

# Afghanistan Social Protection Monitoring Bulletin #2

(April-June 2022)

## Highlights of current needs



**Food is consistently reported as the main priority** need across all groups where **90% of households** indicate food as their primary need followed by livelihoods, employment, and healthcare<sup>1</sup>.

**19.7 million people** (47% of population) face high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC phase 3 or above), including **20,000 people** in famine-like conditions (IPC phase 5)<sup>2</sup>. About 4.7 million children and pregnant and lactating women are at risk of acute malnutrition in 2022<sup>3</sup>.

**Poor food consumption** and the adoption of emergency livelihood coping strategies continue to prevail. **Only 13% of households** were found to have acceptable levels of food consumption compared to 26% in 2021<sup>4</sup>.



**Almost 97% of households reported decreased income** compared to the same time the previous year, with reduced employment opportunities the most common cited reason. Over **61% of women engaged** in formal/informal employment and other income-generating activities lost their income/employment<sup>5</sup>.



**Household debt has increased** both in terms of the proportion of **households in debt** (82% in 2022 compared to 73% in 2021) and the amount of debt incurred (approximately US\$647 in 2022 compared to US\$582 in 2021)<sup>6</sup>.



**Wheat price has increased +37% year on year<sup>7</sup>**. The conflict in Ukraine is exacerbating global food price rises and supply chains delays<sup>8</sup>.



**On June 22, a 5.9 magnitude earthquake struck southeastern Afghanistan**, leading to wide-scale destruction in Paktika and Khost provinces. The earthquake has resulted in the loss of lives and destruction of critical infrastructure<sup>9</sup>.



## World Bank Response

The Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF) Management Committee and the World Bank approved three projects financed by the ARTF: the Afghanistan Community Resilience and Livelihoods (CRL) Project, the Afghanistan Health Emergency Response (HER) Project, and the Afghanistan Emergency Food Security (AEFS) Project, totaling US\$793 million that will provide urgent and essential food, livelihood, and health services to the people of Afghanistan. All three projects will be implemented off-budget out of the interim Taliban administration's control, through United Nations (UN) agencies and non-governmental organizations. The activities are coordinated with other multilateral and bilateral funding pledges for Afghanistan<sup>10</sup>.

|                                                                                     | Project                                                  | Budget          | Time horizon            | Coverage                                                                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | Afghanistan Community Resilience and Livelihoods Project | US\$265 million | April 2022 – April 2024 | <b>1 MILLION</b><br>households<br>(7 million persons)                        |
|  | Afghanistan Health Emergency Response Project            | US\$333 million | May 2022 – June 2024    | <b>27.2 MILLION</b><br>persons nationwide<br>(70% of the population)         |
|  | Afghanistan Emergency Food Security Project              | US\$195 million | June 2022 – June 2024   | <b>750,000</b><br>smallholder farmers<br>and<br><b>280,000</b><br>households |

# The current situation of provisions (as of June 2022)

## Social Safety Nets / Social Assistance



### Cash Assistance

In the April–June quarter, the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) continued to scale up Humanitarian Cash Transfer (HCT) with first round payments to 18,824 households, second round payments to 12,178 households, and round two and three payments combined to 11,425 households across four provinces. In a post-distribution survey, 30% of respondents reported to have positively shifted their ability to cover their households’ basic needs, and 90% reported increasing their ability to cover children’s specific needs<sup>11</sup>.

The UNICEF unconditional cash transfer program for pregnant women continued to be carried out in April in Daykundi province. A total of 6,210 pregnant women had received two rounds of cash payments (for a total of US\$1.13 million disbursed), since the program started in March. The third round of payments in May 2022 concluded the project and a follow-up assessment will inform plans for further scale up<sup>12</sup>.

The World Food Programme (WFP) disbursed US\$10.5 million in May and US\$14.9 million in June on cash assistance<sup>13</sup>.



### Public Works

The AEFS Project (US\$195 million) will increase access to irrigation water, improve soil and water conservation, and build climate resilience by supporting the rehabilitation and improvement of selected irrigation and watershed management systems over 137,000 hectares of land. It will provide short-term employment through labor-intensive public works to about 280,000 households with 6.25 million person-days of work for unskilled labor.

The CRL Project (US\$265 million) will provide assistance in the form of cash-for-work (CfW) in rural areas and labor-intensive public works (LIPW) in urban areas. CfW will support the rehabilitation of small-scale basic infrastructure services such as clean water, sanitation, or tertiary roads. Poor households will be provided a minimum of 28 days of work over the life of the project, benefiting approximately 781,000 poor rural households or 5.4 million Afghans. LIPW will provide on average 60 days of work per beneficiary over a period of two years, directly benefiting approximately 115,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) and poor urban households or 810,000 Afghans.



