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 775,400 people thus far in May. WFP plans to reach 18 million people this month and cumulative total of 23 million people in 2022.

- Joint Assessment Teams are on the ground in 11 provinces to determine the need for emergency response, following flash floods that killed at least 22 people and destroyed hundreds of homes. WFP has already dispatched food assistance for 50 affected households in Bamyan.

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 next week. Currently, 22.8 million people in Afghanistan are acutely food insecure (IPC 3 and 4).

WFP Response

- In May, WFP has reached 775,400 people so far with food, nutrition, and resilience support. In April, WFP reached approximately 15 million people and delivered 120,160 MT of mixed food commodities.

- Joint Assessment Teams are on the ground in 11 provinces across Afghanistan to determine the need for emergency response following flash floods that killed at least 22 people and destroyed hundreds of homes. WFP has already dispatched food assistance for 50 flood-affected households in Bamyan Province and is working with communities to help reopen two main roads in Faizabad.

- WFP has launched Bread+ in 70 schools across three provinces. The initiative currently supports 16 partner bakeries, which employ approximately 80 bakers. WFP plans to reach 40,600 students across 185 schools with Bread+ by the end of May.

- There has been a 50 percent reduction in the average processing time for customs clearance on internationally procured commodities entering Afghanistan, following the successful negotiation of bulk exemption certificates for humanitarian cargo in January 2022. The average processing time has decreased from 40 days in October-November 2021 to 20 days in February-March 2022.
**Food and Nutrition Assistance**

- **General Food Assistance:** WFP has assisted 623,000 people with emergency food and nutrition support thus far in May. Of this total, more than 216,000 people have received emergency food assistance in-kind, while 277,100 people were assisted via cash and value vouchers, and 56,600 people were assisted via commodities vouchers. Thus far, WFP has disbursed USD 335,000 in cash-based assistance.

- **Nutrition:** In May, WFP has assisted 43,300 children (aged 6-59 months) and pregnant and lactating women (PLW) with nutritious foods to prevent cases of acute malnutrition, while treating 72,900 malnourished children and women. WFP currently supports 1,544 health centres and 227 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 May, WFP has distributed approximately 33.1 MT of High Energy Biscuits (HEB) to 25,400 primary school students. WFP has launched Bread+ across 70 schools and community-based education (CBE) classes in Jawzjan, Paktika, and Jalalabad provinces to reach 40,600 primary schoolchildren. Bread+ is a new commodity pilot that will replace the daily distribution of HEBs in some areas, with bread made from locally produced and processed fortified wheat flour, dried fruit and nuts. Bread+ is a more nutritious alternative to HEBs and links local agricultural production, processing, and markets across Afghanistan’s national food system.

- **Asset creation and livelihoods:** Thus far in May, WFP has assisted 11,600 people through food assistance for assets (FFA) and 42,000 through vocational skills training (VST).

3. This is a correction to the 385 MHNTs reported last week. Since April, WFP has increased its number of MHNTs from 158 to 227 and plans to support a total 240 MHNTs by the end of May.

**Supply Chain and Logistics**

- Between 24 April and 01 May, WFP dispatched 25,689 MT of commodities across Afghanistan. There is currently 51,410 MT of mixed commodities in WFP warehouses and an additional 53,214 MT in miller warehouses, bringing WFP’s in-country food stocks to 104,624 MT. WFP expects a further 148,781 MT to arrive in May through local, regional, and international procurement channels.

- The Islam Qala border with Iran, which closed last week, reopened for cargo on 05 May.

- WFP has also procured 148 mobile storage units to increase warehouse capacity, reduce congestion at area offices and enhance the dispatch of commodities to partners. WFP has also operationalized 45 new fleet trucks, 20 of which have been allocated to Mazar Area Office to support commodity arrivals from the Hairatan border.

**UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)**

- UNHAS has conducted 1,150 flights in 2022 so far, transporting 7,276 passengers and 16.5 MT of essential cargo.

- UNHAS currently offers flights to 20 domestic destinations and two on demand, as well as three airbridges that connect Kabul to Islamabad, Dushanbe and Doha.

- Weekly flight schedules and route maps can be found on the Humanitarian Booking Hub.

**Resourcing Update**

- WFP faces a net funding shortfall of USD 587.64 million to sustain operations over the next 6 months (May-October 2022), including a USD 180 million shortfall for cash-based assistance starting in May.

- WFP requires USD 150 million to preposition food commodities ahead of the winter season.

- Food, nutrition and UNHAS requirements were included in the Global Humanitarian Overview and OCHA Flash Appeal for Afghanistan.