



World Food  
Programme

# WFP Afghanistan

## Situation Report

August 2024

### In Numbers

**12.4 million** people are projected to be acutely food-insecure between May and October 2024, including 2.4 million people in Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Phase 4 (emergency).

**3.9 million** people are acutely malnourished, including 2.8 million children under the age of 5.

**23.7 million people** require humanitarian assistance in 2024.

### Highlights

The de-facto authorities (DFA) ratified the “Law on the Promotion of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice” in August with 35 articles imposing severe restrictions on personal conduct and freedoms. The rules range from i) requiring women to cover their faces and bodies and be accompanied by a male guardian outside the home; ii) banning music; and iii) requiring men to grow beards. The law gives the DFA with wide-ranging powers of enforcement. The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan raised concerns over the new law and sought clarification from the DFA on several articles and plans for enforcement. So far, WFP has not experienced any impact on its operations but continues to monitor the situation.

### Situation Update

- With the unprecedented levels of humanitarian assistance, widespread catastrophe has been narrowly averted in Afghanistan. While marginal improvement in food security is continuously observed, [12.4 million people](#) still experience high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above). Poverty impacts one out of every two Afghans. Difficulties in agriculture brought on by the irregular onset of El Niño and the lingering effects of the drought remain and are coupled with widespread economic fragility and new shocks including flash floods, heavy rainfall, and earthquakes. The political situation remains unstable, with the DFA doubling down on efforts to curtail the rights of women, making it increasingly challenging to mobilize resources and support from the international community for the humanitarian and development needs of vulnerable Afghans.
- **Heavy armed clashes at Torkham Crossing Point:** Following three days of negotiations, Afghan and Pakistani authorities have successfully reached an agreement to reopen the Torkham Crossing Point. As of 15 August, normal traffic has resumed at the Torkham Crossing, facilitating the movement of both pedestrians and trucks, with normal customs clearance processes operating on both sides. However, only trucks with valid Temporary Admission Document (TAD) documents are allowed to carry goods from both directions in Torkham and Spin Boldak borders.

### WFP Response

- **Early Warning and Hotspot Response:** Due to severe funding shortfalls, WFP has had to scale down its emergency food assistance over the summer post-harvest period, able to assist only up to 1.2 million people each month until October 2024. In response, WFP launched an Early Warning and Famine Prevention initiative to identify pockets of food insecurity at the sub-district level throughout the country and assist the most vulnerable communities through the emergency Hotspot Response activity for three months. The Early Warning analysis is conducted monthly and subsequent rapid field assessments are carried out to verify the results.
- **Flood response:** Heavy rainfall and flash floods affected households in the Southeastern region – Jalalabad, Paktiya, Paktika, Ghazni, Wardak, Panjshir, Kabul, and Zabul provinces. WFP has provided emergency food assistance to approximately 2,500 crisis-affected people.
- To date, WFP has provided food assistance to over **185,000** individuals affected by shocks in 2024. Of these, 53 percent have been affected by floods, 33 percent by heavy rainfalls, and 14 percent by heavy snowfalls.
- **Afghan Returnees:** Daily rates of returnees in August remain at around 20 households per day at each border crossing point with Pakistan. WFP continues to provide cash assistance, high-energy biscuits, and specialized nutritious food (SNF) to

returnees at the Torkham and Spin Boldak crossings. Since the start of the response, WFP has reached over **370,000** beneficiaries including nearly 10,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women and children under five.

- At the border, WFP provides high-energy biscuits, cash (approximately US\$90), and malnutrition treatment to address the immediate needs of returnees. In areas of return, WFP is currently integrating returnees into ongoing resilience activities. Depending on funding availability, WFP aims to extend these efforts into more durable solutions, offering sustainable livelihood opportunities and promoting social cohesion with host communities in the long term.

## Emergency Food and Nutrition Assistance

In August, WFP reached **1.5 million** people with emergency food, cash, and nutrition support. This included **1.2 million** under the hotspot response, while **24,800** were reached through WFP's contingency response.

### General Food Assistance

- From May to October, WFP will only be able to support approximately **1.2 million** people monthly, leaving a gap of more than 11 million people in need of food assistance who cannot be assisted due to lack of funding.

### Nutrition

- WFP provided SNF for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition to **510,000** children aged 6-59 months and acutely malnourished pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBW/G). For the prevention of acute malnutrition, WFP provided SNF to **306,000** children aged 6-59 months and PBW/G.

### School Feeding

- WFP resumed providing school meals as schools reopened in warm climate areas. WFP distributed nutritious snacks such as fortified biscuits, Bread+, and samosas as well as vegetable oil as a take-home ration to approximately **600,000** primary school children across seven provinces.

*\*Distribution figures for August are subject to change following validation.*

## Maternal and Child Benefit Programme

- With the support of the World Bank, WFP started the Maternal and Child Benefit Programme (MCBP) and initiated assistance in the Zaranj district, providing awareness sessions and CBT transfers to more than 8,000 pregnant women and women with children. Distributions are slated to begin in two other districts in early September. Meanwhile, WFP is negotiating with the DFA to begin community outreach and distributions in four other districts. WFP has assessed more than 50,000 women under the project, with 98 percent found eligible so far. The programme is expected to include seven districts reaching over 72,000 beneficiaries when fully implemented.

## Supply Chain and Logistics

- WFP dispatched **12,624 mt** of mixed food commodities, reaching 96 percent of its target. About **77,218 mt** of food is available at WFP warehouses in the country, while **13,539 mt** of food is in transit or within WFP warehouses outside the country.
- On 12 August, clashes between Afghan and Pakistan forces at the Torkham border led to its closure, causing significant disruptions to WFP operations. Two WFP-contracted trucks loaded with wheat grains and over 60 trucks carrying SNF products were stranded on the Pakistani side. While a ceasefire has been reached and the border has reopened, the situation remains volatile.

## UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

- UNHAS has operated **2,037** flights so far this year, serving **12,745** passengers from 101 humanitarian organizations across 28 destinations (24 domestic and 4 international).
- UNHAS transported **28.6 mt** of light humanitarian cargo, which included medical equipment, medicines, vaccines, and other essential operational supplies.
- Medical and Repatriation Services: WFP facilitated four medical evacuations and two repatriation of mortal remains.

## Resourcing Update

- WFP requires US\$1.6 billion in 2024 to deliver emergency food, nutrition and livelihood support to those most in need in Afghanistan. WFP faces a funding shortfall of **US\$677 million** to sustain operations over the next six months (September 2024 to February 2025).

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