Situation Update

- **Results** from the latest Food Security Update for Afghanistan (February data) show a continued decline in the food and nutrition status of respondents, indicating a deepening food security crisis.
- 95 percent of the population continues to face inadequate food consumption, as household income levels and opportunities continued to decline. More than 85 percent of households previously earning income reported no income earned at all during the month of February.
- The number of people employing crisis coping strategies to survive increased from 66 percent in January to 71 percent in February.
- Households hosting people with disabilities are disproportionately affected, as 85 percent resort to crisis coping strategies to meet their food needs.
- Almost 100 percent of female-headed households surveyed are facing insufficient food consumption. Female-headed households are more likely to employ crisis coping strategies compared to male-headed households.
- Results of the ongoing Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) assessment are expected in early April. Currently, 23 million people are acutely food insecure (IPC 3 and 4).

WFP Response

- WFP reached more than 13 million people in March with food, nutrition, and resilience support, including 12.8 million people with emergency food and nutrition assistance.
- Operations resumed in Kabul city on 04 April after a two-week suspension due to safety concerns.
- In March, WFP completed a vocational skills training (VST) project in Nangarhar province, supporting 200 participants. A total of 150 women and 50 men were trained in embroidery and business management. WFP supports more than 70,000 people through VST projects across 17 provinces.
- Ripple effects from the crisis in Ukraine continue to impact WFP operations in Afghanistan. Local transportation fees have increased by 10 percent since March due to the global increase in food prices.
- WFP’s fleet will grow by 45 trucks this week, bringing its total capacity to 239 trucks. The new trucks will be essential to strengthen transport capacity and decongest the Hairatan border crossing point. WFP is also boosting mobile storage capacity to facilitate the movement of goods.

In Numbers

**22.8 million** people – half of the population – are projected to be acutely food insecure in 2022, including 8.7 million at risk of famine-like conditions.

**4.7 million** children, pregnant and lactating women at risk of acute malnutrition in 2022.

**All 34 provinces** are facing crisis or emergency levels of acute food insecurity.

**Highlights**

- WFP reached **2.5 million** people during the first week of April. WFP plans to reach 18 million people this month and 23 million people in 2022.
- Operations have resumed in Kabul city after a two-week suspension (20 March-04 April) due to safety concerns.
- Congestion at the Hairatan border continues to impact the flow of goods across Afghanistan. WFP is working to increase storage and transport capacity to decongest the border and facilitate the movement of food across the country.

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1. Integrated Food Security Phase Classification Acute Food Insecurity Analysis report, November 2021 to March 2022 Projections
2. Actual beneficiary and MT numbers are as of 07 March, and are subject to change and further overlap adjustments.
Food and Nutrition Assistance

- **General Food Assistance**: WFP has assisted 2.4 million people with emergency food and nutrition support thus far in April. Cumulatively, 301,000 MT of food and USD 49.4 million in cash has been distributed in 2022.
- **Nutrition**: In April, WFP has assisted 194,000 children (aged 6-59 months) and pregnant and lactating women (PLW) with nutritious foods to prevent cases of acute malnutrition, while treating 67,000 malnourished children and women. WFP continues to support 158 Mobile Health and Nutrition Teams (MHNTs) across 24 provinces in Afghanistan to ensure access in hard-to-reach areas.
- **School feeding**: In April, WFP has assisted 26,000 students through school feeding activities so far. In March, WFP distributed more than 402 MT of high energy biscuits and 937 MT of fortified vegetable oil to 473,000 primary school children. More than 226,000 female students have received assistance in 2022. Secondary-level girls remain banned from school in most provinces across Afghanistan, despite continued pressure from the international community. WFP has had to temporarily suspend plans to disburse cash-based transfers to secondary-level girls due to the operational constraints posed by this ban on their attendance.
- **Asset creation and livelihoods**: Thus far in April, WFP has assisted 37,000 people through asset creation and livelihood activities, including 35,000 through food assistance for assets (FFA) and 2,000 through vocational skills training (VST). WFP recently completed a VST project in Nangarhar, benefitting 200 people. WFP assists more than 70,000 people through VST across 17 provinces.

Supply Chain and Logistics

- Between 27 March-03 April, WFP dispatched 18,105 MT of mixed food commodities across the country. During the same period, 14,629 MT of food entered the country, bringing in-country food stocks to a total 92,051 MT. A further 138,878 MT of commodities are expected to arrive in April through local, regional, and international procurement channels.
- During the month of March, WFP dispatched a total of 112,346 MT of mixed food commodities – the largest monthly dispatch recorded in the history of Afghanistan’s operation.
- Commercial transport fees have increased by 10 percent since the start of the Ukraine crisis, largely due to the global increase in fuel prices.

UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

- UNHAS has conducted 879 flights in 2022 so far, transporting 5,740 passengers and 14 MT of essential cargo.
- UNHAS currently offers flights to 20 domestic destinations and two on demand, as well as three airbridges that connect Kabul to Islamabad, Dushanbe and Doha.
- Weekly flight schedules and route maps can be found on the Humanitarian Booking Hub.
- Negotiations with Qatar and Turkey for joint control over the Kabul airport are ongoing.

Resourcing Update

- Food, nutrition and UNHAS requirements were included in the Global Humanitarian Overview and OCHA Flash Appeal for Afghanistan.