Situation Update

- **The economic crisis continues spiralling, with the value of the Afghani against the US dollar remaining at record lows.** Prices for fuel and staple food items continued to rise—wheat flour and fuel are nearly 50 percent higher than in the last week of June 2021 (WFP Market Monitor). Average household debt is now reportedly more than four times the average monthly income.

- **Acute malnutrition continues deteriorating:** In the face of inaction, more than half of all children under five (3.9 million), and over 800,000 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) could be at risk of suffering from acute malnutrition in 2022.

- **More than half of the population** face crisis (IPC Phase 3) or emergency (IPC Phase 4) levels of food insecurity, according to the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) report. This is the highest number of acutely food insecure people ever recorded in Afghanistan and is among the highest levels of acute food insecurity worldwide.

- **An alarming 98 percent of Afghans are facing insufficient food consumption,** according to WFP’s latest survey; 17 percentage points more than early August.

- **More than half of the population (55 percent) are resorting to drastic measures to feed their families,** such as buying smaller quantities of food, borrowing food, and eating less nutritious food. This is five times the number before 15 August.

WFP Response

- WFP aims to meet the food and nutrition needs of more than 23 million people in 2022. To meet the task at hand, WFP estimates it would require US$ 220 million per month.

- WFP has reached around 5 million people in December so far, and a total of around 15 million people in 2021. This is 6 million more than 2020.

- WFP has prepositioned food in strategic areas where heavy snows can cut off communities from assistance.

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1. Integrated Food Security Phase Classification Acute Food Insecurity Analysis report, November 2021 to March 2022 Projections
2. Planning figures for 2022 are being revised due to an ongoing planning exercise; they are subject to change and pending approval
3. Actual beneficiary numbers are as of late December, and are subject to change and further overlap adjustments
• **General Food Assistance:** WFP has assisted around 13 million beneficiaries with unconditional resource transfers in 2021, including over 4.5 million so far in December.

• **School feeding:** In 2021, WFP has reached over 200,000 primary and secondary school children and plans to reach 1 million from 2022. In 28 of 34 provinces, all school grades are on a three-month winter break, while primary school for girls and boys continues in the remaining provinces.

• **Nutrition:** In 2021, WFP has assisted over half a million pregnant and lactating women and over 1 million children under five with malnutrition prevention and treatment activities. WFP is treating moderate acute malnutrition by integrating with mobile health and nutrition teams in the most remote locations of the country. WFP is scaling up its support to reach hundreds of thousands more beneficiaries in the coming months.

• **Internally Displaced Persons:** In 2021, WFP has assisted over 600,000 internally displaced persons (IDP).

• **COVID-19:** WFP has reached more than 900,000 people affected by the socio-economic impact of the pandemic in 2021.

• **Asset creation and livelihoods:** WFP’s food assistance for assets and vocational skills training (VST) activities continue across the country; WFP has reached over 200,000 beneficiaries in 2021, and will be scaling up its planned reach in 2022.

• **In the past week (12-18 December), WFP distributed 15,464 mt of food stocks to 138 locations.**

• **With 170 trucks currently operational, WFP is increasing its fleet of trucks and trailers in the coming months to increase deliveries.**