

WFP Afghanistan Situation Report

November 2023



An elderly beneficiary at a WFP distribution site picking up his monthly ration. ©WFP/Hasib Hazinyar

In Numbers

15.2 million people are projected to be acutely food-insecure between November 2023 and March 2024, including 3.6 million people in Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Phase 4 (Emergency).

4 million people are acutely malnourished, including 3.2 million children under the age of 5.

29.2 million people – two-thirds of Afghanistan’s population – require multi-sectoral humanitarian assistance in 2023.

Situation Update

- **Two months on from the series of earthquakes and aftershocks that hit Herat province, communities and populations affected by the disaster make slow progress toward recovery.** The earthquake's impact on infrastructure was most severe, with more than 20,000 homes completely destroyed and an additional 220,000 extensively damaged. The World Health Organization [estimates](#) that 275,000 people require urgent health assistance, with 60 percent of them being children.
- **Since September 2023, nearly 335,000 refugees have returned to Afghanistan,** following the Government of Pakistan’s directive on the repatriation of undocumented refugees and immigrants. At the peak of the influx, borders were reportedly chaotic and overwhelmed amid the large number of returnees. While the number of returnees has started to slow down, almost all returnees (98 percent) are considered vulnerable and will continue to require assistance after their arrival.
- **Afghanistan continues to grapple with a series of overlapping crises, with the humanitarian situation in the country remaining dire.** Projections for the next [Integrated Food Security Phase Classification](#) (IPC) indicate that the number of people in IPC Phase 3 (crisis) and Phase 4 (emergency) is likely to increase to 15.8 million (36 percent of the population) from 13.1 million in October. The in-country situation was further compounded by the earthquakes of October as well as the influx of returnees from Pakistan in November.

Highlights

- WFP has reached **5.9 million people** in November with emergency food and cash assistance, nutrition support, school meals, and livelihood activities.
- Since the earthquakes in October, WFP has been on the ground delivering food and cash assistance to affected populations in five districts in Herat. This effort has reached over **92,000** people with specialized nutritious and mixed food, as well as cash-based transfers.
- WFP has started its scale-up of assistance to reach **6.5 million** people during the winter of mixed food commodities across **386 districts**, sufficient resources permitting.

In response, WFP is set to scale up assistance efforts to reach 6.5 million people this winter.

WFP Response

- **Herat Earthquakes:** In November, WFP successfully reached 92,274 people across five earthquake-affected districts in Herat, through the provision of food, cash and vouchers. The second round of distribution through cash-based transfers started in November.
- **Afghan Returnees:** As part of an inter-agency group coordinating the response, WFP has been supporting Afghan returnees crossing through the Spin Boldak and Torkham borders with food and nutrition assistance. In November, WFP supported 278,838 people with 24,41 mt of fortified biscuits, 1,632 mt of mixed food commodities and over US\$3 million of cash for food/multi-purpose assistance.
- At the border, inter-agency partners are providing a range of services to ensure safe and orderly management of migration. These include registration of all new returnees, health services, child protection and aid distribution, among others. Humanitarian partners seek [US\\$51.9 million](#) to support the humanitarian response.
- **Operations in Ghor:** In November, WFP completed the first phase of the prepositioning distribution (covering November, December and January 2024) in all districts of Ghor. Beneficiaries received five months of assistance; the second phase of the plan will cover February and March 2024.

Emergency Food and Nutrition Assistance

In November, WFP reached **5.9 million** people with emergency food, cash, and nutrition support.

General Food Assistance

- WFP is working around the clock to mobilize and transport food to remote regions which are expected to become inaccessible this winter. WFP has started its scale-up of assistance to reach 6.5 million people with mixed food commodities across 386 districts during the winter, sufficient resources permitting.

Nutrition

- WFP provided specialized nutritious foods for the prevention of moderate acute malnutrition to more than **970,000** pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBW) and **1.2 million** children aged 6-59 months. Additionally, WFP provided malnutrition treatment services to more than **629,500** PBWs and children.
- WFP trained 5,200 health workers in Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) as part of a collaborative effort with UNICEF to enhance their capacity to deliver nutrition treatment services.

School Feeding

- In November, WFP provided fortified biscuits or Bread+ to more than **816,752** primary school students.
- Cash-based transfers for secondary-level schoolgirls remain on hold, while secondary schools are closed across the country.

Resilience and Food Systems

- To strengthen community resilience, WFP reached **201,866** people through food assistance for asset creation schemes, and **32,109** people through food assistance for training schemes in 25 provinces.

Supply Chain and Logistics

- In November, WFP dispatched **66,467 mt** of mixed food commodities across Afghanistan, reaching 49 percent of its target for the month. About **30,181 mt** of food is available at WFP warehouses in-country, while **18,107 mt** of food is in transit or within WFP warehouses outside the country.
- WFP has dispatched **53,885 mt** (80 percent) of mixed food commodities for winter prepositioning, out of its **targeted 67,705 mt** across 219 districts to support 3 million beneficiaries. WFP is prioritizing destinations that will become inaccessible due to snowfall.

UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

- UNHAS has operated **3,401 flights** from January to November and transported **21,160 passengers** (14,690 on domestic and 6,470 on international flights). UNHAS carried **40.72 mt** of light humanitarian cargo (medical equipment, vaccines and office supplies).
- UNHAS currently operates flights to **24** destinations (20 domestic and 4 airbridges connecting 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 required US\$2.2 billion to deliver emergency food, nutrition, and livelihood support to those in need.
- WFP is facing a net funding shortfall of **US\$856 million** to sustain operations over the next six months (December 2023 – May 2024). Urgent funding of US\$400 million is needed for the most vulnerable 7 million people to survive winter.
- WFP's needs are reflected in [Afghanistan's 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan](#).

**Distribution figures for November are subject to change following validation.*

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