

Standard Project Report 2015

Reporting Period: 1 January - 31 December 2015

AFGHANISTAN

Assistance to Address Food Insecurity and Undernutrition

Project Number	200447
Project Category	Single Country PRRO
Overall Planned Beneficiaries	3,869,800
Planned Beneficiaries in 2015	3,630,900
Total Beneficiaries in 2015	3,650,084

Project Approval Date	06 Nov 2013
Planned Start Date	01 Jan 2014
Actual Start Date	01 Jan 2014
Project End Date	31 Dec 2016
Financial Closure Date	n.a.

Approved budget as 31 December 2015 in USD	
Capacity Dev.t and Augmentation	1,926,000
Cash--based Transfer and Related Costs	46,040,819
Direct Support Costs	127,970,858
Food and Related Costs	314,389,646
Indirect Support Costs	34,322,913
Total Approved Budget	524,650,235

Commodities	Metric Tonnes
Total Approved Commodities	333,195
Planned Commodities in 2015	126,267
Actual Commodities in 2015	80,391

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Country Overview



COUNTRY BACKGROUND

Afghanistan is a landlocked country, with an estimated population of 30 million, and with a rank of 171 on the 2014 Human Development Index. After more than three decades of war and civil unrest, Afghanistan continues to face enormous challenges. Despite recent economic growth largely driven by foreign assistance, the socio-economic indicators of the country remain poor and still in need of recovery and development support.

Since 2001, the Afghan population's access to basic services has greatly improved in nearly all sectors. School enrolment has increased sharply, with over eight million children currently enrolled in school, of whom 40 percent are girls. Adult literacy stands at 31.4 percent. Life expectancy at birth is 62 years.

Despite significant improvements in the coverage and quality of health services, as well as a drop in maternal, infant and under-five mortality, Afghan health indicators remain below average for low income countries, indicating the need to further lower barriers for women accessing services. Afghanistan has one of the highest levels of child malnutrition in the world, with over 40 percent of children under five years of age suffering from chronic malnutrition while both women and children suffer from high levels of vitamin and mineral deficiencies.

Afghanistan is a food-deficit country and relies on imports to meet consumption needs. In 2015, the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock estimated that the country produced 5.8 million mt of cereals indicating a reduction of 0.940 million mt compared to the previous year (2014). The cereal deficit in 2015 was estimated at 1 million mt against 0.242 million mt in 2014. While food availability has improved since 2011 at the national level, challenges regarding the lack of physical and economic access to a nutritious diet persist. Poor infrastructure and limited livelihood opportunities, poor food utilisation, insecurity and market instability continue to have a negative impact on household food security.

The latest Afghanistan Living Condition Survey (ALCS-2014, formerly the National Risk and Vulnerability Assessment or NRVA) showed that 33 percent (9.3 million people) of the total population are food-insecure. Among them, an estimated 3.4 million (or 12 percent) are severely, and 5.9 million (or 21 percent) moderately food-insecure.

Widespread insecurity is a major and growing concern. Military operations launched in most parts of the country against insurgents have not only affected the food security of populations, but also undermined the government's reconstruction efforts and led to serious restrictions on humanitarian interventions. Despite the growing insecurity, WFP remained fully operational in most parts of the country through three area offices and three sub offices addressing health, educational and environmental deficiencies and providing livelihood opportunities in remote, food-insecure areas.

SUMMARY OF WFP ASSISTANCE

WFP's programme portfolio is comprised of a Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO), Purchase for Progress (P4P), the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) and a Special Operation for a Strategic Grain Reserve (SGR).

WFP supported the acute food and nutrition security needs of the most vulnerable populations in Afghanistan with food and unconditional cash or voucher transfers and food-based nutrition interventions, and continued to respond to emergencies through the provision of basic food rations. Contributing to Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 1 (eradicate extreme poverty and hunger), WFP ensured that the most vulnerable could meet their basic food needs during times of crisis, by supporting internally displaced people (IDPs) and returnees, people affected by natural disasters, and economically stressed populations. WFP also assisted moderately malnourished children under five years of age, and pregnant and lactating women, thus contributing to MDG 4 (reduce child mortality), MDG 5 (improve maternal health).

WFP contributed to learning achievements among primary and lower secondary school children by providing take-home rations and among adults, particularly women, through vocational skills training activities. There was also broad participation in the country's recovery efforts by developing local capacities and rehabilitating household and community assets. WFP also helped communities recover from shocks by supporting communities in their efforts to restore the degraded environment by constructing flood protection walls, check dams, irrigation canals, establishment of tree nurseries and planting trees, etc., throughout the country. These activities contributed to: MDG 2 (achieve universal primary education) and MDG 3 (promote gender equality) and MDG 7 (ensure environmental sustainability).

Through the P4P initiative, WFP supported increased production, productivity and market development in Afghanistan. WFP purchased local wheat from farmers and locally produced high-energy biscuits to strengthen Afghan markets and improved market access for small-scale producers. WFP continued to support national flour fortification programmes, and enhancing the capacity of private millers to fortify flour for commercial purposes, by providing millers with micronutrients and training. In addition, WFP supports and promotes soya and soya fortification, a good source of daily protein.

The UNHAS operation provided safe and efficient air transport services for the humanitarian community throughout Afghanistan. UNHAS operated a fleet of two aircraft and one helicopter, serving 25 destinations, and supported up to 160 humanitarian organizations to deliver assistance in locations where no commercial air transportation option exists.

Under the Strategic Grain Reserve programme, led by the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock, WFP worked to support the construction of storage facilities to increase national emergency response capacity. In addition to enhancing emergency response, the SGR programme seeks to facilitate the stabilisation of wheat prices, provide storage options to farmers, and reduce post-harvest losses.

Through a budget revision of the PRRO, WFP sharpened its focus on food security and nutrition interventions in the country, and expanded the programme to include food assistance to some 200,000 Pakistani refugees in Khost and Paktika provinces as well as a pilot project providing high-energy biscuits to primary students in one district of Badakhshan province. WFP continued to contribute to the capacity development of central and district level government counterparts in food security analysis and emergency preparedness and response.

Beneficiaries	Male	Female	Total
Number of children below 5 years of age	390,924	375,594	766,518
Number of children 5 to 18 years of age	688,771	661,760	1,350,531
Number of adults	781,848	751,187	1,533,035
Total number of beneficiaries in 2015	1,861,543	1,788,541	3,650,084
Total number of beneficiaries in 2014	1,605,770	1,657,575	3,263,345
Total number of beneficiaries in 2013	1,910,222	1,562,917	3,473,139

Distribution (mt)						
Project Type	Cereals	Oil	Pulses	Mix	Other	Total
Single Country PRRO	62,363	9,778	6,481	1,359	409	80,391
Total food distributed in 2015	62,363	9,778	6,481	1,359	409	80,391
Total food distributed in 2014	60,937	11,237	6,517	2,065	440	81,195
Total food distributed in 2013	74,967	10,009	11,026	9,295	822	106,120

Operational SPR

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES AND RELEVANCE

The PRRO aims to enhance the food security and nutrition among the most vulnerable populations in Afghanistan. Activities targeting rural and urban communities to alleviate hunger and reduce undernutrition as well as to enhance resilience were complemented by broader capacity development initiatives such as disaster risk reduction management and emergency simulation exercises.

WFP's humanitarian assistance included the provision of food or cash-based transfers (CBT) to internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returnees affected by conflict, to people affected by economic stress or natural disasters, such as floods and landslides, as well as for the treatment of acutely malnourished children under five years of age and pregnant and lactating women (PLW). According to the Afghanistan National Nutrition Survey (NNS) 2013, 40.9 percent of children under five were chronically malnourished (stunted), 9.5 percent were acutely malnourished (wasted) and 24.6 percent underweight.

The context of maternal and child nutrition status is characterised by a high prevalence of malnutrition, including micronutrient deficiencies, due to inadequate dietary intake, frequent infections and poor maternal outcomes. Maternal undernutrition is equally concerning with one-fifth of adolescent girls and women of reproductive age undernourished (low body mass index). Underweight women are more likely to give birth to low birthweight babies at higher risk of neonatal and infant death and stunted growth. The NNS 2013 showed that women and adolescent girls who had little or no formal education or came from impoverished households were more likely to be malnourished and deficient in essential micronutrients.

