



Beneficiaries at a WFP distribution site picking up their monthly ration. ©WFP/Hasib Hazinyar

# WFP Afghanistan Situation Report

December 2023

## In Numbers

**15.8 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.

**23.7 million people** – require humanitarian assistance in 2024.

## Highlights

- WFP has reached **nearly 19 million people** in 2023 with emergency food and cash assistance, nutrition support, school meals, and livelihood activities.
- WFP concluded its emergency response in five earthquake-affected districts of Herat province, reaching **nearly 105,000 people** with food and cash-based transfer.
- WFP concluded the dispatch of **67,000 mt of food commodities** for winter repositioning in areas like to become inaccessible during the winter season. Half of these has already been distributed to the communities.

## Situation Update

- **Three months on from the series of earthquakes and aftershocks that hit Herat province, communities and populations affected by the disaster continue to live in precarious makeshift tents.** A [mild](#) earthquake was reported on 28 December in Herat province, further exacerbating their already unstable situation. Many of those displaced are facing health issues, including trauma and mental disorders, with heightened vulnerabilities for mothers and children amid the harsh winter season.
- **Since September 2023**, nearly [500,000](#) refugees have returned to Afghanistan through the Torkham and Spin Boldak borders, following the Government of Pakistan's directive on the repatriation of undocumented refugees and immigrants. The influx has worsened the humanitarian crisis, particularly with winter temperatures dropping to  $-4^{\circ}\text{C}$  in certain areas. As a result, vulnerable returnees including women and children, face life-threatening winter without proper shelter.
- **Afghanistan faces severe crises, as indicated by the recent [Integrated Food Security Phase Classification](#) (IPC) report.** The number of people in crisis (IPC 3) and emergency (IPC 4) has increased to 15.8 (36 percent of the population) from 13.1 million. In response, WFP scaled up its assistance efforts to reach 6.5 million people this winter.

## WFP Response

- **Herat Earthquakes:** By the end of December, WFP completed its earthquake response operation, in five earthquake-affected districts of Herat. WFP has reached 104,965 people through the provision of food, cash, and voucher distribution.
- In total, WFP distributed 1,137.5 mt of in-kind food and 118.1 million AFN (US\$1.6 million equivalent) through commodity vouchers and mobile shop transfers over two months. Beneficiaries for this response were selected based on door-to-door verifications conducted by a third-party monitoring team.
- **Afghan Returnees:** Since the start of the support to Afghan refugees from Pakistan, WFP has reached 302,456 individuals with food (fortified biscuits, specialised nutritious food), multi-purpose cash, and food assistance for assets (cash for food and nutrition). Due to a significant decrease in the number of arrivals of returnees, WFP and IOM have reduced their presence at the borders.
- **Operations in Ghor:** WFP complaints and feedback mechanism (CFM) and Third-Party Monitor (TPM) process monitoring reports were reviewed and did not find de facto authorities' involvement in the reselling of food commodities. In early 2023, [operations](#) in Ghor province were suspended due to reports of DfA interference in the redistribution of aid.

## Emergency Food and Nutrition Assistance

In December, WFP reached **7.4 million** people with emergency food, cash, and nutrition support.

### General Food Assistance

- WFP worked around the clock to mobilize and transport food to remote regions which are expected to become inaccessible this winter. WFP has completed its winter prepositioning dispatches, with more than 50 percent of the commodities also distributed.

### Nutrition

- WFP provided specialized nutritious foods for the prevention of moderate acute malnutrition to more than **1 million** pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBW) and children aged 6-59 months. Additionally, WFP provided acute malnutrition treatment services to more than **671,000** 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 December, WFP provided fortified biscuits or Bread+ to more than **615,823** primary school students. Cash-based transfers for secondary-level schoolgirls remain on hold, while secondary schools are closed across the country.
- WFP concluded school feeding support in six cold climate provinces this month – Ghor, Paktika, Jawzjan, Nuristan, Zabul and Uruzgan). Distribution will resume in April 2024.

## Resilience and Food Systems > |

- In December, WFP reached **200,711** people through food assistance for asset creation schemes, and **30,625** people through food assistance for training schemes in 25 provinces.

## Supply Chain and Logistics

- In December, WFP dispatched **22,763 mt** of mixed food commodities across Afghanistan, reaching 79

percent of its target for the month. About **48,720 mt** of food is available at WFP warehouses in-country, while **28,855 mt** of food is in transit or within WFP warehouses outside the country.

- WFP has dispatched **100 percent** of mixed food commodities for winter prepositioning, **68,606 mt** - across 219 districts to support 3 million beneficiaries, prioritizing destinations that will become inaccessible due to snowfall in the winter months.

## UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

- UNHAS has operated **3,668 flights** from January to December and UNHAS carried **45.1 mt** of light humanitarian cargo (medical equipment, vaccines and office
- In 2023, UNHAS operated a total of **3,668 flights** (4,050 hours) and transported **22,909 passengers** (16,158 on domestic and 6,751 on international flights). These flights spanned across 25 locations, comprising 21 domestic and 4 international destinations.
- In addition to its regular services, UNHAS also undertook **MEDEVAC** operations, during which it transported **12 patients** through both scheduled and charter flights.
- Finally, UNHAS transported **45 mt** of light humanitarian cargo, consisting of medical equipment, medicines, vaccines, and other essential operational supplies such as office supplies, batteries, and IT equipment, all of which were crucial for the humanitarian community.
- Weekly flight schedules and route maps can be found on the [Humanitarian Booking Hub](#).

## Resourcing Update

- In 2024, WFP requires **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\$670 million** to sustain operations over the next six months (January – June 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 2024 Humanitarian Response Plan](#).

*\*Distribution figures for December are subject to change following validation.*

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