

WFP Afghanistan

Situation Report

21 February 2023



WFP cash assistance to the vulnerable families 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 the age of five

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

Highlights

- **In 2023, WFP plans to reach 16.8 million people** with emergency food, nutrition, and livelihood support through the distribution of more than 1 million MT of food and USD 268 million in cash-based transfers.
- **The latest IPC Acute Malnutrition Analysis for Afghanistan** shows that 4 million women and children are acutely malnourished through April 2023.
- **WFP is facing a funding shortfall of US\$763 million** to sustain its operations in the next six months.

Situation Update

- In a severe blow to humanitarian operations, **the de facto authorities banned Afghan women from working for non-governmental organizations (NGOs)**, in a [decree](#) issued on 24 December 2022.
- **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.
- **Four million** pregnant and lactating women (PLW) and children under five (6-59 months) are currently suffering from acute malnutrition, according to the [latest IPC acute malnutrition analysis](#). This includes 3.2 million children, of which 875,227 are suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM), and 2.3 million are suffering from moderate acute malnutrition (MAM). More than 804,000 PLW are acutely malnourished.
- Two provinces – Badakhshan and Paktika – are classified in [IPC Acute Malnutrition](#) Phase 4 (Critical), while 23 other provinces are classified in IPC Acute Malnutrition Phase 3 (Serious).
- **The current food crisis is exacerbated by the climate crisis**, as 30 out of 34 provinces in Afghanistan reported extremely low water quality.

WFP Response

- **WFP and its partners are negotiating with de facto authorities at national, provincial and local levels** to enable female beneficiaries and NGO staff to continue to safely access humanitarian distributions. WFP is part of the monitoring mechanism for the Inter-Agency Standing Committee operating criteria.
- **Thus far in February, WFP reached more than 3 million people with emergency food and nutrition assistance.** Distributions in January experienced some interruptions while WFP and partners negotiated access for female NGO workers, and as a result of heavy snow and ice.
- **In 2023, WFP plans to provide specialized nutritious food for the treatment of acute malnutrition to 1.8 million children and 800,000 PLW**, under its targeted supplementary feeding programme (TSFP), while supporting 2.3 million women and children in hunger hotspots across the country with preventative rations under its blanket supplementary feeding programme (BSFP).
- **Humanitarian activities remain suspended in Ghor province**, as negotiations for adherence to operational principles continue with de facto authorities. Prior to the suspension, more than 321,000 people received food prepositioned by WFP in December; 88,000 people are currently impacted.
- **WFP is partnering with UNHCR on refugee beneficiary verification** and on extending the Letter of Agreement with IOM in 2023 on the matter of returnees.



Food and Nutrition Assistance

- **General Food Assistance:** Thus far in February, WFP has assisted **3 million** people with emergency food and cash assistance. More than 1.9 million people have received in-kind food baskets, 572,684 have received cash or value vouchers, and 101,353 people have received assistance via commodity vouchers.
- **Nutrition:** So far in February, WFP has provided specialized nutritious foods for the prevention of malnutrition to 110,968 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) and children aged 6-59 months. and 178,241 women and children for existing cases of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM). De facto authorities granted an exemption to the ban on female NGO staff for work within the health sector. This has allowed female staff of cooperating partners and third-party monitoring to continue implementing nutrition activities across the country.
- WFP supports more than 1,770 health centers and 415 mobile health and nutrition teams in hard-to-reach areas. One WFP partner implementing nutrition programmes has continued to suspend its operations, impacting assistance to 11,250 children and pregnant and lactating women.
- **School feeding:** During the reporting period, WFP distributed 193 mt High Energy Biscuits (HEB) to **319,762** boys and girls and 80 mt of wheat soya flour (under Bread+ modality) to **52,550** primary school students, including 2,080 girls who also received 9.4 mt of fortified vegetable oil. The programme is running normally in five warm-climate provinces (Kandahar, Helmand, Farah, Jawzjan, and Nangahar).
- **Asset creation and livelihoods:** Thus far in February, WFP has assisted **1,631** people through food assistance for assets (FFA) programming.
- Food assistance for training (FFT) projects are starting to resume in Zabul and Baghlan provinces. In 2022, WFP supported **85,000** people with cash-based assistance for participation in FFT projects.



Supply Chain and Logistics

- WFP Afghanistan has received 15,000 mt of Ukrainian wheat, from the first 18,000 mt tranche. The remainder of the shipment is being transported via Pakistan.
- WFP is boosting the warehouse capacity for other UN agencies through bilateral service provision agreements.
- Winter weather conditions, primarily icy roads, have slowed down food deliveries, particularly intermittent closures of the Salang Pass transportation route.
- WFP continues negotiations with the railway authorities of Uzbekistan and Afghanistan to unblock transport from Termez to Hairatan.



UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

- During the reporting period, UNHAS operated **364 flights** and transported **1,968 passengers** (1,123 on domestic and 845 on international flights) and **6 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\$763 million** to sustain operations over the next six months (February-July 2023).
- WFP's needs are reflected in [Afghanistan's 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan](#).

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