



# Highlights

- Due to recent fighting in Kunduz and Badakhshan provinces, thousands of families are displaced. As per an inter-agency assessment, 344 families are identified for humanitarian assistance. WFP will provide food assistance to these displaced families. WFP has 177 mt of food in the Mazar-e-Sharif warehouse to be dispatched for distributions. In addition, in WFP Faizabad sub-office 1,400 mt food is available in case of additional displacement. In Kunduz province food distribution is ongoing to malnourished children and nursing mothers.
- WFP is seeking to extend the duration of the current EMOP until the end of 2017 to meet the immediate food needs of the second wave of returnees and new IDPs (starting in spring 2017) and to provide support to refugees from Pakistan while longer-term durable solutions are identified.

## WFP Afghanistan Country Brief

### WFP Assistance

Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation 200447 (PRRO) (Jan 2014 - June 2018)	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Months Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
	763.7 m	353.4 m (46%)	63.9 m (87%)

\*May - October 2017

Emergency Operation 201024 (EMOP) (Oct. 2016 - June 2017)	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	4 Months Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
	66.8 m	33.7 m (50%)	16.5 m (96%)

\*May - October 2017

WFP's emergency operation (EMOP) aims to support over 548,000 food-insecure people on the move, including Afghan returnees from Pakistan (undocumented and documented), internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees from Pakistan. WFP provides both food and cash-based transfers to these populations, and to ensure the nutrition status of those populations, prevention and treatment of MAM is included in the assistance.

### GENDER MARKER 2A PRRO 200447

WFP Afghanistan's PRRO is designed to respond to the needs of the most food-insecure people, including those affected by conflicts, natural disasters and seasonal food insecurity in priority districts across the country. WFP's nutrition programmes are integrated into the Government's basic package of health services and treat moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) in children under 5 years of age, pregnant women and nursing mothers. The PRRO also supports the recovery of communities, families and individuals affected by shocks through asset creation with a focus on disaster risk reduction and vocational skills training.

In response to the mid-term evaluation of the PRRO, WFP made the following revisions to the operational plan (*targeted number of people are subject to funding levels*):

- An 18-month extension from January 2017 to June 2018 for all programme activities, assisting 3.3 million vulnerable Afghans with food or cash-based assistance;
- Using the 2016 Integrated Context Analysis (ICA) for prioritisation of activities and improved geographic targeting;
- Mainstreaming Purchase for Progress (P4P) into the regular programme structure.

P4P Afghanistan programmes focus on a three-pillar approach with interventions throughout the value chain:

- **Production** – support to smallholder farmers;
- **Processing and transformation** – national fortification of wheat flour and the soya bean value chain;
- **Promotion and quality assurance** - increased consumer demand and improved food quality and safety.

Special Operation 200870 (UNHAS) (Jan 2017 - December 2017)	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 months Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
	17.0 m	8.5m (50%)	1.6 m (19%)

\*May - October 2017

The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) operation provides air transport services for the wider humanitarian community throughout Afghanistan. UNHAS serves 25 locations and supports 160 humanitarian organizations to deliver assistance.

Under another special operation, WFP supports the Strategic Grain Reserve (SGR) programme, led by the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock. The operation aims to improve national emergency response capacity and facilitates the stabilisation of wheat prices.

