**WFP News Video:** Time is Running Out to Get Desperately Needed Food into Afghanistan

Shot: 21-24Aug

Kabul, Balkh District, Bangkok, Thailand

TRT: 2:41

**SHOTLIST:**

**:00-:33**

**Displaced People living on the streets**

Since the beginning of the year, more than 550,000 Afghans have been internally displaced as a result of conflict and insecurity. Kabul experienced a high influx of displaced people from across the country. Some figures report as many as 10,000 households (70,000 people).

**Kabul**

**Shot: 24Aug21**

**:33-:52**

**Bread Bakery**

The price of wheat has gone up by 25% in recent months.

**Kabul**

**Shot: 24Aug21**

**:52-1:15**

**SOT John Aylieff, Regional Director WFP Asia (English):**

“14 million people in Afghanistan today are struggling to put food on the table. The price of wheat has gone up by 25% in the last months and therefore with the economic situation…with the difficult with earning income and with the turmoil in which the country has been thrown, it is very difficult now to see the future for this population…a future which is food secure..a future without malnourished children.”

**Bangkok, Thailand**

**Shot:23Aug21**

**1:15-2:07**

**WFP Food Distribution**

This August WFP plans to reach almost 500,000 people in Mazar area with wheat flour, oil, lentils and salt

**Balkh District**

**Shot: 21Aug21**

**2:07-2:20**

**SOT: Delawar, 52 yrs old, family of 8(Dari):**

“There are no crops, no raining, no water and people are living in misery. This is a great mercy from God and it really helps poor and needy people. “

**Balkh District**

**Shot: 21Aug21**

**2:20-2:41**

**WFP Food Distribution**

This August WFP plans to reach almost 500,000 people in Mazar area with wheat flour, oil, lentils and salt

**Balkh District**

**Shot: 21Aug21**

**ENDS**

**WFP is due to run out of some food stocks [wheat flour] as early as October and we require immediate upfront funds to support the millions of people depending on WFP to deliver food. This is Afghanistan’s hour of greatest need and we need the international community to step up and support them.**

* WFP needs to assist 9 million people per month by November; however, to meet these mounting needs, food stock must be prepositioned in-country and at strategic border points before the snow arrives.
* To continue operations and get assistance to people in desperate need, we need more than $200 million now.
* To scale back on food assistance will only add to instability and desperation across the country.

**We are seeing a humanitarian crisis of incredible proportions is unfolding before our eyes as conflict, combined with drought and COVID-19, pushes the people of Afghanistan into a humanitarian catastrophe.**

* 1 in 3 Afghans – 14 million people – are hungry today while 2 million children are malnourished and urgently need treatment.
* More than half a million people – 550,000 – have been displaced this year, adding to the 2.9 million people who are already displaced inside Afghanistan’s borders.
* The second massive drought in three years has devastated crops and heightened food insecurity with more than 40% of the country’s crops lost to drought this year.
* The socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19 are leaving essential food out of reach for many families – for example, wheat prices are now 24% above the 5-year average.

**WFP maintains access to most of the country and is committed to continuing humanitarian operations, alongside our humanitarian partners, to assist Afghan families at this critical time.**

* So far this year, we delivered food and nutrition assistance to 5.5 million people.
* Despite last week being one of the most dramatic in Afghanistan’s recent history, WFP reached 80,000 people with life-saving food and assistance (13-20 August).
* But this is not enough. This lean season will likely start early and bite harder than the last. Winter is fast approaching and the race is on to scale-up operations and preposition food before heavy snowfalls begin.

**Apart from thousands of people trying to leave Kabul airport, relatively few have sought refuge in neighbouring countries. We have plans in place to assist if they do cross land borders.**

* If donors want to avoid large refugee outflows, it is imperative that our food operations inside Afghanistan are not interrupted. At present we are due to start running out of wheat flour in October – right when it’s needed most.
* The most urgent step is to fund our existing needs in Afghanistan and neighboring countries: Iran, Pakistan and Tajikistan. We need $200 million for Afghanistan and $22 million for the neighboring countries.

**IN NUMBERS:**

* **Population:** 40 million
* **Number of people in need of humanitarian assistance:**18.4 million (OCHA)
* **Number of food-insecure people:**14 million
* **Global acute malnutrition rate:** 13 percent (some districts reporting as high at 25%)
* **Beneficiaries targeted by WFP in 2021:**14 million
* **Total funding requirements for 2021:**$558 million
* **Funding shortfalls for 2021:** $200 million
* **Total returnees to Afghanistan in 2021:** 660,000 returnees from Iran and Pakistan (OCHA, August 2021)
* **Total refugees:**2.5 million registered refugees (UNHCR 2021)
* **Total IDPs in 2021:** 550,000 IDPs due to conflict (UNHCR, August 2021)

**WFP operations**

* Scale-up: WFP is scaling up its assistance to the increasing needs, with plans to reach a total of 13.9 million people in 2021.

* Displacement: In 2021, WFP has assisted 409,388 internally displaced people (IDP). In the week of 1-5 August alone, WFP assisted 46,000 new IDPs fleeing fresh conflict.

* COVID-19: WFP has reached close to 602,203 people affected by the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 in 2021. Each family selected for assistance receives US$79 in cash-based transfers to partially cover their food needs for two months.

* Nutrition: In June, WFP provided over 375,000 children and pregnant women and nursing mothers with 1,400 mt of nutrition dense food along with services to prevent and treat moderate acute malnutrition. WFP will continue to deliver this type of assistance, including expanding mobile health clinics to address challenges to women and children in accessing static clinics due to the current security situation.

* Kabul: Kabul experienced a high influx of displaced people from across the country. Some figures report as many as 10,000 households (70,000 people). Since the start of August, WFP has assisted more than 10,000 people in Kabul and is currently registering displaced people with mobile teams across the city. Operations were temporarily put on hold due to the high levels of insecurity, but, as of 22 August, distributions have already restarted.

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**For more information please contact:**

Kun Li, WFP/Bangkok, Tel. +66 845558994

Gemma Snowdon, WFP/ Rome, Mob. +39 342 7564 238