As part of its recovery strategy, WFP supported communities in their efforts to build productive assets that increase agricultural productivity and strengthen resilience to shocks. Additionally, WFP's recovery activities contributed to increased enrolment, attendance and learning capacity among primary and lower secondary school pupils through take-home rations, and among adults, particularly women, through vocational skills training activities.

Aligned with WFP Strategic Objectives 1, 2 and 4, the PRRO aimed to:

- respond to the food security and nutritional needs of IDPs and returnees affected by conflict, and people affected by natural disasters and economic stress (under Strategic Objective 1);
- support the recovery of communities affected by shocks (under Strategic Objective 2);
- treat moderately malnourished children under-5 and PLW (under Strategic Objective 4);
- contribute to learning among primary and lower secondary school pupils and adults, particularly women (under Strategic Objective 4).

Under capacity development, WFP's Purchase for Progress (P4P) initiative continued to procure locally produced high-energy biscuits (HEB) for emergency response, wheat grain from local small-holder farmer organizations and also to connect farmers with millers in order to create a sustainable institutional market for their surplus. This contributed to WFP's shift to more nutrition-sensitive entitlement baskets in mid-2015. WFP facilitated capacity development events for government staff, farmers and national counterparts. Training included major disaster response simulation exercises, with a focus on emergency preparedness and response capacity, food security analysis and disaster risk reduction (DRR).

The PRRO is aligned with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (2014-2017) and the Government's National Priority Programmes under the Afghanistan National Development Strategy. In particular, the PRRO was linked to Cluster 5 (Agriculture and Rural Development) as well as Cluster 2 (Human Resource Development) of the National Priority Programmes.

RESULTS

Beneficiaries, Targeting and Distribution

WFP Afghanistan reached more than three and a half million food-insecure and undernourished people in 2015. Although 100 percent of planned beneficiaries was reached, reduced donor funding forced WFP to either decrease its rations in most activities, in some cases by more than half, or to distribute only one commodity (wheat or fortified wheat flour), thus negatively impacting food assistance to populations in need. The decreased ration was decided after a regular and thorough review of the programme criticality, targeting criteria and other operational arrangements (security, partnerships, local capacities and commitment) had been conducted to effectively prioritise life-saving assistances, and targeted only severely food-insecure people in highly food-insecure districts with 30 percent or more food-insecure people.

School feeding was suspended in September, as were vocational skills training projects. Consequently, beneficiaries did not receive full rations, lowering the planned energy and nutritious value intakes, and the achievements in the distributions of food and CBT also fell well below planned targets.

Given the high prevalence of micronutrient deficiencies (e.g. 49.9 percent prevalence of anaemia in children under five), WFP transitioned from July onwards from distributing wheat to distributing fortified wheat flour for all of its activities. The transition process was completed by November. The food basket consisted of either wheat or fortified wheat flour, pulses, vegetable oil, iodised salt, and high-energy biscuits. As part of the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM), acutely malnourished PLW were treated with a food basket of fortified wheat flour, pulses, fortified vegetable oil, iodised salt and multiple micronutrient tablets; children aged 6 to 59 months with MAM were treated with a ready-to-use supplementary food (RUSF), either Acha Mum or Plumpy'sup. Micronutrient tablets were provided to PLW based on a history of specialised nutritious foods (fortified blended foods) not being accepted by the population.

Following the successful introduction of electronic vouchers, CBT was expanded to support urban severely food-insecure people during the lean season through vocational skills training and asset creation activities. Sectoral capacity assessments and cost-effectiveness analysis highlighted the feasibility and appropriateness of CBT within urban areas, and aligned WFP assistance with government strategic priorities. However, the overall funding allocated to CBT-supported activities was very low, leading to fewer numbers of beneficiaries reached. This was primarily due to strategic prioritisation of limited funds for emergency response and nutrition activities where in-kind assistance was more appropriate.

WFP reached higher than planned numbers of IDPs due to the assistance provided to conflict-induced IDPs in Kunduz in September and October, as well as earthquake-affected IDPs in the north in late October. The number of assisted Afghan returnees remained low, as the actual number of nationals returning to Afghanistan was modest compared to previous years. General food assistance was also provided to Pakistani refugees who settled in the provinces of Khost and Paktika, after fleeing from a major military offensive in the North Waziristan Agency of Pakistan. Although efforts were made to provide a full food basket to these refugees, rations were reduced due to funding constraints.

During 2015, a nutrition monitoring module was developed for the Afghanistan Process and Performance Monitoring and Reporting database, which improved the surveillance of beneficiaries in the treatment of MAM programme. While the number of MAM children reached was in line with planned targets, the number of PLW reached was considerably higher than planned. A number of factors contributed to this overachievement: a likely higher acute malnutrition prevalence among PLW than is reflected in the NNS 2013 findings; a larger population size than estimates used by the Afghanistan's Central Statistics Organization; and increased participation as a result of social and informal outreach within communities.

The school feeding programme targeted boys and girls in primary schools, and girls only in upper primary schools, providing a monthly take-home ration (THR) of fortified vegetable oil as an incentive to enroll in school and maintain attendance. A pilot was introduced in Badakhshan province providing high-energy biscuits (HEB) to be consumed during recess, further improving attendance. School head counts indicated a higher number of students than initially forecast, witnessing a positive impact of school feeding activities. There was low achievement in secondary school girl students as the majority of schools were closed and the intervention could not be implemented because of security problems (armed clashes) in three districts of two provinces (Badghis and Uruzgan). In some provinces, resources for THR for girls in grades 7-9 were shifted to THR for girls and boys in grades 1-6 for security reasons. The THR for boys and girls distributed for only five to six months. In Badakhshan and Warduj districts, HEB were distributed to 7,549 students (6,993 boys in grades 1-6 and 556 girls in grades 7-9 respectively) for two months only.

Vocational skills training projects are popular among target populations, especially women. However, given these activities are not life-saving, lack of resources dictated a suspension of or a reduction in the projects.

Reduced resources forced WFP Afghanistan to implement shorter duration assets creation activities. Despite this, as shown later in the report, the community assets score of projects implemented was 87, exceeding the corporate target and thus reflecting the affected community's high satisfaction with the utility and functionality of the assets created.

Beneficiary Category	Planned			Actual			% Actual v. Planned		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Number of adults	765,593	834,259	1,599,852	781,848	751,187	1,533,035	102.1%	90.0%	95.8%
Number of children 5 to 18 years of age	648,928	635,873	1,284,801	688,771	661,760	1,350,531	106.1%	104.1%	105.1%
Number of children below 5 years of age	380,586	365,661	746,247	390,924	375,594	766,518	102.7%	102.7%	102.7%
Total number of beneficiaries in 2015	1,795,107	1,835,793	3,630,900	1,861,543	1,788,541	3,650,084	103.7%	97.4%	100.5%
Total number of beneficiaries in 2014	1,738,436	1,598,611	3,337,047	1,605,770	1,657,575	3,263,345	92.4%	103.7%	97.8%

The total number of beneficiaries includes all targeted persons who were provided with WFP food during the reporting period - either as a recipient/participant in one or more of the following groups, or from a household food ration distributed to one of these recipients/participants

