



WFP Afghanistan

Situation Report - September 2025

People affected by the earthquake carry WFP food supplies home on donkeys in Norgul District, Kunar Province. ©World Food Programme



WFP Afghanistan Spotlight

Amid multiple shocks, Afghanistan is facing a rapidly worsening humanitarian crisis in 2025. Surging hunger and the highest acute malnutrition rates ever recorded in Afghanistan's history, are pushing families to engage in extreme coping strategies. As winter nears, for the first time in decades, WFP faces the harsh reality of reaching just eight percent of people likely to be in need with the emergency food and nutrition commodities.

On 15 September, the de facto authorities partially suspended internet services in Afghanistan, followed by a nationwide shutdown on 29 September, impacting WFP's Country Office, all six Area Offices, and other UN agencies and partners. As of 1 October, the internet has been restored across the country. Although the reinstated ban on national female staff has remained in effect since 8 September, WFP continues to actively engage with relevant stakeholders to mitigate its operational impact and pursue a resolution that ensures full access to offices for female staff.

Strained Resources, Shrinking Reach

- In a year marked by three major shocks - drastic funding constraints, drought across 19 provinces, and mass returnees from Pakistan and Iran - the number of people facing high levels of food insecurity (IPC3+) is projected to be similar to, or worse than, last year. This winter, with anticipated contributions, WFP faces the harsh reality of reaching just eight percent of people in need of food assistance.
- WFP is urgently appealing for USD 218 million to sustain its emergency assistance throughout winter, including USD 58 million needed within the next 30 days, for WFP to be able to pre-position food and nutrition supplies before snow cuts off access in November.

Social Protection Workshop

- The Social Protection Technical Working Group Workshop, held on 30 September, formally established the Afghanistan Social Protection Technical Working Group with participation from key funding partners (World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Islamic Development Bank) and partners (WFP, UNICEF, FAO, OCHA, UNHCR, Aga Khan Foundation and ICRC). The workshop's objectives were to develop standard operating procedures (SOPs) and referral protocols to enhance coordination. Participants also explored options for joint delivery including harmonized approaches to targeting and registration as well as use of financial service providers.

Kabul's First Food Safety Workshop

- WFP, with support from the European Union, hosted the first food safety workshop in Kabul on 15–16 September, focusing on dried fruits and nuts. The event brought private-sector stakeholders, including the Afghan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Afghan Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Afghan exporters and food safety experts. The workshop focused on compliance with international and EU food standards and emphasized the need for private sector investments in quality assurance and certification across the food supply chain, from farm to fork. The training equipped Afghan producers with practical knowledge to meet export requirements, reduce rejections, and unlock access to high-value markets.

Strengthening Partnerships in Afghanistan

- The Assistant Executive Director for Partnerships and Innovation, Rania Dagash-Kamara, visited Afghanistan from 10 to 12 September to engage with the WFP Country Office leadership and field teams. The visit focused on reviewing partnership priorities and assessing progress in resource mobilization. During her mission, she also visited a WFP women's livelihoods development programme and a WFP-supported nutrition centre. Additionally, she held an online meeting with female national staff who have been working remotely since 8 September following the ban on national female staff reporting to UN offices.

WFP Afghanistan Operation

Eastern Afghanistan Earthquake Response

- One month since the powerful 6.0 magnitude earthquake struck eastern Afghanistan on 31 August, followed by a series of subsequent tremors that compounded the devastation, WFP has provided emergency food assistance to over 60,000 people. Thanks to generous support from funding partners, efforts to rapidly deliver food assistance to affected communities and support logistics for the broader humanitarian response, continue.
- The first round of General Food Assistance and nutritious commodities has been concluded and the preparation for the second round is ongoing. In addition, WFP will support selected affected communities with public works programmes to clear roads and rehabilitate canals, repair the infrastructure and improve local storage capacity. Furthermore, WFP will support women by promoting small-scale value chain and livelihood development activities, such as poultry and livestock rearing.
- The WFP-led United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) has facilitated flights to transport both passengers and relief cargo to Jalalabad, the city located nearest the earthquake's epicentre. Thanks to a CERF grant, UNHAS has also deployed a helicopter to transport staff and deliver relief supplies to remote, earthquake-hit areas. As part of its logistics support to the wider humanitarian community, WFP has coordinated the transport of relief supplies from multiple locations to communities impacted by the earthquake. WFP has also set up storage tents to support the broader humanitarian response. To support Information and Communications Technology services for the humanitarian community, WFP deployed VSAT internet and UHF radio services in Kunar. WFP also installed solar power systems to ensure sustainable energy for critical communications and humanitarian coordination.
- In the earthquake-affected areas of Nangarhar, community engagement focal points and Cooperating Partners (CPs) distributed information, education and communication materials and displayed them at WFP sites to help people gain greater awareness of available protection measures and services. WFP conducted training sessions for CPs operating in the earthquake areas, to strengthen their technical capacity to mainstream protection, gender, and accountability principles across all phases of the earthquake response. As a result, CPs are now better equipped to identify and mitigate protection risks, uphold the safety and dignity of affected populations, ensure inclusive participation—particularly of women and persons with disabilities—and enforce a zero-tolerance approach to sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment within their operations.

