**WFP News Video from Afghanistan Highlights New Hunger Data**

**Locations: Afghanistan, Pakistan, Italy**

**Shot: 8-22nd September 2021**

**TRT: 2:18**

**SHOTLIST:**

**:00-:20**

GVs of WFP nutrition testing and distribution of special fortified foods. Closeup of Sabzina’s daughter, Zubaida receiving Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) test.

**Kabul**

**Afghanistan**

**Shot: 21Sep21**

**:20-:36**

**SOT Sabzina, with her daughter Zubaida (Dari):**

*“My child is sick because of hunger, lack of medicine and the hot weather, there is no food, no medicine, some people come and bring only paracetamol tablets nothing more, there is no proper checkup and medicine.”*

**Kabul**

**Afghanistan**

**Shot: 21Sep21**

**:36-:56**

GVs of market. Lack of jobs compounded with devaluation of the Afghani and rapidly rising food prices are driving more families into food insecurity, including those the middle class in urban centres.

**Mazar-i-Sharif**

**Afghanistan**

**Shot: 16Sep21**

**:56-1:23**

**GV’s of drought in Tangi-Shadyan**

GVs of drought scorched land. Children collecting water from a dry riverbed and carrying it home on donkeys.

**Mazar-i-Sharif**

**Afghanistan**

**Shot: 11Sep21**

**1:23-2:02**

**SOT Arif Hussain, WFP Chief Economist (English):**

*“Our surveys right now show that nice out of ten people don’t have enough to eat. About 7 out of 10 are using extreme coping strategies like borrowing food, not eating enough, eating inferior quality products. And 50% of the population has experienced running out of food at least once in the last 2 weeks. Now in this situation if we have to tackle this we need about $200 million immediately so we can preposition food before the winter arrives.”*

**Rome**

**Italy**

**Shot: 22Sep21**

**2:02-2:18**

**GV’s of WFP Convoy**

GVs of WFP convoy of trucks from Pakistan crossing the border into Afghanistan carrying 876 metric tons of special fortified foods for children and breastfeeding mothers.

**Chaman / Spin Boldak border**

**Pakistan / Afghanistan border**

**Shot: 21Sep21**

**ENDS**

**WFP News Release**

22 September 2021

**EDUCATED URBAN AFGHANS ARE NEW FACE OF HUNGER AS JOBS AND INCOMES DRY UP**

**KABUL** – Job losses, lack of cash and soaring prices are creating a new class of hungry in Afghanistan, the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has warned today. For the first time, urban residents are suffering from food insecurity at similar rates to rural communities, which have been ravaged by drought twice in the past three years.

Only five percent of households in Afghanistan have enough to eat every day, according to recent surveys conducted by WFP, while half reported they had run out of food altogether at least once in the past two weeks.

“The economic freefall in Afghanistan has been abrupt and unrelenting, adding to an already difficult situation, as the country grapples with a second severe drought in three years. We are doing everything we can to support Afghan communities at this critical time,” said WFP’s Country Director and Representative, Mary-Ellen McGroarty.

The middle classes are also struggling - only 10 percent of households headed by someone with a secondary or university education were able to buy sufficient food for their families every day. Though the situation is worse for those less well-educated, the unprecedented prevalence of hunger among families that had previously been spared the scourge of hunger signals the depth of the crisis facing ordinary Afghans.

On average, breadwinners are finding work just one day a week, barely enough to afford food that is rapidly increasing in price. Cooking oil, for example, has almost doubled in price since 2020, and wheat is up by 28 percent.

Afghanistan is on the brink of economic collapse, caused by a rapid withdrawal of international aid, combined with the inability to access overseas assets. In turn, this is fuelling a cash crisis, a sharp drop in the value of the local currency and has led to a sudden halt in foreign investment, driving more families into food insecurity as jobs and income dry up.

“WFP is stepping up to the urgent challenge which is now two-fold. First, we continue to serve the people who need it most to avoid acute hunger and malnutrition from devastating the country, and second, we are strengthening local capacity to produce food and get it into the market, while also providing short-term work opportunities that help stabilise the economy and give families access to cash,” McGroarty added.

WFP has provided 6.4 million people with food assistance this year, including more than 1.4 million people since the Taliban takeover on 15 August. WFP runs programmes designed to both address the immediate needs of people facing emergencies, while also building community resilience so they are better able to cope in times of crisis.

WFP works with communities to strengthen their ability to reduce the risk of disasters and adapt to climate change, while also creating employment opportunities to provide much-needed cash in desperate times. This includes constructing or rehabilitating roads, canals, flood protection walls and reforestation, as well as vocational training.

Throughout the difficult weeks in August and September, WFP has continued school feeding programmes, helping to keep boys and girls in school and staving off malnutrition, while bolstering the local economy when food is produced and purchased locally, and creating stable markets, supporting local agriculture, and strengthening local food systems.

“WFP is racing against the clock to provide lifesaving food and nutrition assistance to the most vulnerable Afghan families. We urgently need $200 million to buy and preposition food before the winter sets in – if we miss this window the consequences will be catastrophic,” noted McGroarty.

**Note to editors:**

The survey revealed Afghanistan’s food security situation based on data collected via telephone surveys of more than 1,600 households across 34 provinces between 21 August   and 16 September.

14 million people are facing acute food insecurity including 2 million children who are at risk of malnutrition.

Emergency levels of acute malnutrition are present in 27 of 34 provinces.

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The United Nations World Food Programme is the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate.  We are the world’s largest humanitarian organization, saving lives in emergencies and using food assistance to build a pathway to peace, stability and prosperity for people recovering from conflict, disasters and the impact of climate change.

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