Beneficiary Category	Planned			Actual			% Actual v. Planned		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Internally Displaced Persons	107,100	102,900	210,000	203,448	177,114	380,562	190.0%	172.1%	181.2%
Children receiving take-home rations	105,879	114,121	220,000	131,101	131,564	262,665	123.8%	115.3%	119.4%
of whom: Girls in secondary schools receiving take-home rations		35,770	35,770		25,434	25,434		71.1%	71.1%
Participants in Food For Training	9,000	21,000	30,000	248	10,356	10,604	2.8%	49.3%	35.3%
Participants in Food For Assets	35,100	3,900	39,000	67,064	855	67,919	191.1%	21.9%	174.2%
Beneficiaries of General food distribution (GFD)/ targeted food distribution/assistance (GFD-TFD/A)	770,610	740,390	1,511,000	805,920	789,961	1,595,881	104.6%	106.7%	105.6%
Refugees	105,060	100,940	206,000	122,355	89,458	211,813	116.5%	88.6%	102.8%
Children receiving school meals	3,927	3,773	7,700	3,397	8,620	12,017	86.5%	228.5%	156.1%
Children 24 to 59 months given food under supplementary feeding (treatment for moderate malnutrition)	28,948	27,812	56,760	30,293	28,850	59,143	104.6%	103.7%	104.2%
Children 6 to 23 months given food under supplementary feeding (treatment for moderate malnutrition)	43,421	41,719	85,140	44,718	40,390	85,108	103.0%	96.8%	100.0%
Pregnant and lactating women participating in targeted supplementary feeding (treatment for moderate acute malnutrition)		105,600	105,600		183,958	183,958		174.2%	174.2%
Returnees	48,450	46,550	95,000	38,808	29,582	68,390	80.1%	63.5%	72.0%
Cash-Based Transfer Beneficiaries	297,840	286,160	584,000	48,053	51,354	99,407	16.1%	17.9%	17.0%

Commodity Distribution

Commodity	Planned Distribution (mt)	Actual Distribution (mt)	% Actual v. Planned
Dried Fruits		54	
High Energy Biscuits	762	380	49.9%
Iodised Salt	763	346	45.4%
Lentils	11,777	2,273	19.3%
Micronutrition Tablets	14	9	63.0%
Peas	0	309	-
Ready To Use Supplementary Food	1,175	979	83.4%
Split Peas		3,900	
Vegetable Oil	16,133	9,778	60.6%
Wheat	49,994	43,067	86.1%
Wheat Flour	45,649	19,296	42.3%
Total for 2015	126,267	80,391	63.7%
Total reported in 2014 SPR	106,460	76,589	71.9%

Cash-Based Transfer	Planned Distribution (USD)	Actual Distribution (USD)	% Actual v. Planned
Cash	3,829,200	0	0.0%
Vouchers	6,934,665.46	2,790,726	40.2%
Total for 2015	10,763,865.46	2,790,726	25.9%

'Story Worth Telling'

To the relief of her mother and doctors, Zuhail is gaining weight. But just three months ago the 18-month-old girl from eastern Laghman Province in Afghanistan weighed only 5 kg; less than half the average for a child of her age.

Cases like Zuhail's are not unusual in Afghanistan. According to a 2013 survey, more than 40 percent of Afghan children under five years of age are stunted, and almost one-fifth of women of reproductive age are underweight. The wasting rate for children under five in Laghman province is 16 percent (NNS 2013).

Today, however, Zuhail is one of the 5,000 children with MAM, who are being treated with specialised nutritious foods by WFP in the 12 health centres in the Laghman province.

"I could not breastfeed her anymore and was very sad when I realised my daughter was losing weight; she was getting thinner every day," said her mother Maryam. "My daughter has improved a lot and this encourages me to visit this clinic on time and on a regular basis."

Zuhail has gained almost 2 kg over the last three months since being registered as malnourished and provided with the specialised food. Every two weeks she visits the clinic for the improvement to be measured. The positive impact on her weight was noted within the first two weeks of her treatment.

Working with partners such as Afghanistan's Ministry of Public Health and UNICEF, WFP provides specialised nutritious foods across the country to PLW and children between six months and five years of age with MAM. Each child receives a daily pack of a RUSF (Acha Mum or Plumpy'sup) for an average treatment period of three months, while PLW are treated with a food basket and multiple micronutrient tablets; additional food is provided as the ration is often shared with the families.

Progress Towards Gender Equality

WFP continues to ensure that gender considerations are fully taken into account during the design and implementation of WFP assistance, despite the fact that from a security and socio-cultural perspective Afghanistan remains a challenging environment in which to address gender inequality. WFP has prepared an Afghanistan-specific gender strategy to implement WFP's gender policy, and established a gender advisory board to help mainstream gender considerations throughout WFP programming. WFP Afghanistan also shared a Protection/Gender officer with WFP Pakistan to share best practices.

Sex-disaggregated household-level data analysis is conducted by the country office's Vulnerability Assessment and Mapping unit for all surveys and rapid emergency assessments. This analysis forms the basis for gender considerations in WFP project design and is used to prioritise WFP assistance to the most vulnerable and food-insecure people, including households headed by women, children, elderly or disabled persons.

Take-home rations of fortified cooking oil for girls in grades 1 to 9 aimed to increase attendance and retention among girls in school. Schools were selected based on high gender disparity and low attendance rates in food-insecure districts. Under nutrition activities, supplementary feeding programmes exclusively targeted malnourished children and PLW. Women made up the majority of recipients for vocational skills training projects.

Asset creation activities showed under-representation of women up to the third quarter, largely due to existing socio-cultural norms and a focus on heavy labour-intensive projects. However, strong efforts to increase the number of female participants in asset creation activities by varying the activity portfolio and ensuring projects that could accommodate a range of physical capacities, which resulted in more female participations in the last quarter of 2015.

The proportion of women beneficiaries in leadership positions in project management committees has increased since 2014, but is still far from gender parity.

WFP prioritised the expansion of electronic vouchers via mobile money for vocational skills training and asset creation activities, predominantly targeting women. This ensured that the female beneficiaries had direct control over their food entitlements, enhanced their purchasing power and were able to redeem their vouchers for preferred food items in the local market.

The beneficiary feedback hotline continues to have a female operator to respond to female callers and mitigate against potential cultural concerns. Additionally WFP has reviewed its sensitisation and awareness materials to be more image-based to account for high rates of female illiteracy, particularly in rural areas.

In general, WFP worked to ensure that monitoring and evaluation teams and third party monitors included women enumerators who could engage with women, and sought to identify other strategies to ensure that women's perspectives informed programme design.

There continued to be gender and protection concerns around distributions. Security constraints and prevailing cultural attitudes present a challenge for women to safely and securely access some distribution sites. WFP is continuing to work with community leaders and cooperating partners to ensure that distribution sites are established in locations where women could access with minimal difficulty, with special focus on distribution sites for women-centric activities such as vocational skills training and nutrition programmes. Where feasible, WFP has expanded an initiative started in 2014 to make the size of food packaging lighter and more female-friendly. Based on the Pakistan model, WFP will pilot the Safe Distribution model in early 2016.

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project end Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
	Target Val	(at start of project or benchmark)	(penultimate follow-up)	(latest value measured)
Proportion of women beneficiaries in leadership positions of project management committees				
Base value: Dec-2013, WFP programme monitoring and CP distribution reports., Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Enhanced commitment to women report and Programme monitoring., Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Gender and Protection Survey and programme monitoring., Programme monitoring.	30	25	23	33
Proportion of women project management committee members trained on modalities of food, cash, or voucher distribution				
Base value: Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Enhanced commitment to women report and Programme monitoring., Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Nov-2015, Gender and Protection Survey and programme monitoring., Programme monitoring.	60	0	25	46

Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations

WFP reached its accountability target under the PRRO with nearly all beneficiaries (99.3 percent) indicating that they knew their entitlement and understood the complaint mechanism. This achievement can be attributed to strong community awareness building efforts by WFP and cooperating partners, the expanded use of SMS text with electronic vouchers, improved visual sensitisation materials, and increased direct contact with communities as a result of the WFP access strategy.

In 2015, WFP handled some 490 calls through the hotline, from both men and women from across all provinces where WFP operates. This was a slight increase (3 percent) compared to 2014 and suggested increasing awareness about the complaint process.

The majority of WFP participants reported that they did not experience a safety problem travelling to/from programme sites. This was a 2-percent decrease compared to the previous year, but is still higher than the baseline figure and project target, and can be considered a success given the overall increase in insecurity and civilian casualties in Afghanistan. This result can partially be attributed to strong safety mitigation measures that WFP put in place to enable a safe environment for WFP beneficiaries to travel. It may also reflect an under-reporting of safety issues due to the sensitivity of the issue and an under-representation of women interviewees.

The most common safety problems reported were insecurity and fear of violence due to ongoing conflict, domestic and gender-based violence. Also of concern were protection risks for beneficiaries and access restrictions imposed by some armed non-state actors who consider humanitarian assistance, including WFP food assistance, as an extension of Western 'interference'. WFP considered these protection concerns in the design and implementation of its operations.

