

WFP Afghanistan

Situation Report

14 March 2023

WFP staff monitor food distributions 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 5

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

Highlights

- **In March, WFP has reached approximately 2 million people** so far with emergency food, nutrition, and livelihoods support. In 2023, WFP has so far reached an estimated 14 million people.
- **Critical funding shortfalls are impacting WFP's ability to support people most vulnerable to food insecurity.** In March, WFP cut ration sizes to households facing Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) 4 (emergency) from 75 to 50 percent due to resource constraints. USD 93 million is urgently needed to sustain operations through April.

Situation Update

- **Since December 2022, women have been banned from working for NGOs** and pursuing higher education. The de facto authorities banned secondary schoolgirls from attending school in most provinces since taking power in 2021.
- **Nearly 20 million people in Afghanistan are acutely food-insecure (IPC 3+)**, including more than 6.1 million people on the brink of famine-like conditions in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency), according to preliminary projections for November 2022 to March 2023.
- **Afghanistan continues to face the highest prevalence of insufficient food consumption globally.** According to WFP's [Food Security Update: Round Fifteen](#), from December 2022, 92 percent of households struggle to meet their basic needs. 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.
- **Afghanistan is the fourth most at-risk country for humanitarian crises and disasters.** As it enters the third consecutive year of drought, the country is the eighth most vulnerable to [climate change](#) and the least prepared to adapt.
- **Nearly half of the population continues to employ crisis coping strategies** to meet their basic needs, such as borrowing food or reducing meal sizes. Households hosting persons with disabilities remain disproportionately impacted, with [61 percent](#) relying on crisis-level coping strategies.

WFP Response

- **In March, WFP has reached approximately 2 million people in Afghanistan** so far with emergency food, nutrition, and livelihood support.
- **Severe funding constraints forced WFP to reduce ration sizes to IPC 4 households in March.** Rations that previously met 75 percent of a household's basic food needs have been reduced to 50 percent.
- **Nine million people may not receive WFP assistance in April**, including 2 million people in IPC 4, if USD 93 million is not urgently received. Afghanistan is currently in its peak hunger season, so any interruption of aid means famine-like conditions are more likely to emerge in areas vulnerable to food insecurity.
- WFP and partners have negotiated alternate working modalities to include **national female NGO workers** in many areas. Together they continue to advocate for the reversal of this ban at the national and local levels.
- **WFP's operational needs are reflected in the new 2023 Afghanistan Humanitarian Response Plan published** in March, which is inclusive of a new monitoring framework for activities in relation to the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC)'s agreed Concept of Operations, which includes continued engagement of de facto authorities for exemptions to the ban on female NGO staff across all sectors, as well as the implementation of common operational criteria, guided by the humanitarian principles.

Food and Nutrition Assistance

- In March, WFP has so far distributed approximately **17,587 metric tons** (mt) of food in-kind and **USD 756,000** worth of commodity vouchers across all activities. Distributions are ongoing.¹
- **General Food Assistance:** In March, WFP has so far assisted **1.8 million** people with emergency food assistance. More than **1.7 million** people have received in-kind food baskets, and **101,300** people have received assistance via commodity vouchers.
- **Nutrition:** In March so far, WFP has provided specialized nutritious foods for the prevention of malnutrition to **106,000** pregnant and lactating women (PLW) and children aged 6-59 months. and **49,000** women and children for existing cases of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM).
- WFP supports more than **1,800** health centres and **439 active mobile health and nutrition teams** (MHNTs) across Afghanistan. Due to the ban on female NGO staff, CPs operating 15 MHNTs have suspended operations, affecting 7,902 people, including 5,075 acutely malnourished children aged 6-59 months and 2,827 pregnant and lactating women. Where it is not possible to resume activities, partners are encouraged to refer beneficiaries to nearby operational nutrition sites and provides double rations to cover needs while activities remain halted.
- **School feeding:** In March, WFP has so far provided High Energy Biscuits (HEB) or Bread+ to more than 95,000 primary school students. WFP has reduced the daily ration size for HEB by 50 percent due to funding constraints.
- WFP currently supports approximately 1,950 public schools and community-based education centres across the country.
- **Asset creation and livelihoods:** Thus far in March, assisted **230 people** through Food Assistance for Assets programming.
- WFP plans to assist 10,500 people (via 1,500 participants) through Food Assistance for Training activities in March.

Supply Chain and Logistics

- To date, WFP has so far dispatched **38,132 mt** of food for the month of March, representing **53 percent** of its monthly target.
- A total **91,980 mt** of food is available in country at WFP warehouses, while **35,475 mt** of food sits in WFP warehouses outside of the country.
- Additional funds are urgently required to purchase **35,533 mt** of available commodities through the Global Commodity Management Facility to avert shortfalls in the coming months.
- WFP has signed new Food Supply Agreements with **14** millers for the quantity of **53,725 mt** of wheat flour, of which **49,737 mt** have been received.

UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

- UNHAS has conducted **658 flights** thus far in 2023. A total **3,851 passengers** and **10.56 mt** of humanitarian light cargo (medical equipment, medicine vaccine, and office supply) 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 urgently requires **US\$93 million** to sustain operations as planned through April.
- WFP is currently facing a net funding shortfall of **US\$795 million** to sustain operations over the next six months (March-August 2023).
- WFP's needs are reflected in [Afghanistan's 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan](#).

1. All distribution figures for March are unreconciled and subject to change.

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