

Purchase for Progress - P4P Afghanistan



QUICK FACTS

Project start date:
2009

Number of farmers' organizations (FOs): 7

Number of members:
584 (0% women)

Sales to WFP:
US\$ 5,745,533 (9,501 mt)

Main commodities:
Wheat grain, wheat flour, soya, High Energy Biscuits (HEB), Lipid-Based Nutritional Supplement (LNS)

Main P4P activities

- Capacity development
- Flour fortification programme
- Nutrition and fortified foods
- Food quality and safety

Funding

P4P Afghanistan is sponsored by the Government of Canada through the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade, and Development (DFATD, formerly known as CIDA), the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) and the Government of the Republic of Korea. All food purchases are financed by donations to WFP's regular operations.

Figures as of March 2014

P4P in Afghanistan

In Afghanistan, P4P focuses on three key areas: local procurement of commodities from smallholder farmers and cooperatives; local production of food with medium-size producers and capacity development to increase food safety and quality. While emphasizing support to smallholder farmers and cooperatives, the programme has increased local capacity to process nutritious foods by supporting local wheat millers through market development initiatives. High Energy Biscuits (HEB) and Lipid-Based Nutritional Supplements (LNS) are also produced through collaboration with P4P-supported wheat and soybean farmers, subcontracted supply-side agencies and local entrepreneurs. Additionally, P4P is partnering with the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) to raise awareness about nutrition and promote fortified staple foods. WFP also works with the government to improve food quality and safety by contributing to national food safety standards and quality control protocols, while developing the capacity of national laboratories to allow for their implementation.

Background

About one third of the population in Afghanistan is food insecure and micronutrient deficiencies are widespread. Decades of conflict, as well as recurring natural disasters have eroded agricultural production and prevented the development of sustainable and diversified livelihoods. Most Afghans are smallholder farmers, who lack access to capital, agricultural technologies and markets, and are therefore unable to develop longer-term survival strategies. The underlying causes of market inefficiency include unstructured trade, lack of linkages between rural producers and urban food processors and insufficient demand for Afghan products. This lack of demand is caused by the higher prices and perceived lower quality of Afghan products than those which are imported.

Learning and sharing

P4P has emphasized an honest and transparent examination of what works and does not. After five years of testing various approaches on the ground, the pilot is currently being evaluated. Key lessons are being compiled and will be shared widely.

Achievements

- **Procurement:** Some 7,700 mt of wheat grain has been purchased from small-scale traders and farmers' organizations (FOs). Additionally, some 1,800 mt of HEB was procured by WFP from local biscuit factories.
- **Infrastructure and equipment:** Over 14,500 small-scale farmers were supported through the provision of pre- and post-harvest equipment, storage space and processing equipment such as small flour mills and pressing machines. Some 13 mills in five provinces have been equipped with micro feeders and premix. Water canals have also been reconstructed.
- **Capacity development:** WFP and partners have provided training to farmers' organizations on procurement standards, warehouse management and soybean cultivation. Some 19,800 farmers received training under ACTED and Nutrition Education International (NEI) projects.
- **Nutrition:** Containerized food production units are being developed to establish a mobile capacity to produce HEBs in partnership with a local medium-size commercial company. One unit has been installed in Jalalabad, and test runs are underway. Some 23,500 mt of flour was fortified in 2012 and over 28,500 mt was fortified in 2013.



World Food Programme

For more information
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Mr. Sayed Amin Hashimi, Mr. Ali Ahmad and Mr. Nazar Mohammad members of Almar's Farmer organization operating an oil-pressing machine say:

"Before we were cultivating sesame and flax seeds for the purpose of selling to the market in a raw state. Before P4P, we had to extract our sesame oil using traditional methods, which was not sufficient or good quality, or even buy imported cooking oil. By installing sesame and flaxseed oil extraction machine donated by WFP, we use good quality cooking oil in our daily meals and turn our surplus sesame and flaxseed into a value added product to sell in the market and make more income."

KEY PARTNERS

- ACTED
- Afghanistan Fortified Flour Producers' Association (AFFPA)
- Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)
- Ministry of Public Health (MoPH)
- Nutrition Education International (NEI)

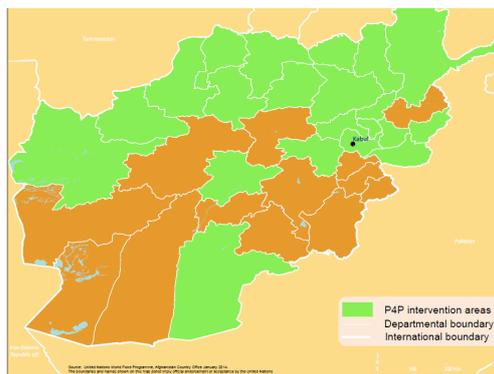
- **Food quality and safety:** P4P assisted the MoPH in the renovation of their Food Quality Control Laboratory, and provided specialized training to its technicians. P4P also suggested wheat and oil standards, which have now been adopted by the government. Quality assurance protocols are currently being reviewed by the MoPH.

Challenges

- **Insecurity:** Insecurity limits WFP's access to certain parts of the country, including some P4P implementation areas. Because of this, P4P relies on supply side agencies to implement activities and uses Programme Assistance Teams (PAT) to monitor projects in these regions.
- **Procurement:** The time-consuming nature of WFP procurement poses a critical challenge due to the short season of the wheat grain harvest in Afghanistan.
- **Reduced demand:** The new strategic focus of the Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) resulted in the reduction of requirements for some key commodities, such as HEB, which halted the efforts of procuring anticipated tonnages locally from private factories.

Partnerships

Partnerships with NGOs such as ACTED and NEI are vital to the implementation of P4P Afghanistan's development activities. Through these partnerships, P4P has trained some 11,200 smallholder farmers in the cultivation of wheat grain and soybean, and supported some 24,500 small-scale farmers with the provision of pre- and post-harvest equipment, storage space and processing equipment such as small flour mills and pressing machines for oil production. P4P also partners with MoPH, collaborating to establish food standards, food quality controls and promote nutritious foods.



Read more about

[WFP Afghanistan](#)

[Soya production supports improved nutrition](#)

[Mobile biscuit factory heads to Afghanistan](#)

[Local production of HEB in Afghanistan](#)

WFP ACTIVITIES IN AFGHANISTAN

WFP has been working continuously in Afghanistan since 1963, and is active in all 34 provinces. In recent years, WFP has shifted its operational focus from rehabilitation and recovery to humanitarian assistance. WFP supports millions of food insecure people by providing food assistance to poor and vulnerable families, school children, illiterate people, returning refugees, internally displaced people (IDPs) and disabled people. WFP also provides take-home rations to girl students as an incentive for their families to send them to school. Most HEB and fortified wheat produced through collaboration with P4P-supported wheat and soybean farmers, subcontracted supply-side agencies and local entrepreneurs is sold to the commercial market. However, WFP is also buying smaller quantities of wheat directly from small-scale farmers for distribution elsewhere in the country. Through P4P, WFP has also begun partnering with Afghan factories to locally produce fortified biscuits which are purchased for use in WFP's emergency programme. WFP is exploring the production of other specialized foods. P4P also contributes to the broader advocacy efforts carried out by WFP and the government to promote flour fortification in Afghanistan.