In Numbers

22.8 million people – half of the population – are projected to be acutely food insecure in 2022, including 8.7 million at risk of famine-like conditions

4.7 million children, pregnant and lactating women at risk of acute malnutrition in 2022

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

Highlights

- WFP has assisted 12.3 million people thus far in April. WFP plans to reach 23 million people in 2022.
- WFP provided emergency food assistance to 70 households affected by flash floods in Herat and Ghor provinces after extreme weather resulted in loss of life and property damage.

Situation Update

- Humanitarian assistance is reaching more people with each passing month, according to the latest Food Security Update (March 2022). One in five households (21 percent) reported receiving humanitarian food assistance in March – mostly from UN/NGOs – which is a notable increase from previous months. In some regions, assistance has reached as many as two in five households (43 percent in the western region).
- Food assistance is driving down severe food insecurity in several regions (Herat, Kabul, Northeast and Southeast). Comparatively, households that did not receive humanitarian assistance in these regions did not see improvements in severe food insecurity levels.
- However, the number of people facing insufficient food consumption remains alarmingly high. Only 7 percent of people reported having enough to eat in March. This is a slight improvement of 2 percentage points on the previous month, likely driven by increased food assistance, as well increased access to income and markets. However, the situation still remains far worse than it was prior to August 2021.
- Results of the ongoing Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) assessment are expected in the coming weeks. Currently, 22.8 million people in Afghanistan are acutely food insecure (IPC 3 and 4).

WFP Response

- In April, WFP has reached 12.3 million people so far with food, nutrition, and resilience support.
- WFP is assessing the operational implications of Indonesia’s palm oil export ban, as Afghanistan awaits a 16,000 MT shipment of the commodity before August. The conflict in Ukraine is exacerbating global food price rises and supply chains delays, which is having a direct impact on WFP’s Afghanistan operations.
- WFP is closely monitoring the security situation in Afghanistan amidst a recent increase in incidents of terrorism and armed conflict. WFP, in partnership with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (OCHA), conducted a vulnerability assessment in Khost and Kunar provinces following airstrikes in the region. A total of 18 households in need of humanitarian assistance were identified, 6 of which had already been receiving food assistance from WFP.
- In March 2022, WFP reached almost ten times more beneficiaries than it did in March 2021 (see Figure 1). In March 2022, WFP assisted more than 12.8 million people with 116,140 MT of mixed food commodities and USD 33.1 million worth of cash-based assistance, compared to the 1.4 million people reached in March 2021.

---

1. Integrated Food Security Phase Classification Acute Food Insecurity Analysis report, November 2021 to March 2022 Projections
2. Actual beneficiary and MT numbers are as of 27 April, and are subject to change and further overlap adjustments.
**General Food Assistance:** WFP has assisted 11.9 million people with emergency food and nutrition support thus far in April.

**Nutrition:** In April, WFP has assisted **973,491** children (aged 6-59 months) and pregnant and lactating women (PLW) with nutritious foods to prevent cases of acute malnutrition, while treating **383,496** malnourished children and women. WFP currently supports **1,544** health centres and **385** mobile health and nutrition teams (MHNT) across the country. Support to MHNTs ensure continued and equitable access in hard-to-reach areas.

**School feeding:** In April, WFP has distributed approximately **225.9** MT of High Energy Biscuits (HEB) to **280,300** primary school students, including **7,600** girls who also received take-home rations of fortified vegetable oil. WFP has had to temporarily suspend plans to disburse cash-based transfers to secondary level schoolgirls, as they remain banned from attending classes in most provinces across Afghanistan.

**Asset creation and livelihoods:** Thus far in April, WFP has assisted **175,000** people through food assistance for assets (FFA) and **51,500** through vocational skills training (VST). WFP has commenced a new VST project in Kabul, supporting **150** women through business management and beautician training.