

WFP Afghanistan

Situation Report

September 2024



Meena Gul weaves Raghza Dozi in the yard of her rented house in Faizabad, after participating in WFP 6-month food for training course. ©WFP/Philippe Kropf

In Numbers

12.4 million people are projected to be acutely food-insecure between May and October 2024, including 2.4 million people in Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Phase 4 (emergency).

3.9 million people are acutely malnourished, including 2.8 million children under the age of 5.

23.7 million people require humanitarian assistance in 2024.

Situation Update

- Food security in Afghanistan has been improving over the last years. The number of people experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) has fallen to [12.4 million in 2024](#), down from 15.3 million in 2023.
- Favourable rainfall in March and April 2024 supported near-average production of wheat, rice, maize, and orchard fruits, boosting food availability. Additionally, harvests from lowland and highland regions have increased market supply, particularly for wheat, easing food consumption gaps in several provinces.
- Consistent food imports and the appreciation of the Afghani currency helped stabilize prices for staples like wheat and rice. In September, [WFP's market monitoring](#) recorded a decline in the prices of key food commodities and fertilizers, influenced by the country's year-long deflation, and a drop in global food prices. However, prices remain significantly higher compared to the pre-COVID period and the month of June 2021, before the political changes in the country.
- Despite these improvements, challenges such as low employment rate, reduced incomes and limited access to agricultural inputs remain. Many households continue to struggle to afford basic necessities. Poverty impacts one in two Afghans.
- Thousands of Afghans are being repatriated from neighbouring countries and are in dire need of assistance. The political situation remains unstable, with the DFA doubling down on efforts to curtail the rights of women, making it challenging to attract funding for the humanitarian and development needs of vulnerable Afghans.

Highlights

Since the ratification of the Law on the Promotion of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice (PVPV) on 21 August, which imposes stringent restrictions on Afghan women and men, WFP has observed with concern an increasing level of scrutiny of the humanitarian activities of international and national non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Although WFP operations have not been significantly affected, the agency continues to monitor the situation and is engaging proactively with the de facto authorities to ensure the safety and protection of its staff, cooperating partners (CPs), and beneficiaries.

WFP Response

Winter Prepositioning: In order to support vulnerable people in areas likely to become inaccessible during the winter, WFP is prepositioning **62,000 mt of food commodities** to support around **1.5 million people** across 23 provinces and 109 districts expected to be affected. To date, WFP has dispatched close to 18,000 mt of mixed food commodities in four provinces, representing approximately 30 percent of its target. Around 65 percent of the commodities have been procured and are already in-country, with the remainder currently being sourced. Ten mobile storage units (MSUs) and 8,520 pallets are also being dispatched across the country to support prepositioning efforts.

Beneficiary targeting is nearly complete, and registration for assistance will begin shortly. WFP plans to start distribution in October through one-off distributions in 41 locations, double distributions in 224 locations in November and December, and monthly distributions in 25 locations.

Winter Scale-up: WFP is scaling up its emergency winter assistance to reach up to 6 million vulnerable people, including 1.5 million beneficiaries assisted by the prepositioned food, through monthly distributions in 386 out of 419 districts in all 34 provinces. Targeting of beneficiaries began in August and will continue until the end of October, using available household vulnerability data from the winter of 2023, IPC summer projections (April – October 2024) and the latest food security monitoring and early warning analyses. Provincial allocations will be updated with the findings of the

ongoing IPC and Seasonal Food Security Assessment of 2024 to be released in October.

Emergency Food and Nutrition Assistance

In September, WFP reached **3.2 million** people with emergency food and nutrition assistance, and livelihood support. This included around **1 million** under the hotspot response, WFP's short-term emergency assistance provided to the most vulnerable households in locations identified as hotspots of extreme food insecurity, based on early warning analysis.

General Food Assistance (GFA)

In September, WFP GFA supported approximately **1.3 million** vulnerable people, of which around 42 percent received cash-based transfers and commodity vouchers, enabling them to meet their food needs. Since 2023, WFP has had to significantly reduce life-saving assistance, leaving behind 11 million acutely food-insecure people whose needs are unmet.

Nutrition

WFP provided specialized nutritious foods (SNF) for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition to **523,200** 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 **241,500** children aged 6-59 months and PBW/G.

School Feeding

In September, WFP distributed nutritious snacks such as fortified biscuits, Bread+, and samosas as well as vegetable oil as a take-home ration to over **894,000** primary school children across eight provinces.

Maternal and Child Benefit Programme

Under the World Bank-funded Maternal and Child Benefit Programme (MCBP), distribution is underway in Warduj and Zaranj districts supporting 28,900 pregnant women and women with children with health & nutrition awareness sessions and cash transfers in September, and benefitting around 144,000 people (including their household members).

Beneficiary targeting and registration will start in Giro and Tagab districts in October. Overall, the programme is expected to cover seven districts reaching over 70,000 women, benefitting 490,000 people, when fully implemented.

**Distribution figures for September are subject to change following validation.*

Supply Chain and Logistics

WFP dispatched **12,033 mt** of mixed food commodities, reaching 91 percent of its target. About **60,329 mt** of food is available at WFP warehouses in the country, while **17,532 mt** of food is in transit or within WFP warehouses outside the country.

Instability persists along the southern corridor through Pakistan with the closure of the Peshawar-Torkham highway since 21 August due to protests by internally displaced persons blocking the road to the main border crossing between Pakistan and Afghanistan. This disruption is further compounded by the strict enforcement of a mandatory Transport Access Document for transporters and the recent introduction of a 2 percent Infrastructure Development Cess (IDC) tax by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provincial authorities on all exports.

The southern corridor accounts for the passage of around 20 percent of WFP Afghanistan's critical food supplies, primarily vegetable oil from overseas and SNF products sourced from Pakistan, the latter having almost no alternative options. WFP continues to monitor the situation and started re-routing some consignments through the Spin Boldak border crossing, which remains open and operational, 900 km southwest of Torkham, while also seeking a blanket exemption from the IDC tax.

UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

UNHAS has operated **2,305** flights so far this year, serving **14,446** passengers from 108 humanitarian organizations across 28 destinations (24 domestic and 4 international).

UNHAS transported **32.7 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 Update

WFP requires US\$1.6 billion in 2024 to deliver emergency food, nutrition and livelihood support to those most in need in Afghanistan. WFP faces a funding shortfall of **US\$646 million** to sustain operations over the next six months (October 2024 to March 2025).

Contact Us:

Head of Partnerships and Reporting Unit

Janerose Alvers, Janerose.alvers@wfp.org

WFP Country Director:

Hsiao-Wei Lee, hsiaowei.lee@wfp.org