In 2015, security continued to be the main constraint in reaching conflict-induced IDPs and refugees. In high-risk locations, WFP continued the practice of distributing unmarked bags without WFP's logo or donor markings in agreement with donors. In 2016, WFP plans to pilot a Safe Distribution Model in Kabul and Nangarhar provinces.

WFP continued to focus on mitigation of protection risks associated with socio-cultural barriers, such as intra-household protection concerns arising from prioritising entitlement transfers to women. Potential risks associated with cash transfers were also evaluated and mitigated through community consultation and sensitisation. WFP used all available means to distribute sensitisation messages on WFP operations, emphasising humanitarian impartiality and neutrality whilst also highlighting beneficiary entitlements and feedback mechanisms.

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project end Target	Base Value <i>(at start of project or benchmark)</i>	Previous Follow-up <i>(penultimate follow-up)</i>	Latest Follow-up <i>(latest value measured)</i>
Proportion of assisted people informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)				
Base value: Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Enhanced commitment to women report and Programme monitoring., Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Gender and Protection Survey and programme monitoring., Programme monitoring.	100	97	97.1	99.3
Proportion of assisted people who do not experience safety problems travelling to/from and at WFP programme sites				
Base value: Nov-2014, WFP programme monitoring and CP distribution reports., Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Enhanced commitment to women report and Programme monitoring., Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Gender and Protection Survey and programme monitoring., Programme monitoring.	95	94	98.4	96

Outputs

In 2015, WFP activities in Afghanistan faced numerous challenges such as the downscaling of rations in almost 95 percent of the interventions, the suspension of the school feeding programme as of September 2015, and the reduction in the food basket to one food commodity instead of four commodities for the 'economically-stressed populations' (ESP) group.

In line with Strategic Objective 1, WFP prioritised life-saving assistance with an emergency response provided to conflict-affected populations including refugees in Khost and Paktika provinces as well as food-insecure populations affected by natural disasters. In order to accommodate a greater number of beneficiaries than anticipated, WFP reduced the emergency response ration to 75 percent. Although the ration deduction meant decreased nutritional value of the food basket, this allowed WFP to provide emergency support throughout 2015, to groups such as conflict-affected populations from Kunduz City and families impacted by the destructive earthquake that struck northern Afghanistan in late October.

WFP also provided emergency seasonal safety nets for severely food-insecure and economically stressed populations. Given that the lean season for most parts of Afghanistan is within the first half of the year, early pipeline breaks and late receipt of commodities led to a reduction in both annual beneficiaries and the rations prioritised for the most severely food-insecure provinces. In 2016, WFP will promote local food procurement and explore CBT options in order to shorten the lead time.

Food commodities were provided to almost 85 percent of the planned rural beneficiaries, as funding shortfalls led WFP to prioritise in-kind emergency support and nutrition activities predominantly in rural areas. Most urban beneficiaries were assisted with CBT, however WFP was only able to assist 10 percent of the planned total. At the recommendation of targeted communities in some locations, ESP assistance was made conditional on volunteer labour, leading to the creation and rehabilitation of communal productive assets.

Under Strategic Objective 2, WFP's strategy focused on DRR and community-level resilience activities. WFP thus prioritised low-tech asset creation activities based on community priorities such as watershed management, soil conservation, productive assets (terraces, trenches and tree plantations) and light disaster risk reduction (DRR) activities. In light of resource constraints, high-impact heavy infrastructure projects, particularly those designed to mitigate the impact of future shocks, were not implemented. By focusing on low-cost activities distributed across a larger number of vulnerable communities, WFP was able to assist nearly twice the planned beneficiaries under asset creation activities through both food and CBT modalities. A DRR specialist seconded from a donor was brought on board to improve the impact and cost effectiveness of asset creation projects.

Resourcing levels and insecurity impacted WFP activities under Strategic Objective 4. In the school feeding programme, access issues meant that girls' schools in certain districts could not be reached while a lack of fortified vegetable oil led to a suspension of all THR for the fourth quarter. Overall, the fewer number of feeding days than planned was a result of funding shortfalls and suspension of school feeding projects as of September 2015. WFP managed to distribute only five-six months entitlements to the students.

In a pilot school meals project, WFP provided HEB to 12,000 school children in Badakhshan. The biscuits were procured from the WFP-supported production facility in Jalalabad, promoting local production. The results of the pilot will inform the future direction of the school feeding strategy countrywide.

WFP was able to assist only half of the planned beneficiaries with vocational skills training, which was particularly focused on women who could learn basic literacy and numeracy skills integrated with health and nutrition information. Targeting urban and peri-urban beneficiaries with good access to functioning markets, WFP provided the majority of vocational skills training beneficiaries with CBT (mobile money-enabled electronic vouchers). Given that electronic vouchers had only been briefly piloted in 2014, the six month implementation period of the vocational skills training meant multiple distribution cycles allowing WFP area-offices and sub-offices to field-test electronic vouchers for an extended duration and enhance their experience and familiarity with the new modality.

Despite a volatile security environment, WFP was able to approximately achieve the planned number of health centres assisted. Although the treatment of MAM programme was sometimes disrupted due to clinic closures, WFP managed to assist clinics across 211 districts in 25 provinces with the strong support of Ministry of Public Health. Capacity development of national nutrition partners remains a priority with WFP providing training to a higher than planned number of community health workers.

Substantial capacity development activities were also undertaken under the P4P initiative, in the form of training and other support for government personnel, farmers and other stakeholders.

Output	Unit	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
SO 1: GFD				
Number of days rations were provided	day	60	60	100.0%
Number of settlement/resettlement packages distributed	package	69,126	68,819	99.6%
Number of settlement/resettlement packages distributed	package	54,509	23,045	42.3%
SO 2: FFA				
Kilometres (km) of feeder roads raised above flooding levels	km	10	10	100.0%
Kilometres (km) of feeder roads rehabilitated (FFA) and maintained (self-help)	km	2,360	1,848	78.3%
Kilometres (km) of gullies reclaimed	km	250	239	95.6%
Number of assets built, restored or maintained by targeted communities and individuals	Asset	80	72	90.0%
Number of assisted communities with improved physical infrastructures to mitigate the impact of shocks, in place as a result of project assistance	community	300	199	66.3%
Volume (m3) of soil excavated from rehabilitated waterways and drainage lines (not including irrigation canals)	m3	81,044	69,805	86.1%
SO 4: FFT				
C&V: Total amount of cash transferred to beneficiaries	US\$	7,758,568	1,771,781	22.8%
Number of literacy centres assisted	centre	217	171	78.8%
Number of participants in beneficiary training sessions (health and nutrition)	Individual	1,568	315	20.1%
Number of participants in beneficiary training sessions (health and nutrition)	Individual	1,870	2,931	156.7%
SO 4: Nutrition: Treatment of Acute Malnutrition				
Number of health centres/sites assisted	centre/site	564	561	99.5%
Number of staff members/community health workers trained on modalities of food distribution	Individual	1,870	2,931	156.7%
SO 4: School Feeding				
Health, Nutrition and Hygiene: Number of WFP-assisted schools benefiting from complementary micronutrient supplementation	school	66	67	101.5%
Number of feeding days as % of actual school days	%	418	508	121.5%
Number of primary schools assisted by WFP	school	747	781	104.6%
Number of PTA members trained in school feeding management or implementation	Individual	66	167	253.0%

Outcomes

Under Strategic Objective 1, the 2015 Emergency Preparedness and Response Capacity Index (EPCI) achievement is a 'low' 2.4 against a maximum possible average score of 4, below the 2014 base value despite ongoing capacity development initiatives for key government counterparts. This is primarily attributable to a change in calculation methodology: the estimation of the EPCI was based on a new methodology with six variables related to hazard analysis and early warning in support of food security; food security and vulnerability analysis; food assistance planning; humanitarian supply chain management systems; emergency telecommunications; and national preparedness and response line with WFP's mandate and recognised areas of expertise. Thus WFP Afghanistan will consider the current result as the new baseline and will track progress against it in 2016.

