



WFP Afghanistan Situation Report

16 December 2021

In Numbers

22.8 million people – half of the population – will face acute food insecurity from November 2021,¹ including 8.7 million at risk of famine-like conditions

3.2 million children and 700,000 pregnant and lactating women currently at risk of acute malnutrition

All 34 provinces are facing crisis or emergency levels of acute food insecurity

Highlights

- WFP aims to meet the food and nutrition needs of more than 23 million people in 2022.² To meet the task at hand, WFP estimates it would require US\$ 220 million per month.
- WFP has reached around 2.5 million people in December so far, and a total of around 15 million people in 2021.³ This is 6 million more than 2020.
- WFP has prepositioned food in strategic areas where heavy snows can cut off communities from assistance.

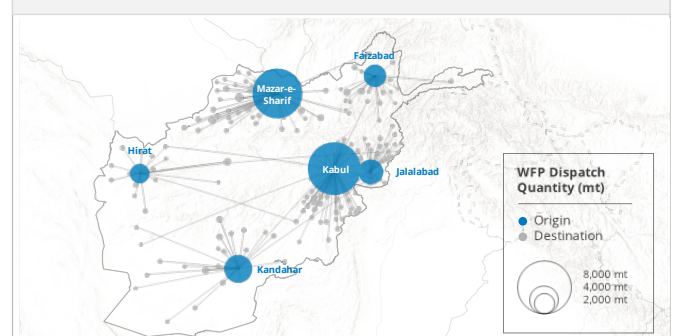
Situation Update

- **The value of the Afghani plummeted against the US dollar to record new lows**—marking a decrease of over 50 percent since the start of August. This has driven a sharp spike in all major food commodities over the past week, pushing food further out of reach for everyday families.
- **Acute malnutrition rates continue to spiral:** In the face of inaction, more than half of all children under five (3.9 million), and over 800,000 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) could be at risk of suffering from acute malnutrition in 2022.
- **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 worldwide.
- **An alarming 98 percent of Afghans are facing insufficient food consumption**, according to WFP's latest [survey](#): 17 percentage points more than early August.
- **More than half of the population (55 percent) are resorting to drastic measures to feed their families**, five times the number before 15 August.
- **For the first time, urban residents are suffering from food insecurity at similar rates** to rural communities, marking the shifting face of hunger in the country.

WFP Response

- Winter is here and temperatures are plunging; WFP has prepositioned food in strategic locations across the northeast and central highlands where heavy snows can cut off communities from assistance. This will provide a lifeline to areas that would otherwise be cut off.
- WFP is scaling up its efforts to assist more than 23 million people in 2022. WFP has supported around 15 million beneficiaries so far in 2021—over 6 million more than in all of 2020.
- Since August, the number of beneficiaries reached by WFP each month has steadily increased, with 2.5 million people reached so far in December.
- 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.

WFP dispatches in December so far



1. Integrated Food Security Phase Classification Acute Food Insecurity Analysis [report](#), November 2021 to March 2022 Projections

2. Planning figures for 2022 are being revised due to an ongoing planning exercise; they are subject to change and pending approval

3. Actual beneficiary numbers are as of 15 December, and are subject to change and further overlap adjustments



- **General Food Assistance:** WFP has assisted around 13 million beneficiaries with unconditional resource transfers in 2021, including over 2.3 million so far in December.
- **School feeding:** In 2021, WFP has reached over 200,000 primary and secondary school children and plans to reach 1 million from 2022. Since 1 November, WFP has resumed cash-based transfers under its Mazar Area Office to tens of thousands of adolescent girl students, which had been on hold for several months. During the past week, WFP dispatched 42 mt of fortified vegetable oil to support more than 9,000 school girls with take-home rations.
- **Nutrition:** In 2021, WFP has assisted over half a million pregnant and lactating women and over 1 million children under five with malnutrition prevention and treatment activities. WFP is treating moderate acute malnutrition by integrating with mobile health and nutrition teams in the most remote locations of the country. WFP is scaling up its support to reach hundreds of thousands more beneficiaries in the coming months.
- **Internally Displaced Persons:** In 2021, WFP has assisted over 600,000 internally displaced persons (IDP).
- **COVID-19:** WFP has reached more than 900,000 people affected by the socio-economic impact of the pandemic in 2021.
- **Asset creation and livelihoods:** WFP's food assistance for assets and vocational skills training (VST) activities continue across the country; WFP has reached over 200,000 beneficiaries in 2021, and will be scaling up its planned reach in 2022.

