however, WFP continues to support 59,000 students via Community-Based Education centers.
- **Asset creation and livelihoods:** In 2023, WFP plans to continue assisting 1.2 million people through asset creation and vocational skills training. However, the suspension of food assistance-for-assets activities in areas disrupted by a lack of female instructors will impact 39,300 people. In January, WFP plans to reach 250,000 people through food assistance-for-assets programming; however, some construction projects are temporarily on hold due to winter weather.



Supply Chain and Logistics

- Thus far in January, WFP dispatched **34,690 mt** of mixed food commodities across the country, representing 48.9 percent of its target.
- The first 18,000 MT tranche of Ukrainian wheat arrived in Port Qasem, Pakistan on 27 December. WFP has so far received 1,638 mt via Jalalabad and Spin Boldak, while the remaining quantities are in transit. The second and third tranches of Ukrainian wheat are expected to depart from Turkey in mid-February.
- In December, WFP finished prepositioning 100,000 mt of food in particularly vulnerable and hard-to-reach areas across four priority provinces to ensure continued service delivery to 1.5 million people during the winter lean season.
- WFP concluded logistics support services to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), delivering over 50,000 MT of fertilizer to FAO's implementing partners in 270 locations.



UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

- UNHAS currently operates flights to **27 destinations** – 23 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](#).
- In 2023, UNHAS has so far transported **637** passengers and **851kg** of humanitarian cargo via **95** flights.
- In 2022, UNHAS conducted **4,172** flights. It transported approximately **28,000** passengers, including 10 medevac patients, and **58 MT** of humanitarian cargo (medical equipment, vaccines, and office supplies).

Resourcing Update

- In 2023, WFP requires **US\$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\$763 million** to sustain operations over the next six months (February-July 2023).
- WFP's needs are reflected in [Afghanistan's 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan](#).

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