There have been notable achievements in national capacity development, including i) improved food security and vulnerability analysis; ii) enhanced coordination and participation in assessments, humanitarian needs analysis and food assistance planning; and iii) improved regional contingency plans. WFP-run emergency simulation exercises provided assessments of the government's preparedness and response system. Nevertheless, due to limited government financial resources and technical capacities during the ongoing transition (such as Integrated Phase Classification - IPC), or the restructuring of disaster management systems and structures for taking over and effectively operationalising relevant activities, the overall national capacity for emergency preparedness and response remains limited, requiring continued support from WFP. In 2016 WFP's priorities will focus on i) integrated phase classification (IPC) coordination and early warning hazard analysis; ii) emergency telecommunications; iii) implementation of the national preparedness and response systems and plans; and iv) effective management and use of the Strategic Grain Reserve.

Despite the prioritisation of life-saving emergency responses in 2015, there was a slight increase in the proportion of households displaced or affected by conflict and natural disasters, showing poor food consumption levels. Although the percentage is still below the baseline, this setback reflects the impact of reduced rations due to resourcing levels being stretched to support higher levels of emergency response as a result of increased insecurity and large-scale natural disasters.

Under Strategic Objective 2, asset creation remained a key component of WFP's portfolio with a slight increase in the Community Asset Score (CAS). This was a result of both directed funding allowing for uninterrupted project implementation as well as joint partnerships with local government and United Nations agencies such as UNDP and FAO, which allowed for the completion of a larger number of assets. Strong local engagement during the project design and planning phases ensured community ownership of the final assets created. Nearly 3,500 families in Taloqan City, Takhar Province, were assisted through the construction of a series of flumes, culverts and protection walls and the excavation of 25 km of the long-dry Tashguzer Canal. With the completion of this project, for the first time in 30 years the canal has helped communities cultivate approximately 2,500 hectares of land.

Under Strategic Objective 4, building on a strong response in 2014, WFP's school feeding activities continued to show improvement. Head counts found beneficiaries a third higher than the planned response. 2015 saw a 7.37 percent increase in the net enrolment rate in schools targeted by WFP while the overall attendance rate for WFP-assisted primary schools (81 percent) was higher than that of non-assisted schools.

The borderline Food Consumption Scores (FCS) for both female-headed and male-headed households are based on actual data collected through post-distribution monitoring (PDM) from vocational training participants and then calculated according to corporate (Strategic Results Framework) methodology. While an improvement was observed in the poor male and female FCS and many, particularly female headed, families moving from poor to borderline food consumption levels, a deterioration occurred in both the female and male acceptable FCS groups, where many families moved from acceptable to borderline food consumption compared to 2014.

Resourcing constraints significantly impacted WFP's vocational skills training programmes. WFP strategically prioritised depth over breadth, maintaining CBT-supported vocational skills training projects in urban centres and cancelling virtually all in-kind-supported rural vocational skills training projects. Although this meant that only half of the planned beneficiaries were assisted, WFP saw strong attendance in one of the main activities targeting gender equality in Afghanistan by ensuring committed support for the full 6-month duration. Almost all female trainees successfully completing the courses (98 percent graduation rate) and more than 80 percent of male beneficiaries.

In 2015, WFP prioritised nutrition interventions and saw a significant improvement in key outcomes for children aged 6-59 months with MAM. In particular the recovery rate increased by almost 6 percentage points and the default rate halved. This was due to an improvement in the supply-chain of specialised nutritious food (as a result of lessons learned from pipeline breaks in 2014) as well as joint IMAM (Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition) planning and programming between WFP, UNICEF, Nutrition Cluster partners and the Ministry of Public Health. The joint programming resulted in a more coordinated community-level follow-up of malnourished children. Additionally, greater focus on the capacity building of the relevant staff has also contributed to the improved results. The coverage of MAM treatment remained slightly below 2014 levels and Sphere standards due to a deteriorating security situation which affected beneficiary access and also sometimes caused closure of some targeted health clinics.

The calculation of the programme coverage was based on a desk review in 561 out of 564 total sites. The desk coverage calculation was based on the methodology provided by WFP's Strategic Results Framework. The prevalence rate was originated from the Afghanistan NNS 2013.

Outcome	Project end Target	Base Value <i>(at start of project or benchmark)</i>	Previous Follow-up <i>(penultimate follow-up)</i>	Latest Follow-up <i>(latest value measured)</i>
Strategic Objective 1: Save lives and protect livelihoods in emergencies				
EPCI: Emergency Preparedness and Response Capacity Index				
Base value: Dec-2013, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Programme monitoring.	6.1	7	6	2.4
Strategic Objective 2: Support or restore food security and nutrition and establish or rebuild livelihoods in fragile settings and following emergencies				
CAS: percentage of communities with an increased Asset Score				
Base value: Dec-2013, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, WFP survey.	80	79	81.8	87
Strategic Objective 4: Reduce undernutrition and break the intergenerational cycle of hunger				
Attendance rate (boys) in WFP-assisted primary schools				
Base value: Dec-2013, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Programme monitoring.	80	75	85	81
Attendance rate (girls) in WFP-assisted primary schools				
Base value: Dec-2013, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Programme monitoring.	80	77	87	81
Attendance rate (girls) in WFP-assisted secondary schools				
Base value: Dec-2013, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, WFP survey.	80	77	82	83
Enrolment: Average annual rate of change in number of children enrolled in WFP-assisted primary schools				
Base value: Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, WFP survey.	5	0	15	7.3
FCS: percentage of households with borderline Food Consumption Score (female-headed)				
Base value: Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Programme monitoring.	1.48	7.4	3.6	14
FCS: percentage of households with borderline Food Consumption Score (male-headed)				
Base value: Dec-2013, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, WFP survey.	1.48	7.4	3.6	14
FCS: percentage of households with poor Food Consumption Score				
Base value: Dec-2013, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, WFP survey.	0.72	2.6	2.4	1

Outcome	Project end Target	Base Value <i>(at start of project or benchmark)</i>	Previous Follow-up <i>(penultimate follow-up)</i>	Latest Follow-up <i>(latest value measured)</i>
FCS: percentage of households with poor Food Consumption Score (female-headed) Base value: Dec-2013, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, WFP survey.	0.52	2.6	2.4	1
FCS: percentage of households with poor Food Consumption Score (male-headed) Base value: Dec-2013, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Programme monitoring.	0.52	2.6	2.5	2.2
MAM treatment default rate (%) Base value: Dec-2013, TSFP, monthly statistics report by cooperating partner., Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, TSFP, monthly statistics report by cooperating partner., Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, TSFP, monthly statistics report by cooperating partner., Programme monitoring.	15	7	11	5.3
MAM treatment mortality rate (%) Base value: Dec-2013, TSFP, monthly statistics report by cooperating partner., Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, TSFP, monthly statistics report by cooperating partner., Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, TSFP, monthly statistics report by cooperating partner., Programme monitoring.	3	0.2	0.1	0.11
MAM treatment non-response rate (%) Base value: Dec-2013, TSFP, monthly statistics report by cooperating partner., Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, TSFP, monthly statistics report by cooperating partner., Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, TSFP, monthly statistics report by cooperating partner., Programme monitoring.	15	1.7	1	0.68
MAM treatment recovery rate (%) Base value: Dec-2013, TSFP, monthly statistics report by cooperating partner., Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, TSFP, monthly statistics report by cooperating partner., Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, TSFP, monthly statistics report by cooperating partner., Programme monitoring.	75	82	88	93
Percentage of trainees graduated (men) Base value: Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Programme monitoring.	100	0	0	81
Percentage of trainees graduated (women) Base value: Dec-2013, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, WFP survey.	100	89	0	98
Proportion of eligible population who participate in programme (coverage) Base value: Dec-2013, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Programme monitoring.	50	10.3	48.4	47

Sustainability, Capacity Development and Handover

WFP Afghanistan is committed to support the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to achieve its accountabilities under the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). To this end, the country office proactively engaged key line ministries. In addition, a visit to Kabul in November by the WFP Regional Director, the Regional Bureau for Asia and Pacific, drew the attention of government partners, donors, United Nations agencies and all others to the need for coordinated joint action to realise the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In 2015, WFP's Vulnerability Assessment and Mapping (VAM) Unit continued to strengthen the food security analysis and data management capabilities of the Central Statistics Office (CSO):

- Playing a central role in the analysis, reporting and launching results of the 2014 Afghanistan Cost of Living Survey 2014;
- Further standardising tools and preparing for the 2016 Afghanistan Living Condition Survey; and
- Enabling both staffs and systems to function at a high level and producing more reliable data on food security.

