



# WFP Afghanistan Country Brief

## WFP Assistance

Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation 200447 (PRRO)	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Months Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
(Jan 2014 - June 2018)	763.7 m	407.3 m (53%)	38.3 m**

\*November 2017 - April 2018

### GENDER MARKER 2A PRRO 200447

WFP Afghanistan's protracted relief and recovery operation (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, 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 revised the operational plan by:

- Extending the PRRO from January 2017 to June 2018 for all programme activities, to target 3.3 million vulnerable Afghans with food or cash-based assistance;
- Improving geographical targeting and activity prioritisation by using the 2016 Integrated Context Analysis (ICA) tool; and
- Mainstreaming Purchase for Progress (P4P) into the regular programme structure.

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

- Production: support to smallholder farmers;
- Processing: transformation and fortification of locally grown commodities;
- Promotion and quality assurance: developing consumer demand and food safety controls.

Emergency Operation 201024 (EMOP)	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Months Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
(Oct 2016 - Dec 2017)	67 m	37 m (55%)	0.6 m

\*November 2017 - December 2017

**Main Photo** Credit: WFP/Sayed Hadi Abdullahi  
Caption: A young girl plays during a distribution for conflict affected IDPs in Jawzjan Province.

## Highlights

- Food security among the poorest has deteriorated in Afghanistan according to recent Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) and Seasonal Food Security (SFSA) post-harvest assessments.
- On 16 October, Afghanistan joined the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement. 41 per cent of children under 5 in Afghanistan are stunted.
- WFP will increase assistance to vulnerable people in prolonged displacement during the critical winter period.
- WFP and partners have regained access to Wardoj province, which had been inaccessible since 2015.
- WFP faces a shortage of funding from February 2018 and urgently needs USD 42.6 million to meet the food and nutrition needs of vulnerable women, men, boys and girls.

WFP's emergency operation (EMOP), extended to December 2017, aims to support 1.2 million food-insecure people on the move, including Afghan returnees from Pakistan (undocumented and documented), internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees from Pakistan. WFP provides food and cash-based transfers to ensure that these populations can meet their basic food needs.

Special Operation 200870 (UNHAS)	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 months Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
(Jan 2016 - Dec 2017)	33.5 m	27.9 m (83%)	3.7 m**

\*November 2017 - December 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.

Special Operation 200635 (Strategic Grain Reserve)	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total received (in USD)	Annual net funding requirements (in USD)*
(Sept 2014 - Dec 2018)	14.1 m	1.6 m (11%)	0†

WFP supports the Strategic Grain Reserve (SGR) programme, led by the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock. The SGR aims to improve national emergency response capacity and build resilience in rural communities by stabilising wheat prices and providing storage facilities for farmers.

\*\* 6 month net funding requirement as per Country Office Pipeline.  
† Based on current plans.

