

# WFP Afghanistan

## Situation Report

October 2024



Women farming in WFP-supported community garden in Badakhshan, Afghanistan ©WFP/Philippe Kropf

### Highlights

- Food security continues to improve marginally in Afghanistan, with the latest IPC showing almost a quarter of the population facing crisis and emergency levels of food insecurity, down by 3.7 million compared to 2023. Nevertheless, food needs remain high and concerning.
- As the harsh winter looms, WFP Afghanistan has prepositioned 85 percent of its target food supplies for winter, prioritizing provinces currently affected by snow before access is cut off. WFP is scaling-up its winter assistance to support the food security of 6.2 million vulnerable people, which typically worsens during winter with depleted harvests and fewer job opportunities.

### In Numbers



2.6 million people assisted



11.6 million people food-insecure (IPC Phase 3-4) as of October 2024



23.7 million people require humanitarian assistance in 2024

USD 787 million six months (November 2024 – April 2025) net funding

### SITUATION UPDATE

- **Food security** continues to improve marginally in Afghanistan, with the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) indicating that 11.6 million people (25 percent of the population) are currently in IPC Phase 3 (crisis) or above, down from 15.3 million in 2023. The scale and duration of humanitarian food and emergency agricultural assistance have prevented acutely food-insecure populations from falling into worse levels. Food insecurity remains high and concerning, with 14.8 million people (32 percent of the population) projected to be food insecure (IPC Phase 3/Crisis or above), during the winter months, and are in urgent need of humanitarian food assistance from November 2024 to March 2025. Key drivers include high unemployment, household debts, low incomes, the influx of returnees from neighbouring countries, and fluctuating food prices. Afghanistan's economic fragility and the expected La Niña conditions in 2025 will negatively impact agricultural and livestock conditions, maintaining the need for food assistance.
- **Malnutrition rates** are also rising at an alarming pace, compounded by the fact that WFP has been forced to cut food assistance and malnutrition prevention due to funding constraints. Approximately 3.5 million children under the age of five and 1.15 million pregnant and breastfeeding women (PBW) are projected to suffer from acute malnutrition and about 2.95 million children stunted in 2025. Compared to 2024, this marks an increase of 28 percent for moderately acute malnourished children,

### WFP OPERATIONAL PRESENCE



1 percent for severely acute malnourished children, and 6 percent for PBW with acute malnutrition. Poor diets (with 78 percent of families unable to afford a nutritious diet), high levels of disease, sub-optimal immunization coverage, poor water and sanitation conditions, significant access challenges to health and nutrition services especially during the winter season remain as key drivers. There is an urgent need to sustain food assistance to the most vulnerable and scale up nutrition services through an integrated multisectoral approach to not risk losing the gains made.

- **Morality law:** Since the enactment of the morality law by the Ministry for the Propagation of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice (PVPV) in August, WFP has been closely monitoring its impact on humanitarian operations, with a particular focus on the presence and participation of Afghan women in offices and the field. An upward trend in PVPV oversight has been noted, particularly in the northeast (Badakhshan), west (Herat) and south (Kandahar) regions to enforce compliance with the law.
- The law represents a troubling setback for human rights, granting the PVPV authorities broad discretionary powers that disproportionately marginalize Afghan women and girls and restrict their personal freedoms. **WFP is adopting a principled approach, which prioritizes staff and partners security, strengthens monitoring capabilities, secures access, and refines its targeting efforts.** As a mitigation strategy, WFP has been proactively engaging with local authorities and communities and investing in efforts to ensure the safety of its staff and partners and foster greater inclusion of women in its activities.
- **Winter prepositioning:** WFP continues to preposition food commodities in areas likely to be inaccessible during winter, dispatching 52,610 mt so far (85 percent of the target) to be distributed to 1.5 million people. Close to half of the prepositioned wheat flour (20,000 mt) have been sourced locally. Provinces experiencing snowfall, such as Badakhshan, Bamyán, Ghor, and Daikundi, are being prioritized for food dispatches, which are scheduled to be completed in November. WFP's cooperating partners' verification of targeted beneficiaries is almost complete. Overall, WFP aims to support 6.2 million people through the winter scale-up assistance.

## WFP OPERATIONS

**In October, WFP assisted around 2.6 million people across its operations in Afghanistan with**

**8,477 mt of food and USD 2.1 million in cash transfers.**

### EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE

- In October, WFP's general food assistance (GFA) supported approximately **1 million** vulnerable people. Around 48 percent received cash-based transfers (CBT) and commodity vouchers in areas where markets are operational, enabling them to meet their food needs. October marks the final month of WFP's summer hotspot allocations for GFA which has supported the most vulnerable households in identified hunger hotspots since May, preventing them from falling into severe food insecurity. Since 2023, WFP has had to significantly reduce life-saving assistance, leaving behind 11 million acutely food-insecure people whose needs are unmet.
- Under its contingency response, in October, WFP assisted 746 households displaced as a consequence of the clashes between Pakistan and Afghanistan border forces, or affected by heavy rainfall and storm in Paktya, Kunar, Laghman and Nangarhar. Beneficiaries received in-kind assistance and fortified biscuits from WFP along with non-food items from other agencies.

