



World Food Programme

WFP Afghanistan Situation Report

04 March 2023

Emergency in-kind food distributions conducted in Kabul city. ©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), according to preliminary estimates

4 million people are acutely malnourished, including 3.2 million children under the age of five

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

Highlights

- **In February, WFP assisted over 11 million people** in Afghanistan with emergency food, nutrition, and livelihoods support.
- **WFP faces an immediate shortfall of USD 93 million** to sustain operations through April 2023. As a result of resource constraints, WFP has cut ration sizes to IPC 4 populations from 75 to 50 percent of the standard 2,100 kilocalorie equivalent.
- **WFP operations have resumed in Badghis and Nangarhar**, after suspensions affected more than 412,000 people in February. Humanitarian activities are set to resume in Ghor in mid-March.

Situation Update

- In a severe blow to humanitarian operations, **the de facto authorities banned Afghan women from working for non-governmental organizations (NGOs)**, in a [decree](#) issued on 24 December 2022.
- **Nearly 20 million people in Afghanistan are acutely food-insecure (IPC 3+)**, including more than 6.1 million people on the brink of famine-like conditions in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency), according to preliminary projections for November 2022 to March 2023.
- **Afghanistan continues to face the highest prevalence of insufficient food consumption globally**, according to WFP's latest [Food Security Update: Round Fifteen](#) (December 2022). One in two households is in crisis-coping mode to survive. On average, 88 percent of household income is spent on food as 92 percent of people in Afghanistan face insufficient food consumption.
- **Nearly half of the population continues to employ crisis coping strategies** to meet their basic needs. More than half of households (**53 percent**) rely on coping strategies to meet basic food needs, 81 percent of whom use both coping strategies of borrowing food and reducing adult meal portions. Households hosting persons with disabilities remain disproportionately impacted, with 61 percent relying on crisis-level coping strategies such as buying less preferred food.
- **More people are requiring healthcare and access is improving**. **Eighty-seven percent** of households are in need of healthcare, possibly due to the winter weather and lowered immunities. Economic concerns remain one of the biggest worries as four in ten households (**44 percent**) are concerned about losing their jobs.

WFP Response

- **In February, WFP reached more than 11 million people in Afghanistan** with emergency food, nutrition, and livelihoods assistance.
- **Due to severe funding constraints, WFP will reduce ration sizes to IPC 4 households in March**. Rations that previously met 75 percent of a household's basic food needs will be reduced to 50 percent. WFP urgently requires USD 93 million to avoid 9 million people receiving nothing at all in April, including 2 million people in IPC 4 areas.
- **WFP operations have resumed in Badghis and Nangarhar** after month-long suspensions affected more than 412,000 people. Humanitarian activities are set to resume in Ghor province after successful negotiations with de facto authorities.
- **Food Assistance for Training (FFT) projects have resumed in three provinces**, engaging 1,500 participants (of which more than 1,000 are women), after the temporary suspension of activities in January due to a lack of female instructors. In the coming weeks, WFP expects FFT projects to resume in a further five provinces as CPs negotiate adapted measures to continue engaging women.
- **School feeding activities have resumed** in all community-based education centres and in public schools where partners have been permitted to continue programming with female staff. However, some 10,000 children in public schools are still not being supported, of the 650,000 students across five provinces where schools are currently open.



Food and Nutrition Assistance

- In February, WFP has distributed approximately **66,727 mt** of food in-kind and **USD 34.7 million** in cash-based transfers.¹
- **General Food Assistance:** In February, WFP assisted **10 million** people with emergency food and cash. More than **5.9 million** people have received in-kind food baskets, **3.2 million** people have received cash or value vouchers, and **943,000** people have received assistance via commodity vouchers.
- **Nutrition:** In February, WFP provided specialized nutritious foods to prevent malnutrition to **856,000** pregnant and lactating women (PLW) and children aged 6-59 months, and **431,300** women and children with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM).
- WFP supported more than **1,770** health centres and **436 mobile health and nutrition teams** in hard-to-reach areas. One WFP partner implementing nutrition programmes has continued to suspend its operations, impacting assistance to 11,250 children and pregnant and lactating women.
- **School Feeding:** In February, WFP has provided mid-day snacks, including High Energy Biscuits (HEB) or Bread+ to **517,000** primary school students in five warm-climate provinces where schools are open. Bread+ distributions are ongoing in two of the five provinces (Jawzjan and Nangarhar).
- WFP provided Bread+ support to **1,910** soy farmers, 250 dried fruit and nut producers, 150 millers, 680 bakers, 136 truck drivers, 1,414 school-based distributors, and helped create over **8,500 jobs**, including **4,000** wheat farmers. For targeted schoolchildren, **Bread+** provides 70 percent of daily nutrient requirements, 40 percent of daily energy requirements, and 60 percent of daily protein.
- **Asset Creation and Livelihoods:** In February, WFP assisted **137,000** people through Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) programming, and approximately **1,500** people through Food for Training (FFT) projects.

1. All distribution figures for February are unreconciled and subject to change.



Supply Chain and Logistics

- WFP has received the first tranche of the Ukrainian wheat flour in country, totalling 21,186 mt.
- Armed clashes at Torkham on the Afghan-Pakistani border resulted in a 6-day closure that left 58 trucks carrying 1,916 mt of commodities stuck at the border. The border reopened to commercial and pedestrian traffic on 25 February.
- The transport contract between Afghanistan and Turkey has been extended until 31 August 2023, enabling the continued flow of internationally procured goods into the country.



UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

- UNHAS has conducted **509 flights** thus far in 2023. A total **2,845 passengers** and **8.98 mt** of humanitarian light cargo (medical equipment, medicine vaccine, and office supply).
- 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 urgently requires **US\$93 million** to sustain operations as planned through April.
- WFP is currently facing a net funding shortfall of **US\$795 million** to sustain operations over the next six months (March-August 2023).
- WFP's needs are reflected in [Afghanistan's 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan](#).

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