

Improving nutrition in Afghanistan

Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programme (TSFP) in Kunar and Paktia



Country
Afghanistan

Location
Kunar and Paktia

Duration
Until Dec 31st, 2026

Donor
World Food Programme

Background

The Afghan people continue to grapple with the consequences of four decades of conflict, with entrenched poverty further exacerbated by an economic crisis, frequent environmental disasters and the impact of a worsening climate crisis, and gender inequality. More than a third of the Afghan population are going hungry, including more than 3 million people facing emergency levels of food insecurity.

Since 2021, the Taliban has imposed numerous restrictions on women and girls, which is likely to exacerbate the country's already severe economic and humanitarian crisis. Afghanistan is ranked as the sixth country most vulnerable to the climate crisis, grappling with flash floods and prolonged droughts.

In 2024 alone, every province faced a climate disaster, resulting in the destruction of 20,000 homes and the flooding of 74,000 hectares of agricultural land – an area larger than 100,000 football fields.

Objectives

- To treat moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) among children aged 6-59 months and acute malnutrition in pregnant and breastfeeding women (AM-PBW).
- To enhance nutritional awareness among pregnant and breastfeeding women (AM-PBW) and caregivers of children with moderate acute malnutrition by promoting optimal health practices through targeted Social and Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) interventions.
- The total expected number of beneficiaries is 338,367, which includes both MAM children and AM-PBW.

Expected outcomes

- Improved nutrition for malnourished children and pregnant/breastfeeding women.
- Increased awareness among caregivers through SBCC sessions.
- Improved access to nutrition support through timely and well-coordinated food distribution.
- Improvement in the nutritional and health status of children and pregnant & breastfeeding women, with a focus on reducing morbidity and mortality associated with moderate acute malnutrition.

Gender and Community Involvement

- Gender-sensitive approach ensuring equal access to nutrition services.
- Engagement with local communities to enhance awareness.
- Complaint mechanisms at health facilities to address community concerns.

With support from



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This project is complementary to the Health Emergency Response (HER) project.t

Activities

- **Community mobilisation and screening:** Raise awareness about malnutrition and supplementary feeding through community campaigns. Screen children and pregnant/lactating women (PLW). Train Community Health Workers and volunteers to identify and refer malnourished individuals.
- **Registration and admission:** Register eligible children (6–59 months) and PLWs based on nutritional criteria. Issue beneficiary cards and maintain accurate records.
- **Nutritional supplies provision:** Distribute 6,113 metric tons of specialised nutritional commodities, including 2,070 MT of Ready-to-Use Supplementary Food (RUSF) for children and 4,043 MT of Super Cereal (equivalent to 1,213 MT of LNSPBW) for PLW. Ensure effective forecasting, storage, and distribution.
- **Nutrition education and BCC:** Conduct group and one-on-one sessions on IYCF, hygiene, and maternal nutrition. Distribute behaviour change communication materials.
- **Monitoring and reporting:** Track growth indicators and conduct follow-up visits. Carry out Post Distribution Monitoring and impact assessments.
- **Referral and linkages:** Refer cases to Outpatient Therapeutic Programmes. Connect beneficiaries with healthcare services like immunisation, antenatal care, and WASH support.
- **Capacity building:** Train health staff and volunteers on protocols, reporting tools, and stock management.
- **Coordination:** Engage in Nutrition and Health Cluster meetings. Collaborate with MoPH, UN agencies, and NGOs. Support surveys and joint response planning.

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