### In-kind Assistance

The AEFS Project will support provision of input packages for wheat production covering the November 2022, March 2023, and November 2023 planting seasons in 20 provinces. The project will also support women-headed households and people with disabilities or chronic illness (“vulnerable households”) in rural areas by providing input packages of seeds and basic tools for backyard kitchen gardening to grow crops with higher nutritional value. It is estimated that the project will benefit a total of about 750,000 smallholder farmers.

WFP reached 12.3 million people in April<sup>14</sup>, 5.1 million in May<sup>15</sup>, and 4.3 million in June<sup>16</sup> with food, nutrition, and resilience support. WFP is scaling down from plans to reach 18 million people each month to 10 million people in each of the summer months between June and September, in line with the post-harvest season and limited resources<sup>17</sup>. WFP has procured 148 mobile storage units to increase warehouse capacity, reduced congestion at area offices, and enhanced the dispatch of commodities to partners. WFP has also operationalized 45 new fleet trucks<sup>18</sup>. Additionally, some 300,000 people have benefited from food-for-asset creation and food-for-training projects underway in 23 provinces.





### WASH, Nutrition, and Other Complementary Services

The ARTF-funded projects will be contributing to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), nutrition, and other services:

- The AEFS Project will support the nutritional needs of children, people with disabilities or chronic illness, and households headed by women. The project will deliver technical training in cultivation and nutrition to about 150,000 women<sup>19</sup>.
- The CRL Project will build the capacity of the Community Development Councils (CDCs) and women's groups on (i) maternal and child nutrition; (ii) COVID-19 prevention; (iii) availability/access to health and nutrition services; and (iv) WASH. CDC women's groups will help community health workers and nutrition counselors to identify households with pregnant and lactating women and children under two years old and mobilize them to access health and nutrition services.
- The HER Project aims to deliver basic health, nutrition, and COVID-19 mitigation services in more than 2,300 health facilities nationwide and support more than 2,000 female nutrition counselors working in health facilities. The project will help fully immunize two million children and more than 1.2 million women to give birth at the health facilities<sup>20</sup>.

**UNICEF has been making strides in providing WASH services.** In April, 560,117 people had access to safe water and 325,086 people were provided with hygiene supplies. More than 77,800 people had access to improved sanitation. Three schools and nine health care facilities were supported with improved WASH facilities. Further, 311 health care facilities were supported with infection prevention and control supplies, while 112 staff members in health care facilities were trained on the preparation and use of disinfection materials<sup>21</sup>. UNICEF reached 21,135 drought-affected people, 8,857 IDPs, and 3,920 refugees with durable water supplies and 76,034 drought-affected people with temporary solutions<sup>22</sup>. In April, life-saving treatment was provided to 40,758 children with severe acute malnutrition.

**In the April-June quarter, WFP had assisted cumulatively 1.6 million children (aged 6-59 months) and pregnant and lactating women, while treating 806,096 malnourished children and women.** WFP currently supports 1,544 health centers and 2,273 mobile health and nutrition teams across the country. During the same period, WFP had cumulatively distributed high energy biscuits to 575,300 primary school students<sup>23</sup>. WFP has launched Bread+, a project that works with local bakers to provide schoolchildren a nutritious midday snack, in three provinces to reach 40,600 primary schoolchildren<sup>24</sup>.

## Jobs



In the April-June quarter, WFP had cumulatively assisted 311,100 people through food assistance for assets and 112,000 people through vocational skills training (VST)<sup>25</sup>. WFP has commenced a new VST project in Kabul, supporting 150 women through business management and beautician training<sup>26</sup>.

## Social Insurance and Pensions



**Based on media reports, the Interim Taliban Administration (ITA) has allocated US\$45 million for the pension program in the current fiscal year.** No funds were allocated in the first budget introduced by the ITA covering the last three months of the previous fiscal year. The allocated amount plus the current and projected funds are still far less than expenditures in previous years (up to US\$157 million).

**The ITA maintains to have expanded coverage of the Martyrs and Disabled Pension Program to include members of the Taliban in both the categories.** The ITA has also added disability by birth and disability due to natural disaster to the eligibility criteria. Reliable sources state that assistance to former beneficiaries will not be discontinued. The 2022 program budget of US\$152 million has been approved. The monthly entitlement has decreased from AFS60,000 (US\$680) to AFS40,000 (US\$450) per family.

