



WFP provides nutrition support in some 2,700 clinics across Afghanistan for children and pregnant and breastfeeding mothers with moderate acute malnutrition. ©WFP/Mohammad Hasib Hazinyar

WFP Afghanistan

Situation Report

March 2024

In Numbers

15.8 million people are projected to be 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.

23.7 million people require humanitarian assistance in 2024.

Highlights

- Heavy rains continued in March, inundating several provinces and devastating communities. WFP activated its contingency plan and is distributing high-energy biscuits to affected households as part of its immediate response. This will be followed by food rations which will commence once affected households are verified.
- WFP has supported over 660,000 Afghan returnees pouring through the borders with Pakistan and in areas of return since the influx began in November. A further surge in Afghan returnees is highly likely as a new phase of ‘repatriation plan’ from Pakistan is imminent.

Situation Update

- **Afghanistan’s economy remains fragile and food insecurity is alarmingly high.** One in three people (36 percent of the population or 15.8 million people) face acute [food insecurity](#) in the first quarter of 2024.
- **The country is plagued by decades of violent conflict, exacerbated by climate hazards.** Half of 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.
- **Heavy rainfall affected northern, central, and eastern Afghanistan,** causing [flash floods](#) that resulted in casualties and damage to properties in at least ten provinces, with Faryab, Nangarhar, and Daikundi being the worst affected. Early assessments reported that over 1,500 acres of agricultural land, infrastructure in seven provinces, and 450 km of road are either destroyed or severely damaged.
- **Since September 2023, over 531,000 undocumented Afghans have returned from Pakistan.** In early October, the Government of Pakistan endorsed a plan to repatriate over a million foreigners without legal documentation; the majority of which were Afghans. The influx of returnees

peaked from October to November 2023, straining border crossings and increasing humanitarian needs in the country.

- **The number of returnees is expected to spike in April** as Pakistan announced the new phase of its ‘repatriation plan’. This will likely trigger a new wave of voluntary returnees before the 15 April deadline, followed by an expected surge of deportations after the date.
- **The 2024 [Humanitarian Response Plan](#) prioritizes the needs of 23.7 million people,** of which 17.3 million are targeted for assistance. Food assistance remains a top priority.

WFP Response

- **Flash floods:** Ahead of the rains and triggered by its early warning system, WFP prepositioned food stocks in Herat and Mazar, enabling WFP to respond promptly. WFP has an active contingency response and resources in affected locations, distributing high-energy biscuits as an immediate response, to be followed by 100 percent food rations once affected households are verified.
- **Afghan Returnees:** From November 2023 to March 2024, WFP has supported over 313,000 returnees at the borders and another 350,000 returnees in areas of return in the last two months. WFP is working with

¹ [Afghanistan: Acute Food Insecurity Projection for November 2023 – March 2024](#)

the International Organization for Migration to monitor arrivals at the borders and ensure preparedness ahead of the 15 April deadline. WFP has preparedness measures in place in anticipation of a drastically increased influx.

Emergency Food and Nutrition Assistance

In March, 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

- WFP reached **93 percent** of its planned beneficiaries in March, or 6.5 million out of the targeted 6.9 million provided with food or cash.

Nutrition

- WFP provided specialized nutritious foods (SNF) for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition to **253,600** children aged 06-59 months and **277,600** acutely malnourished pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBW/G). For the prevention of acute malnutrition, WFP provided SNF to **671,500** children aged 06-59 months and **252,200** PBW/G.

School Feeding

- In March, WFP reached **424,800** boys and girls attending over **1,700** primary schools and community-based education with on-site and take-home ration support.
- Secondary schools for girls have remained closed since September 2021, when de facto authorities announced that girls were barred from continuing their education beyond sixth grade. Currently, there is no indication of when schools will reopen for girls.

Resilience and Food Systems

- WFP carried out various livelihood and asset creation activities to provide the foundation for recovery and harness resilience-building efforts. WFP supported over **124,400** individuals through food assistance for assets and more than **48,100** with food assistance for training.

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

- WFP trained over **1,200** smallholder farmers under its smallholder agriculture market support project.



Supply Chain and Logistics

- In March, WFP dispatched **31,738 mt** of mixed food commodities across Afghanistan, reaching 98 percent of its target for the month. About **46,470 mt** of food is available at WFP warehouses in-country, while **32,200 mt** of food is in transit or within WFP warehouses outside the country.



UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

- UNHAS has so far operated **698** flights this year, serving **3,877** passengers from **76** humanitarian organizations across 20 destinations (16 domestic, 4 international).
- UNHAS transported **9.4 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.
- On 25 March, UNHAS decided to discontinue flights to and from Doha effective 2 June 2024. The decision was made in alignment with operational adjustments and consideration of various factors impacting flight services. 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 prepositioning.
- WFP's needs are reflected in [Afghanistan's 2024 Humanitarian Response Plan](#).

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