

WFP Afghanistan

Situation Report

April 2024



WFP provides high-energy biscuits to children such as Palwasha, under its school feeding programme in Afghanistan ©WFP/Mohammad Hasib Hazinyar

In Numbers

15.8 million people were projected 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 years.

23.7 million people require humanitarian assistance in 2024.

Situation Update

- **Incessant rains in March and April have triggered floods in several districts across Afghanistan** leading to fatalities, infrastructure damage and casualties. Several districts, including Nahrin, Baghlan Markazi and Burka, declared some villages inaccessible for humanitarian teams.
- **The country is plagued by decades of violent conflict, exacerbated by climate hazards.** Half the population lived in poverty even before the takeover in August 2021, and the situation has only worsened since. Women and girls took another step back as new edicts disenfranchised their freedom and denied them access to education and safe spaces outside their homes.
- **The expulsion of Afghans from Pakistan** has meant that more people in the country are now hungry, vulnerable, and ill-equipped to support themselves. An estimated **1.4 million** Afghans from Pakistan and Iran are anticipated to return during 2024.
- **The withdrawal of international development assistance** and budget support caused an economic crisis characterized by high unemployment, cash shortages, and rising food prices, plunging an estimated 97 percent of Afghans into poverty. The economic shock exacerbated structural weaknesses formed by decades of conflict and extreme climate shocks as seen by the floods-induced destruction. At the same time, the operating space for humanitarian assistance is shrinking due to the restrictive measures by the de facto authorities.

Highlights

- Afghanistan was battered by heavy rains and flash floods. WFP diverted its already dwindling resources to support flood-affected communities with food, non-food items and nutrition support.
- While food security has slightly improved, Afghanistan's humanitarian crisis persists. The projected number of severely food insecure people for the next Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis is expected to drop from 15.8 million to 14.2 million by October 2024. WFP can only assist 10 million out of the projected 14.2 million with current resources.

WFP Response

- **Flash floods:** Ahead of the rains and triggered by its early warning system, WFP prepositioned food stocks in Herat and Mazar, enabling a prompt response. WFP is distributing high-energy biscuits as an immediate response, to be followed by food rations once affected households are verified. Assessments of the full extent of the damage are currently ongoing, however, the country lacks the necessary resources to manage a disaster of this scale.
- WFP's resilience programme in Baghlan has been highly effective in safeguarding against the current floods, with a recently constructed flood protection wall protecting 400 hectares of land and 670 families.
- **Afghan Returnees:** As returnees from Pakistan continued to cross the border into Afghanistan, WFP has reached over 319,000 people with assistance since the start of the response in November 2024. Currently, the numbers arriving at the borders are lower than projected (daily arrivals of 100 households). The lowered rates could be attributed to rains and floods that limit movement, as well as changing rules from the Pakistan authorities. WFP is already facing massive funding shortfalls and will require additional funding to respond to the ongoing influx of returnees and the potential increase in food insecurity.

¹ Afghanistan: Acute Food Insecurity Projection for November 2023 – March 2024



Emergency Food and Nutrition Assistance

In April, WFP reached **7 million** people with emergency food, cash, and nutrition support. This included **5.2 million** with in-kind support, while **2.8 million** received cash-based transfers.

General Food Assistance

- **Returnee response:** WFP has been integrating returnees in its regular general food assistance as per the determined vulnerability criteria. During the scale down this summer, returnees may also be assisted through WFP's hotspot response, which typically involves identifying geographical areas where there is an acute need for food assistance due to factors such as natural disasters or conflict. The goal of a hotspot response is to rapidly deploy assistance to areas where it is most urgently needed, helping alleviate hunger among vulnerable communities. More durable solutions such as integration into resilience programmes are being discussed.
- Multiple agencies and clusters, including WFP, are collaborating to provide an integrated response to meet the essential needs of returnees.
- WFP reached **84 percent** of its planned beneficiaries in April. Inaccessibility issues caused by floods and landslides have delayed the completion of planned distribution for the month.
- In April, WFP supported 860 households identified by the Joint Assessment Team for the flood response.

Nutrition

- WFP provided specialized nutritious foods (SNF) for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition to **475,330** children aged 06-59 months and acutely malnourished pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBW/G). For the prevention of acute malnutrition, WFP provided SNF to 1,372,440 children aged 06-59 months and PBW/G.



Maternal and Child Benefits Programme

- Under its maternal and child benefit programme, WFP has initiated beneficiary targeting via cooperating partner assessments, led by female staff. The programme aims to increase the utilization and

quality of essential health and nutrition services, targeting pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls and young children aged 6-23 months in selected districts with high child malnutrition rates.



Supply Chain and Logistics

- WFP dispatched **40,408 mt** of mixed food commodities, reaching 96 percent of its target. About **42,660 mt** of food is available at WFP warehouses in the country, while **27,110 mt** of food is in transit or within WFP warehouses outside the country.



UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

- UNHAS has so far operated **906** flights this year, serving **5,174** passengers from **82** humanitarian organizations across 20 destinations (16 domestic, 4 international).
- UNHAS transported **13 mt** of light humanitarian cargo, which included crucial medical equipment, medicines, vaccines, and other essential operational supplies. One patient was also transported on a medical evacuation mission to Islamabad.
- UNHAS will discontinue flights to and from Doha starting 2 June 2024. The decision was made in March in alignment with operational adjustments. The last flight from Kabul to Doha will depart on 30 May 2024, and from Doha to Kabul on 2 June 2024.

Resourcing Update

- WFP requires US\$1.98 billion in 2024 to deliver emergency food, nutrition and livelihood support to those most in need. WFP faces a funding shortfall of US\$590 million to sustain operations over the next six months (April to September) and calls for urgent funding support to help the most vulnerable 7 million people survive the harsh winter and lean season. This includes US\$111 million required for 2024/2025 winter repositioning.
- WFP's needs are reflected in Afghanistan's 2024 Humanitarian Response Plan.

**Distribution figures for April are subject to change following validation.*

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