**The Orphanages Program, which provides free education, food, and lodging to orphans in two orphanages in Kabul and at least one in each province, appears to be active** but details of its budget and number of beneficiaries are not known at this stage.

## Delivery Systems

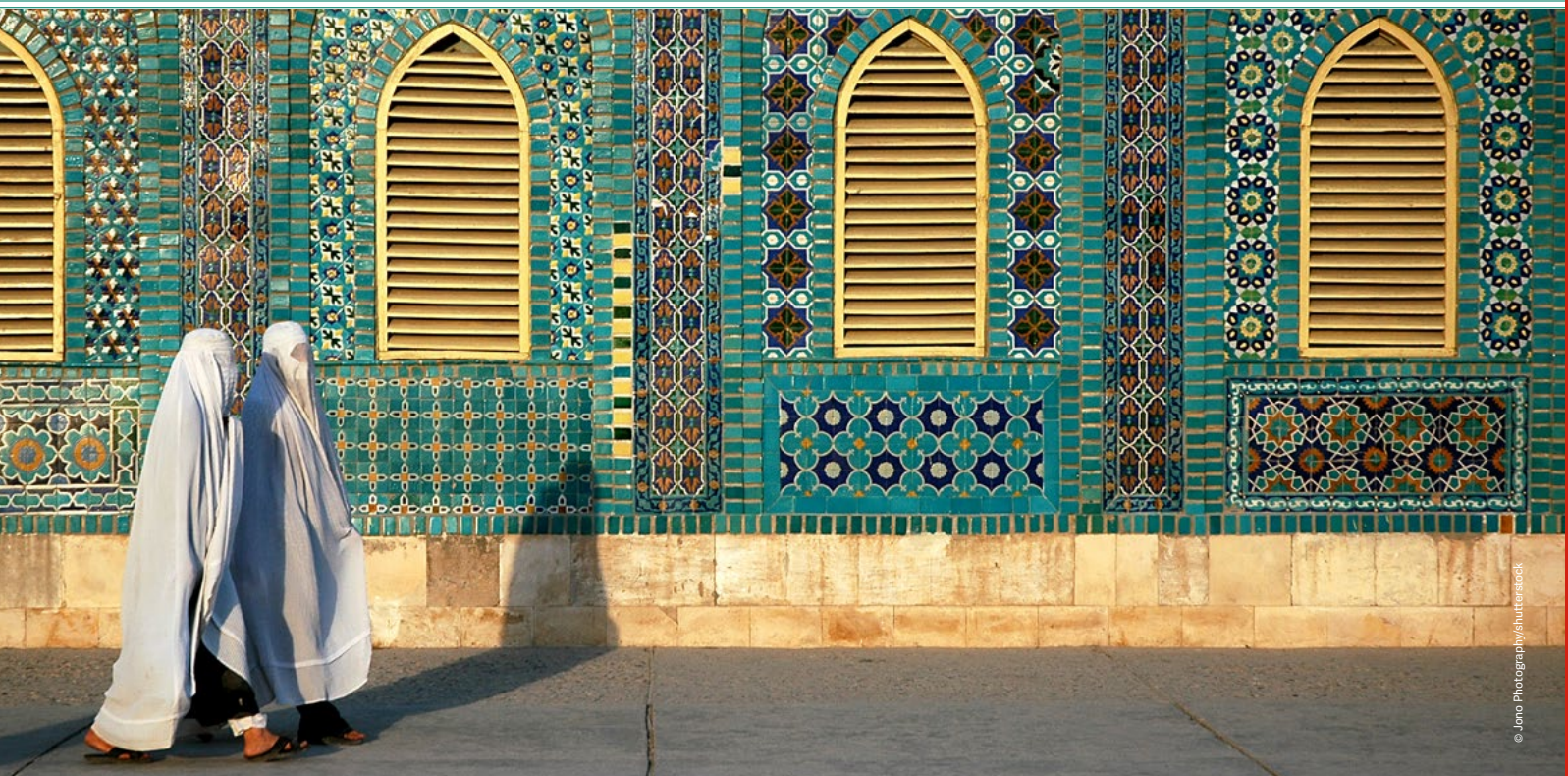
**A third-party monitoring agency (TPMA) will support the supervision of ARTF-funded projects by verifying physical performance, confirming the eligibility of financial expenditure, and the application of fiduciary safeguards, including online data collection as well as field visits modalities.** With regard to the CRL Project, the TPMA will monitor the extent to which existing CDCs are allowed to operate, and within them, women's participation in particular; assess the progress of cash-for-work outputs; monitor that cash-for-work and social grants payments are in line with project requirements; and that the implementation of community mobilization and training activities are taking place. Regarding the AEFS Project, the TPMA will validate the activities of the Food and Agriculture Organization's own monitoring agency on entry criteria, especially female access and other targeting criteria, as well as project performance targets, distribution of production packages, delivery of trainings, use of extensions services, and compliance with environmental and social standards. For the infrastructure component, the TPMA will assess physical process, compliance with technical designs, and completion of community level capacity building.



