

WHAT IS THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME?

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) is the world's largest humanitarian agency and the U.N.'s front-line agency for hunger solutions.

In 2009, WFP aims to feed 108 million people in 74 countries.

When a humanitarian crisis occurs, such as a drought or war, WFP launches an emergency relief operation to deliver food aid to the hungry.

Once the emergency has passed, WFP food aid helps communities to rebuild their livelihoods. WFP implements a range of programmes, including relief aid to refugees and displaced people, food for work, food for training and food for education.

WFP relies on voluntary donations to fund its operations. Governments provide most of the funds, while businesses and individuals are playing an increasing role.

We Feed People

WFP has been working in Afghanistan since 1963, and is currently active in all 34 provinces.

Under the current Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation, between January 2006 and December 2009, WFP aims to provide over one million tons of aid to 14.7 million Afghans in food-insecure areas.

WFP works in cooperation with the Afghan Government, local communities, other UN agencies and NGOs. Along with its headquarters in Kabul, WFP currently has offices in Mazar-e-Sharif, Herat, Kandahar, Jalalabad, Kabul, Nili, Faizabad and Maimana.



WHO GETS AID IN AFGHANISTAN?

Preliminary data from the 2007-2008 National Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (NRVA) indicate that nearly 7.4 million people are food insecure with another 8.5 million people on the borderline of food insecurity.

The Government of Afghanistan leads all relief and development efforts, and the main coordinators are governors, provincial development committees and parliamentarians. Humanitarian and development agencies work in support of the Government's strategies.



WFP's 2006-2009 OPERATION HELPING 14.7 MILLION NEEDY AFGHANS



FUNDING

Main contributors to WFP's Afghanistan operation include Australia, Belgium, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, European Commission, Faroe Island, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund, Iceland, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, private donations, Qatar, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United States of America and the United Kingdom.



World Food Programme

WFP AFGHANISTAN



RELIEF AND RECOVERY OPERATION 2006 to 2009

FOOD FOR EDUCATION

Food for education aims to help the Afghan Government rebuild the national education system. In 2009, WFP plans to distribute a daily snack of fortified biscuits to more than 1.6 million boys and girls in an effort to alleviate short-term hunger and encourage school attendance.

WFP also aims to provide 604,000 children with take-home rations of wheat, and to give 505,000 girls extra oil as an added incentive to keep them in class. And WFP has launched a pilot programme in 2009 in which children receive a nutritious cooked meal at school daily.



EMERGENCY RELIEF

WFP responds rapidly when communities are struck by natural disasters, such as drought and floods.

During 2008, WFP supported over 3.4 million people affected by natural and man-made disasters. Food reached people affected by drought, floods, deportation from neighboring countries, and internal displacement caused by insurgency and countering military operations.

A separate appeal spanning August 2008 to July 2009 was aimed at assisting 5 million Afghans most severely affected by the dramatic increase in staple food prices and drought during the past year.

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FOOD FOR WORK & ASSETS

Food-for-work programmes provide food to Afghans as they build or repair community assets, including roads, bridges, reservoirs and irrigation systems. These projects are agreed upon in consultation with the Government and local communities.

In 2009, WFP plans to assist more than 800,000 people through FFW activities. In 2008, WFP beneficiaries built or repaired 17,400 km of roads and 16,400 km of canals, planted over 343,000 trees and distributed more than 2,860,000 tree saplings for planting.



SUPPORTING LOCAL MARKETS

An expected bumper harvest in 2009 has created the conditions to allow WFP to buy some wheat directly from small-scale, vulnerable farmers for distribution elsewhere in the country. WFP plans to buy about 7,000 metric tons of wheat this year under this local procurement programme, strengthening Afghan grain markets and reducing transportation costs. Additional quantities might be bought if overall conditions permit.

Under a separate WFP pilot project being launched in Kabul in 2009, beneficiaries will receive vouchers that allow them to buy their choice of food from participating retailers.



FOOD FOR TRAINING

Food-for-training helps the poor acquire new marketable skills. The beneficiaries include widows, handicapped people, school dropouts and war-affected children.

In 2009, WFP intends to provide 137,000 vulnerable people with WFP rations as they attend classes for literacy, handicraft production, carpentry, plumbing skills, reproductive health or childcare.



HEALTH & NUTRITION

WFP supports the national campaign against tuberculosis (TB) by providing family rations to patients as an incentive to complete their eight-month treatment course at clinics across the country. In 2009, WFP is assisting more than 20,000 TB patients and their families every month.

WFP is also launching a pilot supplementary feeding programme aimed at fighting malnutrition and micro-nutrient deficiencies among pregnant women and new mothers.



FLOUR FORTIFICATION

WFP has been involved in the promotion of flour fortification in Afghanistan since 2004. Adding a premix of micronutrients to flour helps reduce the severity of iron deficiency and other micronutrient deficiencies, particularly among women of child-bearing age.