



# WFP Afghanistan Situation Report

September 2023

## In Numbers

**15.3 million** people are projected to be acutely food-insecure between May and October 2023, including 2.8 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

## Highlights

- **WFP has reached 16.8 million people** since the beginning of 2023.
- **WFP has been forced to cut 10 million Afghans this year** while millions of lives are still at risk. Continued humanitarian support is needed to keep already very worrying malnutrition rates and hunger levels from further increasing.
- **WFP continued to assist the Lal district of Ghor province** through a phased resumption of operations and movement.

## Situation Update

- **The economy is unable to support a significant percentage of the population.** Persistent drought has limited foreign investment, and the loss of international budgetary support has driven the economy downwards. Casual labour opportunities have picked up in some areas, but successive bans on employment have removed the vital contribution which women once made to household income. Overall, it is clear that current economic conditions cannot sustain the majority of Afghan families.
- **Acute hunger remains persistently high.** Today, more than 15 million Afghans (35 percent of the population) live in a state of acute hunger, as per the Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) Phase 3+ (crisis), while 2.8 million experience critical Emergency levels of hunger (IPC Phase 4). A marginally better harvest and lower prices might lead to lower food insecurity numbers in the forthcoming forecast period (October 2023 – March 2024). However, the fact remains that between 30 percent and 50 percent of Afghan households currently cannot afford adequate nutritious food.
- **WFP has been forced to cut 10 million Afghans from assistance this year** while millions of lives remain at risk and continued humanitarian support is needed to keep already very worrying malnutrition and hunger rates from further increasing. As of September, WFP's programme reached 3 million people with emergency food assistance - just 23 percent of those experiencing acute hunger. With the latest round of cuts, 1.4 million new and expecting mothers, toddlers and preschool children are no longer receiving specialized nutritious food designed to prevent malnutrition.

- **Millions of Afghans can only manage with urgent food assistance through the upcoming winter and beyond.** Pre-positioning and delivering in-kind food assistance to IPC Phases 3 and 4 populations that might be cut off by winter weather is a top priority. The emergence of famine conditions (IPC Phase 5 – Catastrophe) is possible if timely and sufficient assistance is not provided. Urgent funding of US\$400 million is needed to help the most vulnerable 7 million people survive Winter. These include widows, women-led households, children, and people with disabilities.

## WFP Response

- **WFP continued to assist the Lal district of Ghor province through a phased resumption of operations and movement**, in line with UN engagement with the de facto authorities at the national and provincial levels. Earlier this year, activities were suspended in Ghor due to reports of redistribution of aid. WFP held Key Informant Interviews with community leaders from various locations in Shahrak and Focus Group Discussions with male and female beneficiaries. Findings confirmed that most of the "redistribution" was voluntary. WFP will conduct an After-Action Review in Ghor before starting the distribution of the October plan covering all 11 districts.
- **WFP concluded district-level post-IPC rapid vulnerability assessments nationwide.** Seasonal Food Security Assessment (SFSA) data collection started on 25 September in all provinces of Afghanistan, from 80 communities in rural and urban domains. The results will be the main basis for the Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) analysis. The IPC results should be available in November.

## Food and Nutrition Assistance

In September, WFP reached nearly **4.5 million** people with emergency food, cash, nutrition, and livelihood support. Of this, 4.8 million people received **26,669 mt** in-kind assistance across various programmes, while nearly 1 million people received cash-based transfers worth **US\$5.8 million**.

### General Food Assistance

- In September, WFP scaled down the general food assistance due to funding constraints, as well as to save food commodities to be used during the lean winter period. WFP aims to scale up assistance to 6.3 million people during the winter, resources permitting. WFP reached **2.2 million** people in September with food assistance, **915,000** people receiving cash-based transfers.
- In September, the scale-down significantly reduced WFP's ability to implement innovative solutions as the pilot of the digital payment system 'HesabPay' reduced its caseload by 50 percent.

### Nutrition

- WFP provided specialized nutritious foods for the prevention of moderate acute malnutrition to more than **486,000** children (aged 6-59 months), and pregnant and breastfeeding women (PBW). Additionally, WFP provided malnutrition treatment services to more than **685,000** PBWs and children.
- WFP continues to support more than **285** mobile health and nutrition teams across Afghanistan as it awaits further guidance on their transition to fixed health clinics as mandated by facto authorities.

### School Feeding

- In September, WFP provided fortified biscuits or Bread+ to more than **263,000** primary school students.
- Cash-based transfers for secondary-level schoolgirls remain on hold, while schools are closed to secondary-level girls across the country.

### Resilience and Food Systems

- The 2023-2024 resilience and food systems implementation cycle began in early August, with 28 project field-level agreements being signed. This programme aims to support approximately 567,391 individuals between August 2023 and December 2024.



## Supply Chain and Logistics

- In September, WFP dispatched **25,400 mt** of food across Afghanistan, representing approximately 96 percent of its monthly target. Only **49,800 mt** of food

remains available in the country at WFP warehouses, while **29,180 mt** of food is in transit or within WFP warehouses outside the country.

- WFP plans to preposition 65,000 mt of mixed food commodities across 219 districts to support 3 million beneficiaries. So far, WFP has dispatched 10,112 mt of food commodities for winter prepositioning which has become a race against time due to late funding and depletion of critical stocks since April. The first snow in Afghanistan already began falling in seven districts in Badakshan province on 30 September. WFP is working around the clock within the short window to mobilize and transport food to remote regions which are expected to become inaccessible during winter. The current closure of the Salang Pass on the important North-South corridor, adds to the challenges. With current available resources, besides the winter prepositioning, WFP will only be able to sustain general food assistance until the end of the year.
- WFP supported four UN agencies in four areas of operations with storage space and power provision.



## UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

- UNHAS currently operates flights to **24** destinations (20 domestic and 4 airbridges connecting Kabul to Islamabad, Dushanbe, Doha and Dubai (DWC)).
- UNHAS has operated **2,724** flights from January to September 2023 and transported **16,638** passengers (11,221 on Domestic and 5,417 on International Flights). UNHAS carried **34.39 mt** of humanitarian light cargo (medical equipment, vaccines, and office supplies). It also transported six patients as MEDEVAC in September.
- Weekly flight schedules and route maps can be found on the [Humanitarian Booking Hub](#).

## Resourcing Update

- In 2023, WFP required **USD 2.2 billion** to deliver emergency food, nutrition, and livelihood support to those in need.
- WFP currently faces a net funding shortfall of US\$1.025 billion to sustain operations over the next six months (October 2023 – March 2024). This includes funding needed to preposition food for the 2023/24 winter season, especially in areas that will become completely cut off once snow and ice make roads impassable.
- WFP's needs are reflected in [Afghanistan's 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan](#).

### Contact Us:

#### OIM and Reports Officer:

Afaf Shashaa: [afaf.shashaa@wfp.org](mailto:afaf.shashaa@wfp.org)

#### WFP Country Director:

Hsiao-Wei Lee: [hsiaowei.lee@wfp.org](mailto:hsiaowei.lee@wfp.org)