## In Numbers

**11.1 million** food-insecure people in Afghanistan (SFSA 2017)

**296,190** people displaced by conflict in 2017 (UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 29 October)

**441,910** returnees from Iran & Pakistan in 2017 (International Organization for Migration, 26 August)

**713,942**  
People assisted by WFP  
October 2017



**October 2017**

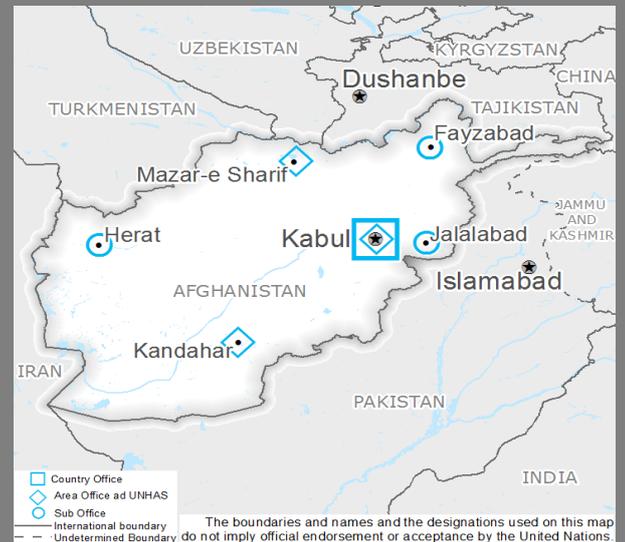
## Operational Updates

- **1.9 million Afghan men, women and children are experiencing emergency levels of food insecurity** (IPC 4) according to the recent [IPC post-harvest food security assessment](#) (compared with 208,000 in 2015). Badghis, Faryab and Khost districts have highest levels of food insecurity, and across the country Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), returnees, refugees and women-headed households are worst affected. Initial findings of the [SFSa](#) indicate a worse situation for the poorest families than in 2016, with an increase in severe food insecurity. Both reports identify **limited resilience** as a risk, as families are forced to sell assets in order to buy food. WFP's **mobile vulnerability analysis and mapping unit (mVAM)** published a [Market Assessment Bulletin for the eastern provinces of Nuristan and Kunar](#). The report found that worsening security in both provinces makes households concerned about travelling to markets. Furthermore, physical access challenges, which are exacerbated by security, have pushed up prices in Nuristan province.
- The mVAM unit conducted 60 interviews with Key Informants including market traders, CDCs and Shuras, across 12 districts.
- **WFP is targeting 12,500 prolonged IDPs** in the northern region who will be registered via SCOPE and receive food assistance (2,250 mt of mixed foods) in November and December.
- In October, WFP distributed 3,757 mt of WFP food and **USD 689,531 of cash-based transfers** to 713,942 food-insecure men, women, boys and girls in Afghanistan. Women and girls numbered 404,661.
- **WFP Afghanistan prepositioned 331 mt of food** to districts in the western, northern and central regions that are inaccessible during the winter months. A further 1,086 mt will be prepositioned in November.
- WFP and partners made **significant breakthroughs in access** negotiations. For the first time since 2015 an inter-agency team will conduct assessments in Wardoj district in Badakhshan province (northern Afghanistan). With help from communities, WFP is now proving take home rations to boys and girls attending schools in **Musa Qala district in Helmand province** (in the south).
- **18 WFP staff received gender mainstreaming awareness sessions** from WFP's Gender Equality Specialist in October (including 16 men and 2 women).
- The **United Nations Humanitarian Air Service** (UNHAS) transported 2,288 aid workers and 4.8 mt of light cargo. In Afghanistan, 160 organizations rely on UNHAS to reach populations in need.

## Challenges

- **Deteriorating security situation:** Insecurity remains the greatest challenge facing WFP's operations.
- **Access challenges:** WFP remains unable to access 450 targeted Pakistani refugees in Paktika province (in the east) and unable to conduct needs assessments of IDPs in Bala Murghab in northwestern Afghanistan due to insecurity. Access negotiations are ongoing.
- **Funding shortage:** WFP urgently needs USD 42.6 million avoid pipeline breaks from March 2018.

## Country Background & Strategy



Afghanistan is at high risk of natural disasters such as floods, drought and landslides.

The country struggles with political instability, with the Government divided largely across ethnic lines.

The economy has deteriorated as a result of loss of revenue following foreign military disengagement. This has continued, with devastating effect: 2015 was characterised by the highest levels of in-country insecurity and military confrontation. This was followed by a period of political turmoil during which the 2016 provincial elections were delayed and the National Unity Government almost collapsed on many occasions.

Nationally, 3.4 million people are severely food-insecure. Another 5.9 million are moderately food-insecure and unable to sustainably cope with shocks such as natural disaster or conflict.

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: **30 million**

2015 Human Development Index: **169 out of 188**

Development status: **Least developed country (LDC)**

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, Germany, Japan

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