



World Food Programme

WFP Afghanistan Situation Report

22 December 2022

WFP Representative and Country Director, Ms. Mary-Ellen McGroarty, completed her assignment in Afghanistan after two years of dedicated leadership. © WFP Afghanistan

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

- **More than 22.6 million people in Afghanistan** received WFP's emergency food, nutrition, and livelihood support thus far in **2022**. In December, WFP has so far assisted more than 3.5 million people, with ongoing distributions.
- WFP Afghanistan **bids farewell to its Representative and Country Director, Mary-Ellen McGroarty**. The Country Office thanks Mel for her tremendous leadership over the past two years and wishes her all the best on her next assignment.
- **In 2023, WFP requires US\$2.2 billion to deliver emergency food, nutrition, and livelihood support to people in need**. WFP has the operational capacity to scale up its operations if additional resources become available.

Situation Update

- **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 2023.²
- **Afghanistan continues to face the highest prevalence of insufficient food consumption globally**. Results from WFP's October [Food Security Update](#) show that nine in ten households consumed insufficient food, with little change over the past 12 months. On average, **90 percent** of household income is spent on food, while 50 percent of households rely on coping strategies to meet their basic food needs.
- **Female-headed households are disproportionately affected**, as **84 percent** are unable to consume sufficient food amid restrictions. Women are twice as likely to sacrifice their meals so that their families can eat, compared to male-headed households.
- **Household debt has increased six-fold since 2019**, and by **44 percent** among urban households since 2021, as households struggle to meet their basic needs amidst the economic crisis.
- **The current food crisis is perpetuated by a concurrent climate crisis**, as 30 out of 34 provinces in Afghanistan report 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 December, WFP has so far assisted more than 3.5 million people in Afghanistan** with emergency food, nutrition, and livelihood support. Distributions are ongoing.
- **To date, WFP has prepositioned more than 98,500 mt of food** in hard-to-reach areas ahead of the winter season. WFP aims to preposition 100,000 mt by the end of December to feed 1.5 million people for five months.
- **School Feeding activities in cold climate provinces** are on winter break, but continue in Kandahar, Farah, and Nangarhar. Cash-based transfers to secondary school girls are ongoing in Balkh, Jawzjan, and Sar-e-Pul until the end of December.
- **In 2023, WFP aims to expand its use of Cash-Based Transfers** across Afghanistan, particularly in urban areas where markets are functioning well. In November, cash accounted for 28 percent of WFP's total assistance provided in Afghanistan.



Food and Nutrition Assistance

- **General Food Assistance:** In December, WFP has so far assisted more than **3.3 million** people with emergency food and nutrition support, including **2.8 million** people with in-kind food assistance, **160,000** people with direct cash or value vouchers, and more than **114,000** people with commodity vouchers.

1. Cumulative figures for cash-based transfers are based on unreconciled data and are subject to changes.

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

- **Nutrition:** In December, WFP has so far provided specialized nutritious foods for the prevention of malnutrition to **155,000** pregnant and lactating women (PLW) and children aged 6-59 months, as well as treatment services to **145,000** women and children suffering from existing cases of malnutrition. WFP supports more than 1,770 health centers and 427 mobile health and nutrition teams (MHNTs) across the country to ensure continued and equitable access to nutrition assistance in hard-to-reach areas.
- **School feeding:** In November, WFP provided nutritious mid-day snacks to more than **146,580** primary school students. WFP also provided cash incentives to more than **18,415** secondary school girls in three provinces (Balkh, Jawzjan, Sar-e-Pul) where they are permitted to attend school. WFP continues to support the World Health Organization (WHO) in the delivery of its deworming initiative; so far, more than 7 million children have been assisted.
- **Asset creation and livelihoods:** In December, WFP assisted more than **59,000** people through food assistance for assets (FFA) programming and more than **8,652** people through food assistance for training (FFT) activities.
- In December, WFP held a five-day Seasonal Livelihood Programming (SLP) workshop in Balkh Province with facilitation from Kabul and Nangarhar University professors. More than 50 people attended the workshop.



Supply Chain and Logistics

- In December, WFP dispatched **32,205 mt** of mixed food commodities, representing 51 percent of its target.

- The first 18,000 mt tranche of Ukrainian wheat is expected to arrive in Karachi, Pakistan on 23 December for onward delivery to Afghanistan, while the remaining 12,000 mt of wheat will be delivered overland. Another 18,000 mt tranche is expected to depart from Türkiye on 19 January, while a further 24,000 mt will be delivered overland.
- **WFP has transported 45,000 mt of fertilizers to the implementing partners of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** across Afghanistan as part of its service level agreement for transport and warehouse management. WFP also continues to support WHO in delivering its de-worming initiative.



UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

- UNHAS has conducted **4,172** flights in 2022 so far, transporting **27,169** passengers (19,100 on domestic and **8,069** on international flights), including transportation of 10 medevac patients and **56 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\$958.88 million** to sustain operations over the next six months (January - June 2023).

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