- UNHAS has conducted 742 flights, transporting 4,097 passengers since flights resumed on 28 August for humanitarian workers and essential cargo. On 16 December, UNHAS conducted an inaugural flight to Doha, as part of the reopening of the airbridge.
- Deteriorating weather conditions and the absence of navigation aids disrupted flights at Kabul airport this week. Increased disruptions are anticipated in the coming weeks, particularly if the inadequacies in air traffic services are not addressed.
- UNHAS now reaches 21 of 34 provinces.
- Weekly flight schedules and route maps can be found on the [Humanitarian Booking Hub](#).

Resourcing Update

- WFP has borrowed internally to expedite food deliveries and urgently requests that all pledges be confirmed to meet mounting needs.
- On 10 December, Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF) donors agreed to transfer US\$ 280 million in funds to UNICEF and WFP, with US\$ 180 million going to WFP.
- To meet increasing needs in 2022, WFP estimates it could require US\$ 220 million per month.
- Following 15 August, WFP appealed for urgent funds to meet needs until the end of 2021; it has now received over US\$ 420 million.
- Food, nutrition and UNHAS requirements were included in the [Global Humanitarian Overview](#) and [OCHA Flash Appeal for Afghanistan](#).



Supply Chain and Logistics

- In the past week (5-11 December), WFP distributed 16,193 mt of food stocks to 125 locations—almost 5,000 mt more than the previous week.
- With 170 trucks currently operational, WFP is increasing its fleet of trucks and trailers in the coming months to increase deliveries.

AFGHANISTAN PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

WFP is ramping up assistance for 23 million women, men and children in Afghanistan in 2022 with the aim of averting famine and a humanitarian disaster.

Emergency Food Assistance
The hunger crisis is unfolding at a rapid speed, with over half of Afghanistan's population of 40 million now facing acute food insecurity—the highest number the humanitarian community has ever seen in the country. WFP is responding with an unprecedented scale up of its emergency food assistance to over 21 million people facing emergency or crisis levels of acute food security in 2022. This includes urban populations, who are for the first time suffering from food insecurity at similar rates to rural communities.

Prevention & Treatment of Acute Malnutrition
Half of all children under five—around 3.2 million—are expected to suffer from acute malnutrition this winter. WFP has assisted around a million children under five, and around half a million pregnant and lactating women so far in 2021 with malnutrition prevention and treatment activities across all 34 provinces. WFP is extending its nutrition reach into remote areas of 24 provinces through support for over 120 mobile health and nutrition teams. In 2022, WFP will reach 4.8 million with a malnutrition prevention package, and 1.8 million children under five and PLW with treatment for acute malnutrition, as part of its emergency food assistance.

School Feeding
WFP's school feeding programmes continue in the current context, reaching over 200,000 children so far in 2021, including primary school children with school meals or take-home rations, and secondary school girls with cash-based transfers. WFP plans to scale up these programmes to reach 1 million children in 2022.

Asset Creation and Livelihoods
Work opportunities are shrinking, with most households now reporting just one day of work per week. This comes on top of the worst drought in years, which is especially concerning for the 85 percent of the population who rely on agriculture for livelihoods. WFP integrates two types of programmes into its work to support long-term resilience for individuals and communities. Through food assistance for assets activities, WFP provides participants with dignified livelihoods opportunities which build or boost productive assets in their communities (like irrigation canals or roads), while simultaneously meeting the immediate food needs of their families with food or cash assistance. Through vocational skills training activities, WFP supports participants with food or cash assistance while teaching new skills such as auto or mobile phone repair, gardening, fish farming, or carpet weaving. In 2022, WFP is scaling up these programmes to reach over a million beneficiaries.

Market Access and Sustainable Food Systems
Local markets are a primary source of food for many families. WFP works to link livelihood programming to local value chains by continually expanding its food systems work to increase production of nutritious foods. WFP prioritizes the full participation of women in value chain activities such as involvement in gardening, food processing, marketing and other opportunities.

ALL 34 PROVINCES covered by emergency assistance
22.8 MILLION PEOPLE FACING ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY

AFGHANISTAN
December 2021

Today, 18 percent of the population has sufficient food consumption, driven by the compounding effects of conflict, climate change, COVID-19, economic collapse and the onset of winter.

WFP has been present in Afghanistan for over 60 years. Through a network of 170 trucks, dozens of warehouses and 75 cooperatives partners, WFP delivers food and nutrition assistance to all 34 provinces; this assistance aims to meet humanitarian needs, prevent and treat malnutrition, boost markets and community resilience, encourage school attendance, and support women and girls.

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