

WFP Afghanistan

Situation Report

25 March 2022



WFP scales up assistance to primary schoolgirls as classes resume in Afghanistan
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In Numbers

22.8 million people – half of the population – are projected to be acutely food insecure in 2022,¹ including 8.7 million at risk of famine-like conditions

4.7 million children, pregnant and lactating women at risk of acute malnutrition in 2022

All 34 provinces are facing crisis or emergency levels of acute food insecurity

Highlights

- WFP has reached **14.1 million²** people with food, nutrition, and resilience support in 2022 and **8.5 million** people thus far in March. WFP plans to reach 23 million people in 2022.
- Operations are suspended in Kabul city, Ghor province and Kandahar city. Negotiations are ongoing with de facto authorities.
- The Salang Pass reopened for transport trucks this week after a 15-day closure due to poor weather. Its reopening will better facilitate the distribution of commodities across the country.

Situation Update

- **A new Food Security Update for Afghanistan has been released**, based on survey data from February 2022. [Results](#) show a continued decline in the food and nutrition status of respondents, indicating a deepening food security crisis.
- **95 percent of the population continues to face inadequate food consumption**, as household income levels and opportunities continued to decline. More than 85 percent of households previously earning income reported no income earned at all during the month of February.
- **The number of people employing crisis-level coping strategies to survive increased** by 5 percent from 66 percent in January to 71 percent in February.
- **Households hosting people with disabilities are disproportionately affected**, as 85 percent resort to crisis-level coping strategies to meet their food needs.
- **Almost 100 percent of female-headed households surveyed are facing insufficient food consumption**. Female-headed households are more likely to employ crisis-level coping strategies compared to male-headed households.
- **Results of the ongoing Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) assessment** are expected at the end of April. Currently 23 million people are acutely food insecure (IPC 3 and 4).

WFP Response

- **In March, WFP has assisted 8.5 million people** so far with food, nutrition, and resilience support, including 8 million people with emergency food and nutrition assistance.
- **WFP will scale up its School Feeding initiative in April to reach 480,000 students** with school meals and take-home rations. WFP planned to provide cash incentives for 10,200 secondary schoolgirls, but the future of this initiative will depend on whether they are permitted to return to class.
- **Operations have been suspended in Kabul city and Ghor province**. Suspensions in Ghor were imposed by the de facto authorities on all humanitarian assistance, while in Kabul City it relates specifically to WFP. WFP food distributions remain suspended in Kandahar city. Negotiations are ongoing with the de facto authorities.
- **Ripple effects from the conflict in Ukraine continue to impact Afghanistan**, as rising global fuel and food prices have necessitated the renegotiation of transport and procurement contracts with commercial operators.
- **WFP Afghanistan's 2021 Annual Country Report (ACR) will be released on 31 March 2022**, covering programmatic achievements and expenditures from last year.

1. Integrated Food Security Phase Classification Acute Food Insecurity Analysis [report](#), November 2021 to March 2022 Projections
2. Actual beneficiary and mt numbers are as of 24 March, and are subject to change and further overlap adjustments.

WFP's 2022 Scale-Up Factsheet January 2022



Food and Nutrition Assistance

- **General Food Assistance:** WFP has assisted 8 million people with emergency food and nutrition support in March. Cumulatively, 234,087 MT of food has been distributed in 2022.
- **Nutrition:** So far in March, WFP has assisted **691,000** children (aged 6-59 months) and pregnant and lactating women (PLW) with nutritious foods to prevent cases of acute malnutrition, while treating **299,000** malnourished children and women. WFP continues to support 158 Mobile Health and Nutrition Teams (MHNTs) across 24 provinces in Afghanistan to ensure access in hard-to-reach areas.
- **School feeding:** Schools reopened this week after having been closed for winter break in 28 provinces since December. Thus far in March, WFP has distributed 279 MT of high energy biscuits and 814 MT of fortified vegetable oil to over **393,000** primary school children, including nearly **179,000** girls. WFP is currently assisting 783 primary schools across the country in addition to 579 community-based education classes. In 2022, WFP plans to reach 1 million children across 10 provinces with school meals and take-home rations in 2,500 schools and 2,00 CBEs.
- **Asset creation and livelihoods:** In March, WFP has assisted over **24,700** people through food assistance for assets (FFA) activities and **79,380** people through vocational skills training (VST).⁵ At the end of March, 400 people will graduate from two VST projects in Zabul and Kandahar, where they received skills training. By the end of March, WFP will complete two VST projects in Zabul and Kandahar provinces, benefitting 400 people.

Graduates have received livelihoods training in plumbing, masonry, embroidery, tailoring, and electrical work. WFP plans to support over a million beneficiaries throughout the year.⁵ VST activities are implemented in 17 provinces, while FFA activities are implemented in 22 provinces.



Supply Chain and Logistics

- Between 13-20 March, WFP dispatched 25,242 MT of food to 98 destinations across Afghanistan.
- During the same period, 18,017 MT of food entered the country, bringing WFP's in-country stocks to 70,415 MT.
- A further 133,650 MT of mixed food commodities is expected to arrive in March through local, regional, and international procurement channels.
- The Salang Pass transportation route north of Kabul reopened for trucks this week after having been closed for 15 days due to poor weather. WFP is working to expedite the delivery of core commodities amidst congestion at the pass.



UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

- UNHAS has conducted 728 flights in 2022 so far, transporting 4,771 passengers and 12 MT of essential cargo.
- UNHAS currently offers flights to 20 domestic destinations and two on demand, as well as three airbridges that connect Kabul to Islamabad, Dushanbe and Doha.
- Weekly flight schedules and route maps can be found on the [Humanitarian Booking Hub](#).

Resourcing Update

- To meet increasing needs in 2022, WFP requires USD 1.1 billion over the next six months (April-September) but faces a shortfall of **USD 525.6 million**.⁴ WFP is facing an overall shortfall of **USD 1.6 billion** to sustain operations through 2022, which will begin to impact operations in May.
- Food, nutrition and UNHAS requirements were included in the [Global Humanitarian Overview](#) and [OCHA Flash Appeal for Afghanistan](#).