



World Food Programme

# WFP Afghanistan

## Situation Report

15 August 2022

### In Numbers

**18.9 million** people – nearly half of the population – are estimated to be acutely food insecure between June-November 2022

**4.7 million** children, pregnant and lactating women at risk of acute malnutrition in 2022; 3.9 million children are acutely malnourished

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

### Highlights

- In August, WFP has assisted more than **2.6 million people** in Afghanistan to date with food, nutrition, and livelihoods support, including earthquake and flood affected households in various provinces. WFP needs **USD 1.1 billion** to sustain its operations over the next six months.
- In response to inflation, WFP increased the value of cash-based transfers for the third consecutive month to protect beneficiaries' purchasing power. As a result, WFP now requires an additional **USD 45 million** to maintain its current cash caseload through 2022.

### Situation Update

- **An estimated 18.9 million people in Afghanistan are acutely food insecure (IPC 3+)**, according to the [May 2022 IPC Analysis](#), including 6 million in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency), and 13 million in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis). Continued humanitarian assistance in Ghor province is needed to deter IPC Phase 5 (Catastrophe) conditions, which affected some 20,000 people between March and May.
- **Afghanistan continues to face the highest prevalence of insufficient food consumption globally**, as 92 percent of households struggle to meet their food needs, according to WFP's latest [Food Security Update: Round Ten](#) (June 2022). For ten consecutive months, more than 90 percent of the population has experienced insufficient food consumption.
- **Household incomes continue to shrink** while household food expenditure share increases amidst rising inflation and a global surge in food prices. Female-headed households remain the most vulnerable, as 94 percent report decreased income.
- **More than half of the population continues to employ crisis-level coping strategies** to meet their basic needs. Households hosting persons with disabilities remain disproportionately impacted, as 63 percent employ crisis-level coping strategies.

### WFP Response

- **One year since the de facto authorities came to power in Afghanistan**, WFP continues to put food on the table and enhance the resilience of millions of people pushed deep into hunger and poverty amidst an alarming humanitarian crisis.
- **In August, WFP has assisted over 2.6 million people** with emergency food, nutrition, and livelihoods support. Distributions for August are ongoing, with plans to assist 10.4 million people.
- **Over the first half of 2022, WFP has reached a cumulative total of more than 21.4 million people** with over 609,000 MT of food and USD 167 million worth of cash-based assistance.<sup>2</sup>
- **WFP continues to assist households affected by the 5.9 magnitude earthquake which struck** the south-eastern region of Afghanistan. In August, WFP reached 3,950 affected households with 580 MT of mixed food commodities in Paktika and Khost provinces in August.
- **In August, WFP assisted some 381 households affected by flash floods with 97 MT of food** in several provinces, including Logar, Wardak, and Paktya. In response to the heavy rains and flash floods in the East of Afghanistan, WFP deployed 21 local teams to the provinces of Nangarhar, Kunar and Laghman to assess needs and assist those most affected. Another joint assessment of flood affected areas in Wardak province was completed with other humanitarian agencies.

1. Based on a 100 percent ration size for an average household size of 7 people.

2. Actual beneficiary and MT numbers are as of 15 August and are subject to change and further overlap adjustments.



## Food and Nutrition Assistance

- **General Food Assistance:** Thus far in August, WFP has assisted **2.5 million** people with emergency food and nutrition support. Of this total, approximately **2 million** people received emergency food assistance in-kind, while **185,500** people were assisted via cash and value vouchers, and **217,000** people were assisted via commodity vouchers. In August, WFP disbursed approximately USD 4.3 million in cash-based assistance.
- **Cash assistance:** WFP signed a new contract to pilot a digital payments solution with HesabPay, Afghanistan's first e-payments portal. If successful, the pilot will enhance the beneficiaries' digital financial inclusion. Other pilots with the financial sector in the country are being planned for 2022.
- The Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB) has authorized beneficiaries to use SCOPE cards to open bank accounts if they don't have a national identification (ID). The measure aims to facilitate emergency assistance temporarily, while WFP continues to encourage beneficiaries to attain their national ID.
- **Nutrition:** Thus far in August, WFP has assisted over **330,000** children (aged 6-59 months) and pregnant and lactating women (PLW) with nutritious foods to prevent cases of acute malnutrition, while treating close to **142,000** malnourished children and women. WFP currently supports 2,200 health centres and 444 mobile health and nutrition teams (MHNTs) across the country to ensure continued and equitable access in hard-to-reach areas.
- **School feeding:** In August, WFP distributed 9 MT of High Energy Biscuits (HEB) to **61,945** primary school students, including **27,000** girls who also received 91 MT of take-home rations of fortified vegetable oil.
- **Asset creation and livelihoods:** In August, WFP assisted **4,437** people through food assistance for assets (FFA) and **4,200** through vocational skills training (VST). WFP expanded its VST activities from 10 to 13 provinces, and its FFA activities from 15 to 25 provinces to enable vulnerable

communities to meet their basic food needs while building resilience against recurrent shocks and stressors.



## Supply Chain and Logistics

- In August, WFP dispatched over **41,000 MT** of mixed food commodities across Afghanistan, fulfilling approximately 47 percent of its monthly implementation plan thus far.
- WFP successfully negotiated with the de facto authorities for exemptions on newly imposed customs charges and levies on humanitarian goods entering the country. WFP trucks and vehicles were exempted from all customs charges and negotiations are ongoing for the exemption of WFP commercially contracted trucks.



## UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

- UNHAS has conducted **2,495** flights in 2022 so far, transporting **15,758** passengers and **33.5 MT** of essential cargo.
- UNHAS currently offers flights to 22 domestic destinations and three airbridges that connect Kabul to Islamabad, Dushanbe, and Doha. Helicopter landing sites are operational in Giyan, Barmal, and Spera to facilitate regular UNHAS flights to earthquake-affected districts.
- Weekly flight schedules and route maps can be found on the [Humanitarian Booking Hub](#).

## Resourcing Update

- WFP faces a net funding shortfall of **USD 1.1 billion** to sustain operations over the next 6 months (September 2022 – February 2023).
- WFP requires **USD 172 million** (of which US\$100 million has been resourced) to preposition **150,000 MT** of food commodities by November, ahead of the 2023 winter season.
- Food, nutrition and UNHAS requirements were included in the [Global Humanitarian Overview](#) and [OCHA Flash Appeal for Afghanistan](#).

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