

WFP Afghanistan Situation Report

30 April 2023



High Energy Biscuits are stocked at WFP's warehouse in Jalalabad. ©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 Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Phase 4 (Emergency)

4 million people are acutely malnourished, including 3.2 million children under 5

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

Highlights

- **In April, WFP has reached more than 9.2 million people** with emergency food, nutrition, and livelihood assistance. Between January and March, WFP has reached more than 14 million people.
- **In May, WFP will cut emergency assistance to 4 million people for the second month in a row due to severe funding constraints.** Since the beginning of April, a total of 8 million people have been cut from emergency food assistance due to persistent funding shortfalls.
- **Ration sizes remain reduced for IPC 4 households due to funding constraints,** from 75 to 50 percent of the 2,100 kcal daily energy intake.

Situation Update

- **On 4 April 2023, the de facto authorities extended their directive to restrict women from working for the United Nations.** This is the latest reduction in women's rights in the country, following restrictions on females' work for NGOs and access to secondary and tertiary education.
- **WFP, UN and NGO partners are negotiating with de facto authorities** at the national, provincial, and local levels to enable female national and NGO staff to work, and female beneficiaries to continue to safely access humanitarian distributions.
- **Afghanistan is at the highest risk of famine in a quarter of a century,** as nearly 20 million people are acutely food-insecure (IPC3+). More than 6.1 million people are on the brink of famine-like conditions in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency), according to preliminary projections for November 2022 – March 2023.
- **Afghanistan is among the countries with the highest prevalence of insufficient food consumption.** Hunger is primarily driven by the economic crisis that has gripped Afghanistan since August 2021, compounded by decades of conflict, climate shocks, and severe restrictions on the rights of women and girls to work and pursue higher education.
- **Afghanistan is the fourth most at-risk country for humanitarian crises and disasters.** As it enters the third consecutive year of drought, the country is the eighth most vulnerable to **climate change** and the least prepared to adapt.

WFP Response

- **WFP has no intention of withdrawing from Afghanistan.** All activities continue to be implemented in a principled manner, where possible, as the UN establishes a way forward amidst recent de facto authority restrictions on women working for the UN.
- **In April, WFP has reached more than 9.2 million people in Afghanistan;** however, 4 million people did not receive assistance as planned due to a severe funding shortfall of US\$73 million.
- **For the second consecutive month, WFP will be forced to cut emergency assistance to 4 million people,** to reach only 5 million people in May due to a shortfall of US\$211 million. Reduced ration sizes for IPC 4 households remain in place as WFP attempts to reach as many people as possible with limited resources.
- **WFP distributions have resumed in two districts of Ghazni Province,** after a three-month suspension (which affected 93,450 people) due to ongoing negotiations with de facto authorities. Humanitarian activities remain suspended in Ghor Province, as negotiations for adherence to operational principles continue.
- **The sudden closure of 2,000 Community-Based Education centres in Kandahar and Helmand** provinces by de facto authorities have impacted the delivery of school feeding activities to 88,453 students.

Food and Nutrition Assistance

- In April, WFP has so far distributed 43,700 metric tons (mt) of food. More than **1.5 million** people received cash and value vouchers worth **US\$10.7 million**, while **594,000** people were provided with commodity vouchers worth **US\$3.6 million**.

General Food Assistance

- In April, WFP assisted **8.5 million** people with emergency food assistance. More than **5.8 million** people received in-kind food baskets, **1.7 million** people direct cash and value vouchers, and **600,900** people commodity vouchers.
- In May, WFP will target 5 million people with emergency assistance; a reduction of another **4 million** people than originally planned due to persistent funding shortfalls.

Nutrition

- In April, WFP has so far provided specialized nutritious foods to prevent malnutrition to **637,500** pregnant and breastfeeding women and children aged 6-59 months and to treat **410,000** women and children with moderate acute malnutrition.
- In response to a recent de facto authority mandate to transition all mobile health clinics to fixed health facilities, WFP and Nutrition Cluster partners are negotiating with authorities for an exception to this rule for particularly remote areas where fixed health facilities cannot be established.

School Feeding

- In April, WFP provided High Energy Biscuits or Bread+ to more than **421,000** primary school students.
- School feeding activities are on hold in 2,000 Community-Based Education centers that were mandated to close by the de facto Ministry of Education across Kandahar and Helmand provinces.

Asset Creation and Livelihoods

- In April, WFP assisted **220,700 people** through Food Assistance for Assets programming. More than **28,800 people** received assistance through Food Assistance for Training projects.



Supply Chain and Logistics

- During the first three weeks of April, WFP dispatched **50,936 mt** of food across Afghanistan, representing 72 percent of its monthly target. Approximately **117,110 mt** of food is available in the country at WFP warehouses, while **55,280 mt** of food sits in WFP warehouses outside the country.
- Dispatches under Herat Area Office resumed on 16 April after a two-week suspension following the restrictions placed on UN female staff.
- WFP Country Offices in Afghanistan and Tajikistan have finalized a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for Corridor Management, worth **US\$1.1 million**. The MoU will enhance cross-border operations and increase the flow of goods between countries.



UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

- UNHAS has conducted **1,107 flights** thus far in 2023. A total of **6,180 passengers** and **14.64 mt** of humanitarian light cargo (medical equipment, medicines, vaccines, and office supplies) have been transported.
- UNHAS currently operates flights to 24 destinations - 20 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\$900 million** to sustain operations over the next six months (May-October 2023).
- **US\$24 million** is urgently needed to sustain UNHAS airbridge operations past June 2023.
- WFP's needs are reflected in [Afghanistan's 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan](#).

**All distribution figures for April are unreconciled and subject to change.*

Contact Us:

OIM and Reports Officer:

Hannah Barry: hannah.barry@wfp.org

WFP Country Director:

Hsiao-Wei Lee: hsiaowei.lee@wfp.org

WFP Afghanistan Situation Report | 30 April 2023

<https://www.wfp.org/countries/afghanistan>

WFP