**UNICEF's Humanitarian cash Operations and Programme Ecosystem (HOPE), the HCT Management Information System, allows it to safely collect and store beneficiary data, carry out targeting, create payment lists to share with financial service providers, reconcile payments, do payment verification, track grievances and feedback, and support reporting.** HOPE is flexible and can use either the UNICEF-collected beneficiary data using KoBo Collect or import data collected through other channels, including through other UN agencies. HOPE increases compliance, accountability, and traceability, while ensuring due diligence and integration by simplifying a system of multiple processes that enable the smooth implementation of cash programs. In Afghanistan, HOPE was rolled out in July 2021 as a key preparedness activity to scale up HCTs. Since then, 371,216 households have been registered on HOPE. In the first six months of 2022, UNICEF reached over 100,000 unique households with cash transfers, distributing over US\$20 million (in afghani) directly to families in need of assistance, focusing on female-headed households, families with children with disabilities, and households with pregnant and lactating women.

**WFP has registered over 18 million Afghan beneficiaries using its corporate beneficiary information and transfers management platform, SCOPE.** Of this, around 7.5 million were registered in the first half of 2022. SCOPE provides a flexible system for tracking in near real-time the distribution of humanitarian assistance as well as authentication of targeted beneficiaries. SCOPE now supports the payment transfers through MoneyGram and Western Union, expanding the network of financial service providers. Until now, around half a million SCOPE cards to deliver assistance have been issued.





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## In the media

[Afghanistan: WFP trucks take food and emergency gear to earthquake-hit areas](#)

[WFP Asia & the Pacific Twitter account also tweeted about Afghanistan](#)

[Life-saving relief continues to reach quake-hit eastern Afghanistan](#)



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## Notes

- 1 World Food Program: WFP Afghanistan Partner Briefing, May 2022
- 2 The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) acute food insecurity analysis issued in May 2022
- 3 WFP Afghanistan: Situation Report, 20 May 2022
- 4 WFP Afghanistan Partner Briefing, May 2022
- 5 WFP Afghanistan Partner Briefing, May 2022
- 6 WFP Afghanistan Partner Briefing, May 2022
- 7 WFP Afghanistan Partner Briefing, May 2022
- 8 WFP Afghanistan: Situation Report, 29 April 2022
- 9 Afghanistan Emergency Earthquake Response Plan
- 10 Press Release: [World Bank and ARTF approve three emergency projects for Afghanistan](#)
- 11 UNICEF. Afghanistan Humanitarian Situation Report#5, 1–30 April 2022
- 12 UNICEF. Afghanistan Humanitarian Situation Report#5, 1–30 April 2022
- 13 WFP Afghanistan: Situation Reports, 20 May 2022 and 23 June 2022
- 14 WFP Afghanistan: Situation Report, 29 April 2022
- 15 WFP Afghanistan: Situation Report, 20 May 2022
- 16 WFP Afghanistan: Situation Report, 23 June 2022
- 17 WFP Afghanistan: Situation Report, 23 June 2022
- 18 WFP Afghanistan: Situation Report, 23 June 2022
- 19 Press Release: [World Bank and ARTF approve three emergency projects for Afghanistan](#)
- 20 Press Release: [World Bank and ARTF approve three emergency projects for Afghanistan](#)
- 21 UNICEF. Afghanistan Humanitarian Situation Report#5, 1–30 April 2022
- 22 UNICEF. Afghanistan Humanitarian Situation Report#5, 1–30 April 2022
- 23 WFP Afghanistan: Situation Report, 29 April, 20 May, and 23 June 2022
- 24 WFP Afghanistan: Situation Report, 20 May 2022
- 25 WFP Afghanistan: Situation Report, 29 April, 20 May, and 23 June 2022
- 26 WFP Afghanistan: Situation Report, 29 April 2022

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