### In Numbers (2017)

**9.3 million** people are severely and moderately food-insecure.

**760,000** people affected by conflict (73 percent) or natural disaster (27 percent) are targeted for food assistance.

**1.1 million** children need treatment for acute malnutrition.

People Assisted



## Operational Updates

- WFP and UNCHR are currently conducting a joint vulnerability assessment in Khost and Paktika, to identify livelihood options and prioritise assistance based on vulnerabilities – moving towards an integrated, sustainable response. Preliminary findings and recommendations are expected in June 2017.
- To ensure that protection is at the forefront of WFP's and partners' work, a series of protection trainings to staff and partners have taken place in various WFP sub-offices. Afghanistan is one of the four countries globally to host the evaluation of WFP's Humanitarian Protection Policy. This is going to take place in May 2017 to better support the integration of protection in WFP operations.
- The WFP complaints and feedback mechanism (hotline) has been in place to ensure accountability to the affected population. In order to maximise resources and increase the response capacity of the current call centre, WFP is advocating for the development of an inter-agency complaint mechanism. The proposal has been set forward to the Humanitarian Country Team in order to leverage resources and advocate towards a common approach.
- Needs and inputs from particularly vulnerable groups are being collected through mobile vulnerability analysis and mapping (mVAM), including post distribution monitoring (PDM). Monitoring is being conducted via a call centre, where all the operators are women. As women operators are able to speak to both men and women respondents, this enables WFP to efficiently reach female beneficiaries, ensuring their inputs are reflected in WFP programmes. The first PDM report, with data collected through mVAM, will be finalised in May 2017.
- SCOPE registration is ongoing in the eastern part of the country and Kabul. Around 30,000 households have been registered so far in the SCOPE. WFP is conducting a series of SCOPE-related workshops for the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriations (over 40 staff from the Ministry and the Department of Refugees and Repatriations, Kabul, have been trained). Discussions are ongoing on the integration of SCOPE and AIRS (the Ministry's database for Returnees), to ensure single registration at the border points. The letter of agreement between WFP and the Ministry is ready for final review and signatures.

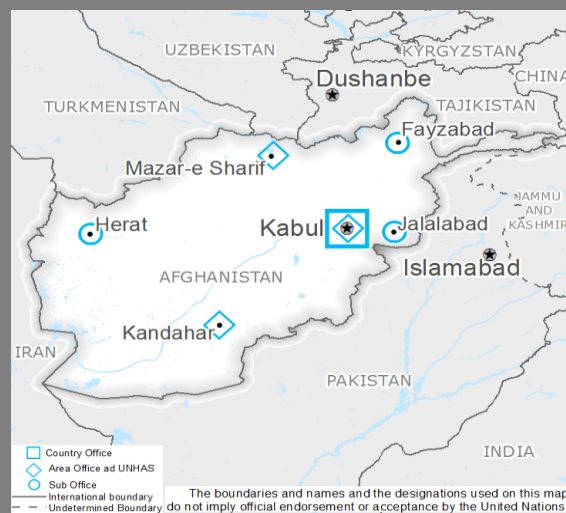
## Challenges

In the first week of May, fighting between Afghanistan and Pakistani forces on Spin Boldak border caused killing of people on both sides and resulted in border closure. The closure affected five trucks of WFP food commodities which are blocked on the Pakistan side of the border, including lifesaving nutrition products for malnourished children and women. Last month, WFP diverted three shipments (1,109 mt of assorted commodities) from Karachi to Bandar Abbas Port in Iran, where the first vessel is scheduled to arrive in May. However, food transportation through this route will incur additional costs for WFP Afghanistan.

## Impact of Limited Funding

Afghanistan is facing an unprecedented influx of returnees and increased level of insecurity causing unpredictable bursts of displacement. Without the valuable support of donors, WFP may eventually reduce its footprint in Afghanistan. Under its PRRO, WFP has thus far resourced USD 8.8 million and requires USD 63.9 million to implement its planned activities for the next six months (May-October 2017). Timely contributions will enable WFP to be more effective in its assistance to vulnerable communities.

## Country Background & Strategy



The presidential elections in April 2014 resulted in political tensions leaving the National Unity Government divided largely across ethnic lines. The country was also plagued with economic deterioration as a result of the loss of revenue from foreign military disengagement, and an ambitious return strategy which failed to secure large-scale remittances. The economy continued to deteriorate leaving 2015 to be characterised by the highest levels of in-country insecurity and military confrontation. This was followed by a period of political turmoil where 2016 provincial elections were delayed, and the National Unity Government almost collapsed on many occasions.

Nationally, 3.4 million people are severely food-insecure, which represents an increase from the previous year. Another 5.9 million are moderately food-insecure, in a situation where they cannot sustainably cope with shocks and resort to asset depleting strategies in order to cater to their needs.

Food utilisation is generally poor as a result of inadequate access to improved water and sanitation services, inappropriate young child feed practices. High levels of malnutrition (wasting is 9.5 percent, stunting 40.9 percent and underweight 25 percent) further compound food insecurity. In-country humanitarian access continues to be constrained by heightened insecurity.

WFP has been in Afghanistan since 1963.

Population: <b>30 million</b>	2015 Human Development Index: <b>171 out of 188</b>
Development: <b>Least developed country (WTO)</b>	Life Expectancy: Female 59 Male 61

## Donors

**Top five Donors for PRRO 200447:** USA, Republic of Korea, Australia, Japan, Canada

**Top five Donors for EMOP:** USA, Australia, CERF, Belgium and Norway

**Top five Donors for SO 200870:** USA, Japan

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