



World Food Programme

WFP Afghanistan Situation Report

05 February 2023

Women redeem cash-based transfer assistance in Kabul city. ©WFP/Danijela Milic

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

- **In 2022, WFP assisted more than 23 million people**, distributing over 1.14 million mt of food and disbursing more than USD 325.8 million in cash-based transfers.
- **Distributions are ongoing despite the delays caused by the ban against Afghan women working for non-governmental organizations.** WFP and its partners continue to seek avenues for female cooperating partner staff to fully resume their vital work.
- **WFP is facing a funding shortfall of US\$763 million** to sustain its operations in the next six months.
- **WFP Afghanistan welcomes Ms. Hsiao-Wei Lee as its new Country Director**, transitioning from her previous role as Deputy Country Director of the Afghanistan operation.

Situation Update

- **Afghan women are officially banned from working for non-governmental organizations (NGOs)**, following a decree by de facto authorities issued on 24 December 2022.
- **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 November [Food Security Update](#) show that nine in ten households consume insufficient food while **53 percent** rely on crisis-level coping strategies to meet their basic food needs. On average, 88 percent of household income is spent on food, leaving little for other essential goods.
- **Households headed by or hosting person/s with disabilities are disproportionately affected**, as **62 percent** are turning to coping strategies to put food on the table, compared to 51 percent for other households.
- **The current food crisis is exacerbated by the climate crisis**, as 30 out of 34 provinces in Afghanistan reported 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

- **In January, WFP reached more than 7.7 million people with emergency food and nutrition assistance.** Distributions are ongoing, after experiencing some delays due to the ban on female NGO workers, programmatic suspensions in some areas and harsh winter weather conditions.
- **WFP partners with more than 100 NGOs to deliver lifesaving assistance in Afghanistan.** Currently 3 WFP partners have completely suspended activities due to the de facto authority ban on female NGO workers. Negotiations for avenues for all NGO workers to resume continue at national, provincial and district levels, with some success. Exemptions have been granted for health workers, including nutrition, and for education.
- **Humanitarian activities remain suspended in Ghor province**, as negotiations for adherence to operational principles continue with de facto authorities. Ghor is one of the most food insecure and vulnerable provinces in Afghanistan and winter is the most acute season. Prior to the suspension, more than 321,000 people received food prepositioned by WFP in December; however, 88,000 people remain impacted by the suspension.
- **All WFP activities, except for those related to nutrition, are temporarily suspended in Badghis and Nangarhar**, impacting approximately 412,000 people. Negotiations are ongoing with de facto authorities for the resumption of activities in February.

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



Food and Nutrition Assistance

- **General Food Assistance:** In January 2023, WFP assisted more than **7.1 million** people with emergency food and cash assistance. More than **5 million** people received in-kind food baskets, **1.5 million** received cash or value vouchers, while **539,000** people received assistance via commodity vouchers.
- **Nutrition:** In January 2023, WFP provided specialized nutritious foods for the prevention of malnutrition to **754,000** pregnant and lactating women (PLW) and children aged 6-59 months. and **451,000** women and children for existing cases of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM). De facto authorities granted an exemption to the ban on female NGO staff for work within the health sector. Therefore, female partners and third-party monitoring staff continue to implement nutrition activities across the country.
- WFP supports more than 1,770 health centres and 415 mobile health and nutrition teams in hard-to-reach areas. Three WFP partners implementing nutrition programmes have suspended operations, impacting assistance to 9,357 children and 5,686 pregnant and lactating women.
- **School feeding:** Following the IASC decision to pause non-lifesaving activities in Afghanistan for a period of three weeks, a number of locations allowed female teachers and NGO workers to operate, allowing WFP to assist **70,000** primary school and community-based education students in January, with daily nutritious snacks. Most public schools remain closed for winter break.
- **Asset creation and livelihoods:** Thus far in January, WFP assisted **141,000** people through food assistance for assets (FFA) programming. In 2022, WFP supported 403,000 people with cash-based assistance and 279,000 people with 15,185 mt of in-kind food assistance for participation in FFA projects.

- Food assistance for training (FFT) projects remain suspended due to the lack of female instructors, affecting **39,300** people in January. In 2022, WFP supported **85,000** people with cash-based assistance for participation in FFT projects.



Supply Chain and Logistics

- In January, WFP dispatched **64,032 mt** of food, representing approximately 85.6 percent of its target.
- Winter weather conditions, primarily icy roads, have slowed down food deliveries, particularly intermittent closures of the Salang Pass transportation route.
- WFP Afghanistan has received 10,740 mt of Ukrainian wheat, from the first 18,000 mt tranche. The remainder of the shipment is being transported via Pakistan.
- WFP is boosting the warehouse capacity of other UN agencies through Bilateral Service Provision agreements.



UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

- During the reporting period, UNHAS operated **217 flights** and transported **1,417 passengers** (762 on Domestic and 655 on International Flights) and **2.8 mt** of humanitarian light cargo (medical equipment, medicine vaccine, and office supply).
- 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](#).

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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