WFP, in partnership with State Ministry for Disaster Management and Humanitarian Affairs (SMDM), facilitated two National Emergency Preparedness and Responses exercises in Mazar-e-Sharif and Kabul, involving both national government participants, and partners from the Clusters. The exercises were very well-received by the government, which requested WFP to support two additional regional exercises, and one national exercise, in 2016.

WFP signed Letters of Agreement (LOAs) with each of these ministries, the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL), Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD), State Ministry for Disaster Management and Humanitarian Affairs, Ministry of Education, and Ministry of Public Health, detailing agreed capacity building activities for the year; however, many of the activities were not undertaken due to resource constraints.

The main line ministry for P4P is the Ministry of Public Health, with whom WFP has a few number of activities, such as flour fortification, capacity building of food quality laboratories, and a communication campaign to promote locally produced fortified nutritious foods.

The capacity of the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock in early warning and market price monitoring have also been improved. WFP continued playing an important role in the annual Pre-Harvest Food Security Appraisal and Assessment, the Inter-agency Rapid Emergency Food security Assessments, and actively supported the implementation and strengthening of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), which from April 2014, has been gradually handed over from the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster (FSAC) to the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock. In total, 20 training courses were held for over 400 staff of government counterparts, FSAC, third party monitors and WFP to enhance their knowledge and capacities on food security and vulnerability.

To support the Ministry of Public Health to achieve its goals outlined in the National Nutrition Policy and Action Plan, WFP, under P4P, supported flour fortification by providing large-scale, national flour mills with fortification equipment and fortified premix. The programme covers all national large mills, strategically located in major cities, such as Kabul, Mazar-e-Sharif, Herat, Kunduz and Jalalabad. In 2015, eight new mills in Kunduz, Balkh and Kabul provinces, enrolled in the flour fortification programme, were equipped with dosing machines and pre-mixes of vitamins and minerals. The new mills brought the number of WFP-supported national large flour mills to 26 throughout Afghanistan. During 2015, over 65,000mt of flour was fortified, out of which 19,500mt was used by WFP for its food aid programmes and the remainder for general public use.

WFP also supported the capacity building of the government's food quality control laboratory to enable them to control and verify the quality and safety of specialised nutritious foods. This included the provision of equipment in basic food analysis, development of standards for analysis and establishment of the labs operational management (including establishment of costs and stock management) to make sure that the laboratories will become sustainable to operate independently without support from outside.

WFP, in close coordination with the office of the SMDM - formerly the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) - conducted six regional training workshops on DRR in Kabul, Mazar-e-Sharif, Herat, Jalalabad, Mazar-e-Sharif and Kandahar for SMDM staff and other involved actors on DRR and emergency preparedness and response. WFP also conducted two Table Top Exercises in close collaboration with the SMDM office in Mazar-e-Sharif and Kabul.

In 2015, WFP conducted six warehouse management trainings mainly meant to increase food handling capacity of cooperating partners, government counterparts and Programme Assistance Team (PAT) monitors. Trainings were carried out in various field offices including Kabul, Kandahar, Herat, Mazar-e-Sharif-e-Sharif and Jalalabad. Additionally, based on a request from the Office of the First Lady, a separate training was conducted for ANDMA and the Afghanistan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) with the aim of enhancing the knowledge of trainees in warehousing and fleet management through provision of manuals, live presentations and practical activities at the WFP warehouse. Overall, some 196 people were trained. Furthermore, WFP supported the establishment of a national strategic grain reserve, which is planned to be functional in 2016.

WFP continued to work with the government to enhance technical and operational capacity at national and sub-national levels and to promote the national ownership of food security solutions and facilitate a gradual hand-over, in line with the government's own policies and priorities. However, the consideration of a viable exit strategy is still premature given the prevailing government capacity and fragile security environment.

INPUTS

Resource Inputs

The resources received for the PRRO in 2015, as well as the significant amount of resources carried over from 2014, helped ensure WFP's ability to respond to quick onset emergencies. Resources were however insufficient to meet the full programme implementation needs in 2015.

WFP Afghanistan received two multi-year contributions in 2014 which greatly assisted in future planning and reinforced WFP's "value for money" theme. The assurance of continued support over a multi-year period enabled WFP to proceed with vital operations which would otherwise have been affected. This was particularly true for activities requiring sustained engagement.

Donor	Resourced in 2015 (mt)		Shipped/Purchased in 2015 (mt)
	In-Kind	Cash	
Australia		5,237	6,868
Canada		1,782	1,371
France		361	361
Japan		4,639	3,033
Luxembourg		19	19
MULTILATERAL		1,891	1,753
Norway		1,168	1,167
Private Donors		304	505
Republic of Korea		11,182	8,164
Saudi Arabia			54
Switzerland		1	0
UN CERF Common Funds and Agencies	47	7,456	7,701
USA	25,980		41,045
Total:	26,027	34,038	72,041

See Annex: Resource Inputs from Donors for breakdown by commodity and contribution reference number

Food Purchases and in-kind Receipts

In 2015, WFP procured some 55 percent of the food commodities from international markets (including in-kind contributions), 9 percent from regional markets and 36 percent locally from the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock and from smallholder farmers through P4P initiative and local millers. Local purchases enabled WFP Afghanistan to respond to critical programme needs and winter pre-positioning through cost-effective purchases and short lead times.

In line with the budget revision to provide fortified wheat flour instead of wheat grain for all programme activities, WFP developed a new strategy for the local purchase of fortified wheat flour with a commitment of 50 percent local wheat grain and traceability by all millers. This has been achieved by engaging a national network of commercial mills in Kabul, Herat and Mazar-e-Sharif-e-Sharif, developed to provide an important stimulus to a key sector of the national economy.

Commodity	Local (mt)	Developing Country (mt)	Other International (mt)	GCMF (mt)
Dried Fruits	0	0	54	
High Energy Biscuits	310	0	0	
Iodised Salt	0	440	0	
Lentils	0	0	2,848	
Micronutrition Tablets	0	0	11	
Ready To Use Supplementary Food	146	783	188	
Split Peas	0	0	3,356	
Vegetable Oil	0	2,872	4,010	
Wheat	20,994	6,521	30,920	
Wheat Flour	5,360	0	0	
Sum:	26,811	10,617	41,387	

Food Transport, Delivery and Handling

In 2015, WFP continued to use both its own fleet and commercial transport companies for food deliveries. The usage of WFP's fleet remained at about the same level (nearly 35 percent) compared to 2014. The WFP fleet concentrated mainly on routes which required specialised vehicles because of difficult terrain and high costs for the commercial companies, and was also used for the smaller tonnages of food deliveries. Insecurity remained the main challenge for food deliveries across the country. This resulted in higher payments to the transporters due to changing of routes or keeping the food deliveries on hold until the restrictions were lifted.

To take advantage of the Pakistan corridor and improve the food supply chain for Afghanistan, major changes were implemented in 2015 along the corridor with the phasing out of two important transshipment points in Pakistan: Peshawar and Quetta. This has substantially decreased the land transport, storage and handling costs including 50 percent reduction of cost sharing with WFP Pakistan. Following these changes, the Spinboldak transshipment warehouse inside Afghanistan was established and the Jalalabad storage space was reinforced to smoothly carry out transport activities all the way from Karachi Port into Afghanistan. The Kabul central warehouse was created as a hub with a well-structured organigram for efficient management.

Access remained a key challenge for some destinations where food assistance was needed. In 2015, WFP delivered food commodities to Qalai Khum locations of Badakhshan province through Tajikistan at a very high transport rate. This was coupled with customs difficulties both at the entry and exit borders. To minimise the cost of transport, reduce hassles at the borders and save time spent in preparation of customs formalities, WFP Afghanistan is liaising with Tajikistan country office to agree on the modality for serving the northern part of Badakhshan from Tajikistan.

