



World Food Programme

WFP Afghanistan Situation Report

24 May 2023

In Numbers

15.3 million people are projected to be acutely food-insecure between May and October 2023, including 2.8 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

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

Highlights

- **In May, WFP cut 4 million people from its emergency food assistance for the second month in a row due to severe funding constraints.** Since the beginning of April, 8 million people have not received assistance due to persistent funding shortfalls.
- **A severe locust outbreak is affecting at least eight provinces in northern Afghanistan.** If not swiftly contained, up to a quarter of this year's annual harvest could be destroyed.
- **WFP provided emergency assistance to 350 people in Nangarhar,** following flash floods in early May that killed at least 4 people and damaged 300 homes.

Situation Update

- **Sustained humanitarian assistance has effectively reduced the total number of food-insecure people** in Afghanistan, from 20 million during the winter lean season, to 15.3 million projected for May to October 2023. However, millions of lives are still at risk and continued humanitarian support is needed to keep already very worrying malnutrition and hunger rates from further increasing.
- **A 30-35 percent wheat deficit is expected for 2023** following the third consecutive drought year in Afghanistan. While forecasts suggest an overall improvement in wheat production from previous years, western provinces are likely to see below-average harvests.
- **A severe locust outbreak in northern Afghanistan threatens to destroy a quarter of this year's wheat harvest** – up to 1.2 million metric tons (mt), worth US\$480 million. Large-scale locust control operations are underway to reduce the impact and mitigate the risks of a potentially more devastating outbreak in 2024.
- **Afghanistan is among the countries with the highest prevalence of insufficient food consumption globally.** 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.

WFP Response

- **WFP has provided emergency food assistance to 350 people in Nangarhar** affected by flash floods following heavy rain on 5 May 2023. At least 4 people were killed and 300+ homes were damaged.
- **WFP is preparing to respond to increased food needs as a result of the ongoing locust outbreak.** At least 800,000 people are likely to be affected, while an additional 400,000 people may require assistance over the summer period. Impact assessments are ongoing.
- **Humanitarian activities remain suspended in Ghor Province,** as negotiations with de facto authorities continue.
- **Most national WFP staff continue to work remotely,** except those deemed critical, following the UN Country Team's review of alternative working modalities on 4 May. The UN continues to negotiate with de facto authorities for women to resume their duties from UN offices.
- **Despite mounting challenges, WFP remains committed to staying and delivering in Afghanistan.** Restrictions on women's employment present a grave risk to humanitarian operations, however efforts to continue delivering are jeopardized by lack of funding. Since April 8 million people have stopped receiving assistance due to persistent funding constraints. Half rations are being distributed as WFP attempts to reach as many people as possible with limited resources.

Food and Nutrition Assistance

- In April, WFP distributed approximately 2,670 mt of food. Approximately **915,000** people received assistance.

General Food Assistance

- In May, WFP has so far assisted **373,500** people with emergency in-kind food assistance. Cash and commodity voucher distributions have not yet commenced.
- In May, WFP is targeting 5 million people with emergency assistance; **4 million** fewer people than originally planned due to persistent funding shortfalls.

Nutrition

- In April, WFP provided specialized nutritious foods to prevent malnutrition to **7,500** pregnant and breastfeeding women and children aged 6-59 months and to treat **128,000** women and children with moderate acute malnutrition.
- The de facto authorities require all mobile health clinics to become fixed health facilities. WFP and Nutrition Cluster partners have negotiated an extension to the transition period until the end of May 2023.

School Feeding

- In May, WFP has provided High Energy Biscuits or Bread+ to more than **546,000** primary school students.
- 2,000 Community-Based Education (CBE) centres were closed by the de facto Ministry of Education across Helmand and Kandahar provinces.

Asset Creation and Livelihoods

- In May, WFP has reached more than **3,000** people so far through food assistance for assets programming. Nearly **4,000** participants will be engaged in food assistance for training projects.
- WFP provided improved wheat seed varieties and technical training sessions to 340 smallholder farmers in Kandahar. Additionally, WFP supported the construction of ovens for 340 women. Families were also connected to local markets to sell their baked goods, providing them with a sustainable source of household income.



Supply Chain and Logistics

- In May, WFP has so far dispatched **26,221 mt** of food across Afghanistan; **85,000 mt** of food is available in the country at WFP warehouses, while **129,980 mt** of food is in-transit or in WFP warehouses outside the country.
- Border points between Afghanistan and Pakistan remain open with no restrictions on truck movements reported.



UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

- UNHAS has conducted **1,282 flights** thus far in 2023. A total of **7,186 passengers** and **17.5 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\$918 million** to sustain operations over the next six months (June-November 2023), including an urgent **US\$24 million** to sustain UNHAS airbridge operations past June 2023.
- A further **US\$111 million** is required by June 2023 to preposition **109,000 mt** by November 2023 to cover emergency food and nutrition needs for **2.96 million people** over **4 winter months**.
- WFP's needs are reflected in [Afghanistan's 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan](#).

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

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