

WFP Afghanistan

Situation Report

17 April 2023

In 2023, 6.6 million Afghan women and girls have received WFP assistance. ©WFP

In Numbers

Nearly 20 million people are projected to be acutely food-insecure between November 2022 and March 2023, including more than 6 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

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

Highlights

- **WFP reaffirmed that women are essential to its work and its partners, in response to the de facto authorities extending restrictions to Afghan women working for the United Nations.** High-level engagements are underway to determine a way forward, upholding the integrity of programmes.
- **In April, 4 million people will not receive assistance due to severe funding constraints** as WFP reduces its planned caseload from 13 million to 9 million people. If additional funds are not urgently received, WFP will be forced to cut assistance to a further 4 million people in May. USD 800 million is required until the end of 2023.

Situation Update

- **On 4 April 2023, the de facto authorities extended their directive restricting women working for the United Nations.** This is the latest reduction in women's rights in the country, following restrictions on females' work for NGOs and access to secondary and tertiary education.
- **WFP, UN and NGO partners are negotiating with de facto authorities** at the national, provincial, and local levels to enable female national and NGO staff to work, and female beneficiaries to continue to safely access humanitarian distributions.
- **Afghanistan is at the highest risk of famine in a quarter of a century**, as nearly 20 million people are acutely food insecure (IPC3+). More than 6.1 million people on the brink of famine-like conditions in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency), according to preliminary projections for November 2022 to March 2023.
- **Afghanistan continues to face the highest prevalence of insufficient food consumption globally.** Hunger is primarily driven by the economic crisis that has gripped Afghanistan since August 2021, compounded by decades of conflict, climate shocks, and severe restrictions on the rights of women and girls to work and pursue higher education.
- **Afghanistan is the fourth most at-risk country for humanitarian crises and disasters.** As it enters the third consecutive year of drought, the country is the eighth most vulnerable to **climate change** and the least prepared to adapt.

WFP Response

- **WFP activities continue to be implemented.** In line with guidance from the UN Country Team, WFP national staff – male and female – are working from home while the situation is assessed, particularly the safety and well-being of its 200+ national female staff.
- **In March, WFP reached approximately 13 million people in Afghanistan** with food, nutrition, and livelihood support. Due to funding shortfalls, ration sizes were reduced to half for 4 million people on the brink of famine in IPC Phase 4.
- **In April, 4 million people will not receive lifesaving assistance due to a USD 75 million funding shortfall.** If additional funds are not urgently received, WFP will be forced to cut assistance to a further 4 million people in May.
- **Distributions have once again been suspended in Ghor province due to interference by the de facto authorities.** They briefly resumed between 25 March and 06 April, allowing WFP to complete March distributions before the suspension resumed.
- **WFP distributions in two districts of Ghazni province will resume in April**, after a three-month suspension that affected 93,450 people. WFP continues to negotiate with de facto authorities at all levels for adherence to humanitarian principles.

Food and Nutrition Assistance

In March, WFP distributed **85,264 metric tons** (mt) of food. More than **2.5 million** people received cash and value vouchers worth **US\$19.7 million**, while **872,627** people received commodity vouchers worth **US\$8.3 million**.

General Food Assistance

- In March, WFP assisted **12.4 million** people with emergency food assistance. More than **8.8 million** people received in-kind food baskets, **2.4 million** people received direct cash and value vouchers, and **872,627** people received commodity vouchers.
- In April, **1.9 million** people have so far received general food assistance. Distributions are ongoing.

Nutrition

- In March, WFP provided specialized nutritious foods to prevent malnutrition to **1.2 million** pregnant and breastfeeding women and children aged 6-59 months and to treat **387,746** women and children for existing cases of moderate acute malnutrition.
- In April, WFP has so far provided specialized nutritious foods to prevent malnutrition to **124,000** pregnant and breastfeeding women and children aged 6-59 months and to treat **118,000** women and children with moderate acute malnutrition.
- WFP supports **1,800** health centres and **441** mobile health and nutrition teams across Afghanistan.

School Feeding

- In March, WFP provided High Energy Biscuits (HEBs) or Bread+ to more than **725,000** primary school students. WFP has reduced the daily ration size for HEBs by 50 percent due to funding constraints. In April, WFP has so far assisted **363,000** students.

Asset Creation and Livelihoods

- In March, WFP assisted **240,000 people** through Food Assistance for Assets programming. More than **20,643 people** received assistance through Food

Assistance for Training projects. In April, WFP has so far reached **7,280 people** through resilience activities.



Supply Chain and Logistics

- During the first week of April, WFP dispatched **18,264 mt** of food; **121,860 mt** of food is available in the country at WFP warehouses, while **53,700 mt** of food is stored in WFP warehouses outside the country.
- Herat Area Office is setting up two temporary warehouses to reduce wagon congestion at the border between Turkmenistan and Afghanistan.



UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

- UNHAS has conducted **971 flights** thus far in 2023. A total of **5,625 passengers** (3,541 on domestic and 2,084 on international flights) and **13.24 mt** of humanitarian light cargo (medical equipment, medicines, vaccines, and office supplies) have been transported.
- UNHAS currently operates flights to 24 destinations - 20 domestic destinations and four airbridges that connect 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 requires **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\$763 million** to sustain operations over the next six months (April-September 2023).
- **US\$24 million** is urgently needed to sustain UNHAS airbridge operations past June 2023.
- WFP's needs are reflected in [Afghanistan's 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan](#).

**All distribution figures for March and April are unreconciled and subject to change.*

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