



# WFP Afghanistan

## Situation Report

25 June 2023

### 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)

**3.2 million** people are acutely malnourished, including 3.2 million children younger than 5 years old

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

### Highlights

- **WFP Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer Carl Skau visited Afghanistan on 11-15 June 2023** to witness operations, engage with key stakeholders, and advocate for urgent resources to meet critical funding gaps.
- **WFP has reached 15.4 million people since the beginning of 2023**; however, since April it has had to cut 8 million people from its emergency response caseload due to critical funding shortfalls.
- **WFP needs US\$1.2 billion to sustain operations through the winter.**

### Situation Update

- **Sustained humanitarian assistance has effectively reduced the total number of food insecure people** in Afghanistan, from 20 million during the winter lean season, to 15.3 million projected for May to October 2023. Continued support is needed to keep the alarming malnutrition and hunger rates from increasing.
- **A 30-35 percent wheat deficit is expected for 2023** following the third consecutive drought year in Afghanistan. While forecasts suggest an overall improvement in wheat production from previous years, western provinces are likely to still experience below-average harvests.
- **An ongoing locust outbreak in northern Afghanistan threatens to destroy a quarter of this year's wheat harvest** – up to 1.2 million mt, worth US\$480 million. Locust control operations are underway to reduce the impact of the **2023 outbreak** and mitigate the risks of a potentially larger and more devastating outbreak in 2024.
- **Afghanistan is among the countries with the highest prevalence of insufficient food consumption globally.** 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.
- **In June, WFP has assisted 4.5 million people** so far with emergency food, nutrition, and livelihood support. Distributions are ongoing to reach 7 million people in June.
- **WFP is finalizing retargeting processes across the country** to ensure that Afghanistan's most vulnerable populations continue to receive support as emergency food assistance operations scale down drastically to reach 5 million people during the summer months, ahead of the harvest period and in response to critical funding shortfalls.
- **Rapid vulnerability assessments are ongoing at the district level in six provinces**, including Jawzjan, Sar-e-Pul, Herat, Badghis, Badakhshan, and Daikundi. WFP is closely monitoring potential hunger hotspots identified in areas particularly vulnerable to drought conditions and the ongoing locust outbreak. Additional assessments are planned for Ghor in partnership with REACH.
- **WFP and partners are seeking clarity on implementation arrangements for school feeding activities**, following informal guidance from the Ministry of Economy that mandates all projects implemented by international NGOs within the Education Sector be handed over to national partners.
- **All humanitarian activities remain suspended in Ghor province** until at least mid-July. Negotiations with de facto authorities have been ongoing since March 2023.

### WFP Response

## Food and Nutrition Assistance

- In June, WFP has so far distributed approximately **30,000 mt** of food. Approximately **3.4 million** people have received in-kind assistance across various programmes, while more than **1 million** people have received cash-based transfers worth **US\$6.6 million\***.

### General Food Assistance

- In June, WFP has so far assisted approximately **3.1 million** people with emergency food assistance in-kind, while more than **1 million** people have received cash-based transfers.
- In May, WFP provided emergency food assistance to nearly **4.7 million** people, despite cutting 4 million people from its emergency response caseload for the second consecutive month due to a critical funding shortfall of US\$211 million.

### Nutrition

- In June, WFP has so far provided specialized nutritious food for the prevention of malnutrition to **240,000** pregnant and breastfeeding women (PBW) and children under 5, and to **127,000** PBW and children under 5 for malnutrition treatment.
- WFP continues to support more than 380 mobile health and nutrition teams across Afghanistan as it awaits further guidance on their transition to fixed health clinics

### School Feeding

- In June, WFP provided High Energy Biscuits (HEBs) or Bread+ to more than **207,000** primary school students as distributions continue in four cold-climate provinces. In May, WFP assisted more than **908,000** students.
- Cash-based transfers for secondary-level schoolgirls are on hold, while schools are closed to secondary-level girls across the country.

### Resilience and Food Systems

- In June, WFP reached more than **42,000** people so far through Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) and Food Assistance for Training (FFT) interventions.
- In May, WFP assisted **278,000** people through FFA projects that seek to strengthen community resilience

through asset creation and rehabilitation. A further **12,000** people received vocational skills training through FFT projects in 8 provinces.



## Supply Chain and Logistics

- In June, WFP has so far dispatched **33,746 mt** of food across Afghanistan, representing approximately 86 percent of its monthly target. Approximately **84,000 mt** of food is available in the country at WFP warehouses, while **85,000 mt** of food is in-transit or within WFP warehouses outside the country.
- WFP Afghanistan has received the first **250 mt** of Indian wheat flour in country, through Herat. A further 2,250 mt is in overland transit and scheduled to arrive in the coming weeks.



## UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

- UNHAS has conducted **1,522 flights** thus far in 2023. A total of **8,490 passengers** and **19.2 mt** of humanitarian light cargo (medical equipment, medicines, vaccines, and office supplies) 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 needs **US\$1.2 billion** to sustain operations through the winter.
- This includes **US\$111 million** required by June 2023 to preposition **109,000 mt** for **2.96 million people** over **four winter months**.
- WFP's needs are reflected in [Afghanistan's 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan](#).

*\*Distribution figures for June are unreconciled and subject to change.*

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