### SCHOOL FEEDING

- In October, WFP distributed nutritious snacks such as fortified biscuits, Bread+, and samosas as well as vegetable oil as a take-home ration to **900,744 primary schoolchildren** across 7,805 schools in eight provinces.
- The national deworming campaign was launched in Afghanistan, starting with Kabul, with the aim to reach 7.6 million Afghan schoolchildren with deworming pills. WFP is supporting the campaign with logistics, coordination and staff capacity building.

### NUTRITION

- WFP provided specialized nutritious foods (SNF) for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition to 516,220 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 close to 232,400 children aged 6-59 months and PBW/G.
- WFP has launched a stunting prevention project in the districts of Lalpora in Nangarhar and Mohamad Agha in Logar. So far, it has reached 928 children

aged 6-24 months and 1,469 PBW with SNF and awareness-raising messages.

## RESILIENCE AND FOOD SYSTEMS

- WFP is advancing its financial access pilot under its food for training (FFT) programme, which aims to setup personalized bank accounts for participants in local banks, allowing them to withdraw entitlements directly in a dignified manner, rather than receiving cash in hand.
- To maximize the pilot’s impact, WFP trains FFT participants on key finance skills, including budgeting and savings, to help them effectively manage their accounts and make informed financial choices. Currently, the pilot supports 940 participants across the provinces of Herat, Samangan, Saripul and Balkh, out of which 74 percent are women.

## MATERNAL AND CHILD BENEFIT PROGRAMME (MCBP)

- Under the World Bank-funded MCBP, distribution is underway in Kadmesh, Warduj and Zaranj districts supporting around 36,420 pregnant women and women with children with health & nutrition awareness sessions and CBT so far, benefitting around 178,000 people (including their household members).

## SUPPLY CHAIN AND LOGISTICS

- WFP dispatched 11,113 mt of mixed food commodities, reaching 99 percent of its October target. About 42,370 mt of food is available at WFP warehouses in the country, while 17,233 mt of food is in transit or within WFP warehouses outside the country.

- The Peshawar – Torkham highway, blocked since 21 August due to protests by internally displaced persons, re-opened on 16 October but only for trucks with valid transport access documents. As a result, WFP’s dispatches remain on hold, pending negotiations for tax exemption on humanitarian cargo. Meanwhile, the Quetta-Chaman border crossing remains open. The Balochistan Revenue Authority has agreed to exempt humanitarian cargo from tax, allowing WFP’s dispatches to continue to Spin Boldak, including diverted commodities from Peshawar.

## UN HUMANITARIAN AIR SERVICE (UNHAS)

- UNHAS has operated **3,378 flights** so far this year (3,354 hours), serving **16,603 passengers** from 113 humanitarian organizations across 28 destinations (24 domestic and 4 international).
- UNHAS transported **36.8 mt** of light humanitarian cargo, which included medical equipment, medicines, vaccines, and other essential operational supplies.
- Medical and Repatriation Services: WFP facilitated four MEDEVACS and two BODEVACS (repatriation of mortal remains).

## RESOURCING OVERVIEW

WFP Afghanistan is 35 percent funded from November 2024 – April 2025, with a six-month net funding requirement of **USD 787 million**.

## CONTACT

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*\*The total unique beneficiaries figure represents the total number of beneficiaries reached across all activities, excluding overlaps between beneficiaries. Monthly distribution figures are estimates and subject to change pending final beneficiary reconciliation.*

### WFP AFGHANISTAN COUNTRY STRATEGIC PLAN (2018-2025)

	2024 REQUIREMENTS	CARRY-OVER	2024 CONTRIBUTIONS	NEEDS RESOURCED (as of 30 October)	6-MONTH NET FUNDING REQUIREMENT (November 2024–April 2025)	PEOPLE ASSISTED (October 2024)	FEMALE	MALE	
<b>OUTCOME</b>	<b>ACTIVITY</b>	1.46 b	335 m	487 m	<b>822 m</b>	<b>787 m</b>	<b>2,636,212*</b>	<b>1,344,468</b>	<b>1,219,744</b>
OUTCOME 1	ACTIVITY 1: Nutrition-sensitive Food Assistance				495 m	1,002,211	491,083	511,128	
	ACTIVITY 9: Malnutrition Treatment and Prevention				143 m	748,606	507,709	240,897	
OUTCOME 2	ACTIVITY 2: Transformative Livelihood Support				45.5 m	917	449	468	
	ACTIVITY 3: Capacity-strengthening to Emergency Preparedness				0.05 m	--	--	--	
OUTCOME 3	ACTIVITY 4: School Feeding				41.1 m	939,745	404,090	535,655	
	ACTIVITY 10: Transitional Safety Nets				52.3 m	177,721	91,003	86,118	
OUTCOME 4	ACTIVITY 5: Smallholders Farmers Support				3 m	--	--	--	
OUTCOME 5	ACTIVITY 6: Zero-hunger Policy				0.01 m	--	--	--	
OUTCOME 6	ACTIVITY 7: Bilateral Service Provision				-	--	--	--	
	ACTIVITY 8: United Nations Humanitarian Air Service				7 m	--	--	--	