Post-Delivery Losses

The majority of the losses incurred were caused by security incidents that occurred in insecure areas of Afghanistan. WFP also continued capacity development efforts for partners in the area of warehousing to mitigate future losses.

In 2015, through the WFP trained Programme Assistance Team (PAT) monitors, the mobilisation of local communities has been enhanced to minimise and mitigate commodity losses at the field level.

MANAGEMENT

Partnerships

Although Afghanistan remains in political, military, and economic transition, WFP maintained strong relations with the key ministries and officials, and conducted strategic planning discussions at seven official meetings with ministerial level government officials during the WFP Regional Director's visit to Kabul.

The SMDM, a leading government partner for WFP in emergency response, and its regional offices were able to deliver food assistance to conflict-affected IDPs and disaster-affected people with little or no support costs from WFP. They also conducted joint assessments for conflict and disaster-affected population in a timely manner. As an initial response for the Kunduz crisis, SMDM distributed freshly baked bread made with fortified wheat flour provided by WFP to meet the immediate needs of IDPs. Immediately after the earthquake (magnitude of 7.7) struck several provinces in North, Northeast and Eastern Regions of Afghanistan, WFP, UNHCR, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), IOM and cooperating partners together with district government representatives in close coordination with SMDM, took part in the joint assessments, to determine the most affected families for emergency support.

In 2015, WFP developed robust partnership with United Nations agencies and clusters and continued to improve the quality of partnership with NGOs. The Food Security and Agriculture Cluster (FSAC) in Afghanistan significantly improved its efficiency and coordination with the newly-appointed coordinator. As the co-lead, WFP guided the programming and sharpened the targeting at the sub-provincial level through the provision of data and technical support from the VAM Unit. WFP also actively supported the implementation of FSAC's work plan, in particular, the FSAC-led food security assessments, the mid-year review, and the development of the 2016 Humanitarian Needs Overview and Strategic Response Plan.

In 2015, WFP and UNICEF, together with the Public Nutrition Department of the Ministry of Public Health and the Nutrition Cluster, used the NNS 2013 data for identifying nutritional needs and vulnerability in the country, and a joint IMAM plan was developed accordingly. As per the plan, a complete package of IMAM was implemented in the targeted areas, where moderate acute malnourished children and acutely malnourished PLW received the required treatment through targeted supplementary feeding programmes, and severe acute malnourished (SAM) children received required treatment through the Outpatient Department (OPD)-SAM or Inpatient Department (IPD-SAM) supported by UNICEF.

Through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with both the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and the IOM, WFP partnered with these agencies to provide food assistance to both IDPs and refugees.

WFP also continued to work closely with OCHA. The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) was provided for both the conflict-affected families from Kunduz and the earthquake emergency activities to support WFP's early action and response and to reduce the loss of life. WFP in close collaboration with OCHA and other relevant stakeholders such as NGOs who received Common Humanitarian Funds (CHF) discussed areas of intervention and agreed so as to avoid overlaps and ensure the greatest possible coverage.

WFP also partnered with FAO on preparedness activities through the FSAC as well as through the preparation of the annual Common Humanitarian Assistance Plan (CHAP). In addition, an asset creation project on mushroom production, to assist women in Badakhshan, was jointly implemented with FAO.

WFP has partnered with the international NGO, Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED), to provide support to small-holder farmers located in surplus areas of Afghanistan's Northern Provinces such as Faryab, Balkh, Baghlan, Kunduz and Takhar. The project is designed to increase the quantity and quality of agricultural yields and processing capacity, whilst also building organizational capacity, and aims to make new farmers' organizations, agricultural cooperatives, and union cooperatives self-sufficient, commercially-active enterprises in the long-term, through training and provision of agricultural inputs. WFP's P4P programme also provides small processing equipment - i.e. flour mills and oil pressing machines - to these farmers to enable them to add value to their products and to help them increase their income by increasing yields and supporting sales. Ultimately, these activities will also enhance access to nutritionally-rich food by introducing new nutritious crops to farmers such as soybeans. Part of these crops will be consumed by families of farmers.

People in Need (PIN) has been awarded a grant scheme and showed their interest for partnership with WFP in Herat, Jalalabad and Samangan provinces to implement WFP's vocational skills training project using the CBT modality. WFP only provided the transfer value to the beneficiaries while the operation cost was covered by PIN. This cooperating partner contribution model could be a good practice to realise a long-term and sustainable vocation training goals in Afghanistan.

WFP has invested time and resources on the capacity development particularly of national NGO partners through regular consultation meetings and technical support trainings. As the co-lead of FSAC, WFP was involved with national NGOs in food security assessments, ultimately contributing to their improved capacity. In addition, WFP is an active member of the collaborative Monitoring Working Group, led by the Resident Coordinator's office, which prepared monitoring accreditation for national NGO partners.

Partnerships	NGO		Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement	UN/IO
	National	International		
Total	49	23		7

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project end Target <i>Target Val</i>	Base Value <i>(at start of project or benchmark)</i>	Previous Follow-up <i>(penultimate follow-up)</i>	Latest Follow-up <i>(latest value measured)</i>
Number of partner organizations that provide complementary inputs and services				
Base value: No data available, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Enhanced commitment to women report and Programme monitoring., Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Gender and Protection Survey and programme monitoring., Programme monitoring.	12	0	37	7
Proportion of project activities implemented with the engagement of complementary partners				
Base value: Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Enhanced commitment to women report and Programme monitoring., Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Gender and Protection Survey and programme monitoring., Programme monitoring.	40	0	57.14	38

Lessons Learned

At the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in June 2015, President Ghani asked the United Nations System to support his government in DRR. At that time, the UNCT agreed that the United Nations would work as one in response to this, and that United Nations agencies' work in this area would be set out as a joint programme. It was also agreed at that time that the United Nations's work would be guided by the government's "Realising Self-Reliance" paper for the 2014 London Conference on Afghanistan, and more broadly by the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030).

This underscores the significant interest in DRR amongst the government and donors, focusing on reducing the physical and social risks of such disasters and planning to mitigate their impact when they do occur, the actual response, and strengthening community-based disaster risk management of such responses to engage the capacities of women, girls and youth along with men. This is against a background where DRR projects have been implemented by a host of agencies and the coordination and collaboration of these projects could be further strengthened.

To bring coherence to DRR activities, WFP has taken the initiative to establish a DRR Technical Support Group (DRRTSG), chaired by WFP, governed by a Working Group co-led by the Resident Coordinator and the State Minister for Disaster Response, and comprised of representatives of 14 United Nations agencies, Funds and Programmes and the World Bank. The purpose of the United Nations Afghanistan DRR Working Group is to support the development and implementation of a DRR framework for Afghanistan, enable the government to undertake disaster risk mapping, strengthen disaster risk reduction programming and projects, including the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction and climate change in the emergency management development processes, prioritise responses, manage the coordination of such responses, and promote community resilience and the adequate inclusion of gender and social protection-related considerations.

WFP Afghanistan worked to strengthen effective ownership of CBT through internal capacity development, multi-functional training and direct implementation. Based on results of initial pilots of electronic vouchers in 2014, WFP Afghanistan transitioned the entire CBT portfolio from paper-based to electronic vouchers, primarily focusing on activities targeting urban and peri-urban beneficiaries where appropriate, before expanding to rural locations where market capacity and telecommunications network coverage assessments highlighted the feasibility of mobile-money-based electronic vouchers. WFP conducted a competitive procurement process to identify service providers with the expertise and national coverage to disburse mobile money transfers redeemable via Point of Sales (PoS) devices with selected retailers.

In addition to strengthening the CBT technical unit at country office level and providing enhanced support missions to field offices during project development, WFP Afghanistan conducted a five-day corporate multifunctional training for almost 50 staff members across all functional units at WFP Afghanistan. Multi-functional CBT working groups were established at the country office and area and sub-offices to provide a forum to clearly articulate the roles and responsibilities of each unit throughout the design, development and implementation stages, as well as to discuss and resolve strategic and operational issues.

Advanced technology, such as Automated Weather Observation Systems (AWOS) was introduced to ensure that all land-surface weather observations from infrastructure-limited locations are collected and transmitted to meteorological data centres and end-users, providing real time information required for an early warning system in extreme weather as experienced in Afghanistan. Two AWOS have already been installed as part of the UNHAS Special Operation earlier in Kunduz and Faizabad.

