



# WFP Afghanistan Situation Report

October 2023

WFP provides ready-to-use supplementary food to children affected by the earthquakes that struck Herat. ©WFP/Hosib Hazinyar

## In Numbers

**15.3 million** people are projected to be acutely food-insecure between May and October 2023, including 2.8 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

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

## Situation

- **Herat, a province in western Afghanistan, was shaken by strong earthquakes with 6.3 magnitude in October.** Dozens of villages were flattened, and more than 150,000 people were affected. At the same time, a dust storm swept through the same province, destroying hundreds of tents and displacing 300 families.
- **An influx of Afghan refugees has flocked to the Afghan-Pakistan borders, with 8,000 arrivals recorded per day, and this figure is expected to rise.** This comes after the Government of Pakistan's [directive](#) that all undocumented migrants must leave the country by 1 November. The surge of vulnerable returnees will likely lead to a large-scale internal displacement and increased food insecurity. Almost all returnees (98 percent) are considered vulnerable and will require immediate assistance upon arrival. Meanwhile, according to the inter-agency [Border Consortium Appeal](#), out of the 1.3 million undocumented Afghans, 65 percent (720,000) are expected to require post-arrival assistance.
- **Humanitarian needs are climbing amid an already dire funding environment.** The arrival of Afghan returnees and the Herat earthquakes came at a time when WFP had been forced to cut assistance for 10 million people this year due to severe funding shortfalls. WFP has scaled down its operations since September and is saving up food to preposition as another harsh winter looms. WFP has been drawing down stocks in-country to respond to the Herat earthquakes and the Afghan returnees, which was initially earmarked for the winter prepositioning, hence needs to be urgently replenished.

## Highlights

- WFP has reached **4.4 million people** in October with emergency food and cash assistance, nutrition support, school meals, and livelihood activities.
- Three 6.3-magnitude earthquakes and multiple aftershocks have struck Herat Province in western Afghanistan. WFP is on the ground providing food to affected populations and have reached 103,000 people with mixed food, and 26,200 people with fortified biscuits and specialised nutritious food.
- A surge of Afghan returnees from Pakistan crossed through the Torkham and Spin Boldak borders in October. WFP is providing food and nutrition support to the returnees.

## WFP Response

- **Herat Earthquakes:** Within 8 hours since the initial earthquake, WFP quickly dispatched food to those affected and food was in the hands of the affected population within 24 hours. To date, WFP has reached 103,700 people with mixed food commodities and 26,000 people with fortified biscuits and specialised nutritious food. WFP is also supporting the wider humanitarian response by transporting hygiene supplies and providing support on emergency telecommunications, Mobile Storage Units and fleet.
- WFP requires US\$22.9 million to support over 100,000 earthquake-affected people (16,860 families) over the next 7 months.
- **Afghan Returnees:** As part of an inter-agency group coordinating the response, WFP has been supporting Afghan returnees crossing through the Spin Boldak and Torkham borders with food and nutrition assistance. WFP is expanding operations now to reach those affected – in the villages, hospitals, and displacement locations in Herat City.
- To support 589,700 returning Afghans (84,150 families) from November 2023 to March 2024, WFP requires US\$16 million.
- **Operations in Ghor:** In October, WFP delivered in-kind food assistance to over 378,000 people in the remote province of Ghor. It is scheduled to receive WFP's support during the winter season for three months, where distributions will commence in Dolaina District in November.

## Emergency Food and Nutrition Assistance

In October, WFP reached **3 million** people with emergency food, cash, and nutrition support.

### General Food Assistance

- In October, WFP provided in-kind food assistance to **2 million** people with 22,903 mt of food commodities, and **1 million** people received cash-based transfers totalling US\$6 million.
- WFP scaled down its general food assistance in October due to funding constraints, and to save food commodities to be distributed during the upcoming lean winter period. WFP aims to scale up assistance to 6.5 million people during the winter, subject to the availability of resources.

### Nutrition

- WFP provided specialized nutritious foods for the prevention of moderate acute malnutrition to more than **472,800** pregnant and breastfeeding women (PBW) and children aged 6-59 months. Additionally, WFP provided malnutrition treatment services to more than **629,500** PBWs and children.
- WFP continues to support more than **285** mobile health and nutrition teams across Afghanistan as it awaits further guidance on their transition to fixed health clinics as mandated by facto authorities.

## School Feeding

- In October, WFP provided fortified biscuits or Bread+ to more than **633,200** primary school students.
- Cash-based transfers for secondary-level schoolgirls continue to be on hold, while secondary schools are closed across the country.

## Resilience and Food Systems

- To strengthen community resilience, WFP reached **156,000** people through food assistance for asset creation schemes, **14,000** people through food assistance for training schemes in 26 provinces.

## Supply Chain and Logistics

- In October, WFP dispatched **26,732 mt** of mixed food commodities across Afghanistan, reaching 101 percent of its target for the month. About **51,240 mt** of food is available at WFP warehouses in-country, while **23,064 mt** of food is in transit or within WFP warehouses outside the country.
- WFP has dispatched 26,000 mt (40 percent) of mixed food commodities for winter prepositioning, out of its targeted 65,000 mt across 219 districts to support 3 million beneficiaries. WFP is prioritising destinations that will become inaccessible due to snowfall.

## UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

- UNHAS has operated **3,066 flights** from January to October and transported **19,092 passengers** (13,118 on domestic and 5,974 on international flights). UNHAS carried **38 mt** of light humanitarian cargo (medical equipment, vaccines and office supplies).
- UNHAS currently operates flights to **24** destinations (20 domestic and 4 airbridges connecting 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 required US\$2.2 billion to deliver emergency food, nutrition, and livelihood support to those in need.
- WFP is currently facing a net funding shortfall of **US\$919 million** to sustain operations over the next six months (November 2023 – April 2024). Urgent funding of US\$400 million is needed to the most vulnerable 7 million people survive winter.
- WFP's needs are reflected in [Afghanistan's 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan](#).

*\*Distribution figures for October are subject to change following validation.*

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