Returnee Response

- In September, WFP distributed over 43 mt. of fortified biscuits to more than 290,000 documented and undocumented returnees from Pakistan and Iran. In addition, 73,500 undocumented returnees received a total of USD 0.9 million in cash for food and nearly 19 mt. of nutritious commodities to prevent malnutrition under WFP's Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme (BSFP). Furthermore, 3,400 young children, pregnant and breastfeeding women (PBW) were treated for malnutrition under WFP's Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programme (TSFP) with 9 mt. of nutritious food.
- To ensure maximum cost efficiencies, WFP and IOM have invested in integrating their operations, developing efficient process flows through combined Transit Centres, and exploiting digital systems to provide a seamless experience for returnees at border points. Joint IOM-WFP vulnerability criteria facilitate prioritization among vulnerabilities in periods of high influx and low funding, to ensure that only the most vulnerable returnees receive Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance between both agencies (with WFP providing the cash to cover food needs).

43 mt.

Fortified Biscuits

290,000

Documented/undocumented
Returnees from Iran and Pakistan

\$0.9M

USD Distributed

73,500

Undocumented Returnees
from Iran and Pakistan

19 mt.

Nutritious Food
Under BSFP

9 mt.

Nutritious Food
Under TSFP

3,400

PBW and Children
Under 5



WFP Programme Figures

[September]

Overall Achievements



1.8 M

People Assisted



3,850 mt.

Food delivered



USD 5.8 M

Cash Distributed



USD 622 M

Net Funding Requirement for the Next Six Months

Emergency Food Assistance

- WFP reached 642,000 vulnerable people with 1,350 mt. of food and nearly USD 2.9 million in cash assistance.

Resilience and Food Systems

- WFP's livelihood initiatives continue to support resilience-building across Afghanistan, reaching nearly 174,000 people.

School Feeding

- WFP reached 319,300 primary school children with 100 mt. of food.

Nutrition

- [TSFP]** For the treatment of malnutrition, WFP provided 2,350 mt. of Specialized Nutritious Food (SNF) to more than 451,000 children aged 6-59 months facing moderate acute malnutrition and acutely malnourished pregnant and breastfeeding women.
- [BSFP]** For the prevention of acute malnutrition (mainly for returnee response), WFP provided 19 mt. of SNF to 11,800 children aged 6-59 months and pregnant and breastfeeding women.
- For **stunting prevention**, WFP provided 31 mt. of SNF to 14,300 children aged 6-23 months and pregnant and breastfeeding women.

Maternal and Child Benefit Programme

- Through the World Bank-funded maternal and child benefit programme, approximately 37,400 households with pregnant women and mothers of children under the age of 5 years, received social and behaviour change communication on nutrition, health, and immunization and USD 2.4 in cash assistance.

Supply Chain and Logistics

- WFP dispatched more than nearly 5,900 mt. of food to partners. Local procurement continued, with more than 26 mt. of fortified biscuits produced.

UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

- UNHAS operated a total of 226 flights and facilitated the movement of 1,280 passengers. In addition, 3 mt. of humanitarian cargo were transported.



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Shafiq's Story You Would Want to Read

Shafiq, a mother of three from Sher Abad Hulya village near Mazar, has spent most of her married life relying on her husband's income of less than USD 3 per day. Between the household chores and children to take care off, Shafiq had a little room for herself.

When the opportunity came to join WFP's tailoring and beading training in May this year, she decided to step into a different space. Besides offering a chance to learn new skills, the center was also the place for other women trainees and had a designated space for children, where Shafiq's youngest son could spend his mornings, while she practiced stitches and patterns.

The training center became more than a classroom for Shafiq. It became a place where she could connect, share, and regain a sense of self. Today, she earns over USD 80 per month from her new skills, giving her greater independence and providing a safer environment for herself and her children.



Shafiq at the WFP training center, learning tailoring and embroidery

BBC Video on Deepening Hunger

In Afghanistan, an invisible wave of child deaths looms without urgent funding. With resources set to run out in November, WFP will no longer be able to support nearly five million malnourished mothers and children.

Watch a recent BBC report shedding light on the deepening hunger and malnutrition crisis in Afghanistan and hear more from our Country director, John Aylieff.