An evaluation mission consisting of four independent consultants conducted a three week-long visit to Afghanistan in November-December to assess the implementation of activities conducted under the PRRO. The team confirmed during the debriefing session that WFP staff and programming are widely respected and appreciated at all levels of stakeholders such as the Government, cooperating partners, and communities. The findings will feed into future decisions on programme implementation and design of subsequent operations.

In line with WFP's Strategic Objective 1 "Save lives and protect livelihoods in emergencies," WFP Afghanistan has invested in emergency preparedness for a more rapid and predictable and effective response at the onset of an emergency. A training workshop was held in Kabul with participation of all country office units and area and sub-offices in November 2015. The participants updated the Afghanistan Emergency preparedness Package and Risk Register, and also learned about the concept of Operational Risk Management System (ORMS).

OPERATIONAL STATISTICS

Annex: Resource Inputs from Donors

Donor	Cont. Ref. No	Commodity	Resourced in 2015 (mt)		Shipped/ Purchased in 2015 (mt)
			In-Kind	Cash	
Australia		High Energy Biscuits			0
Australia		Iodised Salt			149
Australia		Micronutrition Tablets			0
Australia		Ready To Use Supplementary			0
Australia		Split Peas			720
Australia		Vegetable Oil			0
Australia		Wheat			0
Australia		Wheat Flour			0
Australia	AUL-C-00202-01	Wheat Flour		426	426
Australia	AUL-C-00219-01	High Energy Biscuits			30
Australia	AUL-C-00219-01	Iodised Salt			0
Australia	AUL-C-00219-01	Micronutrition Tablets			0
Australia	AUL-C-00219-01	Split Peas			192
Australia	AUL-C-00219-01	Vegetable Oil			0
Australia	AUL-C-00219-01	Wheat			1,997
Australia	AUL-C-00219-02	High Energy Biscuits		16	46
Australia	AUL-C-00219-02	Iodised Salt			0
Australia	AUL-C-00219-02	Split Peas			0
Australia	AUL-C-00219-02	Wheat		2,758	3,308
Australia	AUL-C-00219-03	Vegetable Oil		1,037	
Australia	AUL-C-00219-03	Wheat Flour		1,000	
Canada		Iodised Salt			16
Canada		Vegetable Oil			1,292
Canada		Wheat Flour			0
Canada	CAN-C-00485-01	Micronutrition Tablets		1	0
Canada	CAN-C-00485-01	Wheat Flour		63	63
Canada	CAN-C-00505-04	Iodised Salt		16	0
Canada	CAN-C-00505-04	Vegetable Oil		1,702	0
Finland		Vegetable Oil			0
Finland		Wheat			0
France		High Energy Biscuits			0
France		Iodised Salt			128
France		Wheat			0
France	FRA-C-00229-01	High Energy Biscuits		90	90
France	FRA-C-00229-01	Iodised Salt		128	0
France	FRA-C-00229-01	Wheat		142	142
Japan		Iodised Salt			0
Japan		Ready To Use Supplementary			0
Japan		Wheat			0
Japan	JPN-C-00361-01	Wheat		4,639	3,033
Luxembourg		High Energy Biscuits			0
Luxembourg	LUX-C-00119-25	High Energy Biscuits		19	19
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Iodised Salt		3	46
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Micronutrition Tablets			0
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Ready To Use Supplementary			0
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Split Peas			288
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Vegetable Oil			0
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Wheat		1,888	1,419
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Wheat Flour			0
Netherlands		Iodised Salt			0
Netherlands		Split Peas			0
Netherlands		Vegetable Oil			0
Netherlands		Wheat			0

Annex: Resource Inputs from Donors

Donor	Cont. Ref. No	Commodity	Resourced in 2015 (mt)		Shipped/ Purchased in 2015 (mt)
			In-Kind	Cash	
Norway		Iodised Salt			58
Norway		Split Peas			800
Norway		Vegetable Oil			309
Norway	NOR-C-00323-04	Iodised Salt		58	0
Norway	NOR-C-00323-04	Split Peas		800	0
Norway	NOR-C-00323-04	Vegetable Oil		309	0
Private Donors	WPD-C-02850-04	Wheat		16	217
Private Donors	WPD-C-02926-10	Wheat		280	280
Private Donors	WPD-C-02957-01	Wheat		8	8
Republic of Korea		High Energy Biscuits			0
Republic of Korea		Iodised Salt			39
Republic of Korea		Micronutrition Tablets			0
Republic of Korea		Ready To Use Supplementary			307
Republic of Korea		Split Peas			604
Republic of Korea		Vegetable Oil			715
Republic of Korea		Wheat			0
Republic of Korea		Wheat Flour			0
Republic of Korea	KOR-C-00069-03	Wheat		1,443	2,313
Republic of Korea	KOR-C-00069-03	Wheat Flour		47	47
Republic of Korea	KOR-C-00091-01	High Energy Biscuits			90
Republic of Korea	KOR-C-00091-01	Iodised Salt		28	0
Republic of Korea	KOR-C-00091-01	Ready To Use Supplementary		307	0
Republic of Korea	KOR-C-00091-01	Split Peas		408	0
Republic of Korea	KOR-C-00091-01	Vegetable Oil		218	0
Republic of Korea	KOR-C-00091-01	Wheat		3,128	542
Republic of Korea	KOR-C-00091-02	Micronutrition Tablets		8	0
Republic of Korea	KOR-C-00091-02	Vegetable Oil		237	0
Republic of Korea	KOR-C-00091-02	Wheat		2,581	2,581
Republic of Korea	KOR-C-00091-03	Iodised Salt		11	0
Republic of Korea	KOR-C-00091-03	Split Peas		196	0
Republic of Korea	KOR-C-00091-03	Vegetable Oil		260	0
Republic of Korea	KOR-C-00091-03	Wheat Flour		2,311	927
Saudi Arabia		Dried Fruits			54
Saudi Arabia	SAU-C-00095-03	Dried Fruits			0
Sweden		High Energy Biscuits			0
Switzerland		High Energy Biscuits			0
Switzerland	SWI-C-00333-01	Micronutrition Tablets		1	0
UN CERF Common Funds and Agencies		Ready To Use Supplementary			664
UN CERF Common Funds and Agencies		Wheat			0
UN CERF Common Funds and Agencies		Wheat Flour			0
UN CERF Common Funds and Agencies	001-C-01104-01	Wheat		134	134
UN CERF Common Funds and Agencies	001-C-01142-01	Ready To Use Supplementary		57	146
UN CERF Common Funds and Agencies	001-C-01198-01	Wheat		1,946	1,946
UN CERF Common Funds and Agencies	001-C-01254-01	Ready To Use Supplementary		543	0
UN CERF Common Funds and Agencies	001-C-01255-01	Wheat		880	880
UN CERF Common Funds and Agencies	001-C-01320-01	Wheat Flour		3,896	3,896
UN CERF Common Funds and Agencies	001-C-01343-01	High Energy Biscuits	47		36
Unspecified		Wheat			0
USA		Iodised Salt			32
USA		Lentils			2,848

Annex: Resource Inputs from Donors

Donor	Cont. Ref. No	Commodity	Resourced in 2015 (mt)		Shipped/ Purchased in 2015 (mt)
			In-Kind	Cash	
USA		Peas			0
USA		Split Peas			1,040
USA		Vegetable Oil			4,010
USA		Wheat			30,920
USA	USA-C-00996-03	Lentils			0
USA	USA-C-00996-03	Vegetable Oil			0
USA	USA-C-00996-03	Wheat			0
USA	USA-C-00996-04	Split Peas	1,040		0
USA	USA-C-00996-04	Vegetable Oil	2,520		0
USA	USA-C-00996-04	Wheat	10,640		0
USA	USA-C-00996-05	Split Peas	2,780		
USA	USA-C-00996-05	Vegetable Oil	2,000		
USA	USA-C-00996-05	Wheat	7,000		
USA	USA-C-01063-01	Iodised Salt			0
USA	USA-C-01063-01	Wheat			2,194
Total:			26,027	34,038	72,041