In Numbers

22.8 million people – half of the population – are projected to be acutely food insecure in 2022, including 8.7 million at risk of famine-like conditions. 4.7 million children, pregnant and lactating women at risk of acute malnutrition in 2022. All 34 provinces are facing crisis or emergency levels of acute food insecurity.

Situation Update

- The latest joint Humanitarian Response Plan was launched on 11 January, highlighting 24.4 million people in humanitarian need and requesting US$ 4.44 billion. This is the largest ever single-country humanitarian appeal, and is reflective of Afghanistan’s dire humanitarian circumstances.
- In the past month, 57 percent of families have taken drastic measures to feed their families; this is an increase from the previous month, and a five-fold increase from before 15 August. The past month also saw a slight increase in the proportion of people who reported not having enough to eat in the last two weeks. (WFP’s latest survey).
- 95 percent of the population had insufficient food consumption in December 2021. While this represents a marginal improvement from the previous month, the situation remains far worse than before 15 August. The improvement is partly driven by increased consumption of dairy, protein and pulses, but there is variation across the country; in some provinces like Herat, food consumption has continued to deteriorate.
- More than half of the population face crisis (IPC Phase 3) or emergency (IPC Phase 4) levels of food insecurity, according to the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) report. This is the highest number of acutely food insecure people ever recorded in Afghanistan and is among the highest levels of acute food insecurity globally.

Highlights

- WFP plans to reach 12 million people with food and nutrition support in January and aims to reach more than 23 million people in 2022.
- Winter is deepening desperation for families, affecting markets and making travel difficult in many cold-climate provinces where snow and ice are hampering roadways.

WFP Response

- WFP has reached 2.1 million people with food and nutrition assistance in 2022 so far. WFP plans to reach 12 million people with food and nutrition support in January, scaling up to assist more than 23 million people throughout the year. As the economic crisis worsens, WFP is adapting and expanding cash-based transfers, particularly in urban areas, to help sustain the local economy and keep markets functional.
- WFP’s staff and partners deliver food and nutrition assistance to all 34 provinces to meet humanitarian needs, support women and girls, prevent and treat malnutrition, encourage school attendance, and boost community resilience.
Food and Nutrition Assistance

- **General Food Assistance:** WFP has reached 2 million people with unconditional resource transfers in 2022 so far. WFP also launched commodity vouchers in mid-December to enable 300,000 people in Kabul to purchase food from local markets. These will further promote local market functionality, along with WFP’s existing cash distributions and value vouchers. In January, WFP plans to reach 3.7 million people with cash-vouchers, scaling up to 6 million each month from March to May.

- **School feeding:** WFP has reached around 32,000 children under its school feeding activities so far in 2022, and plans to reach a million children through this programme throughout the year. WFP and UNICEF are scaling up support to community-based education classes. Since August 2021, WFP has already scaled up from 108 to 579 classes, and plans to reach 2,100 classes by April 2022, increasing coverage to students in hard-to-reach areas.

- **Nutrition:** WFP has reached 26,000 pregnant and lactating women and 66,000 children in 2022 so far with prevention and treatment of acute malnutrition activities. Throughout the year, WFP plans to reach 6.4 million children and pregnant and lactating women with these activities. WFP, together with UNICEF, has also scaled up its support for mobile health and nutrition teams, from 72 in August 2021, to 158 by the start of 2022. These MHNTs reach remote areas of 24 provinces, providing treatment for moderate acute malnutrition.

- **Internally Displaced Persons:** In 2021, WFP assisted over 600,000 internally displaced persons.

- **Asset creation and livelihoods:** WFP has reached around 8,000 people with asset creation and livelihoods activities so far in 2022, and plans to support over a million beneficiaries throughout the year. WFP completed two vocational skills training (VST) activities in December in Herat and Kabul. People received training in skills including food processing, mobile phone repair, home appliance repair and advanced tailoring. While receiving food or cash assistance.

Supply Chain and Logistics

- The Government of Pakistan approved the purchase of 160,000 mt of wheat; once milled into wheat flour it will be transported into Afghanistan.

- With 170 trucks currently operational, WFP is increasing its fleet of trucks and trailers in the coming months to increase deliveries.

UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

- In the past week, UNHAS has conducted 35 flights, transporting 255 passengers and essential cargo.

- Deteriorating weather conditions have disrupted and cancelled flights, which is forecast to continue in the coming weeks.

- UNHAS offers flights to 23 destinations, including airbridges that connect Kabul to Islamabad, Dushanbe and Doha.

- Weekly flight schedules and route maps can be found on the Humanitarian Booking Hub.

Resourcing Update

- To meet increasing needs in 2022, WFP requires US$ 220 million per month.

- Food, nutrition and UNHAS requirements were included in the Global Humanitarian Overview and OCHA Flash Appeal for Afghanistan.

Corrections have been made on beneficiary statistics on 20 December.