**Shotlist/Info:**

**WFP News Video: Thousands of Afghans Forced to Leave Pakistan Arrive Cold and Hungry at the Border**

**Shot: 17-18 November 2023**

**Locations: Afghanistan-Pakistan border**

**TRT: 3:02**

**:00-:07**

Trucks crossing the border.

**Shot: 17Nov23**

**Torkham Border Crossing**

**:07-:32**

Afghan families cross the border into Afghanistan after the government of Pakistan ordered all undocumented Afghans to leave the country by the 1st if November. Many of them have lived in Pakistan for years and call it home but were only given a few hours’ notice before they were forced to leave with whatever they could carry and with what little money they could afford.

**Shot: 18Nov23**

**Torkham Border Crossing**

**:32-1:10**

Having to return on such short notice, even families with some money and family in Afghanistan are unable to arrange accommodation and must stay in tents set up by the local authorities.  The tents provide little protection from the encroaching Afghan winter.

**Shot: 17Nov23**

**Torkham Border Crossing**

**1:10-1:25**

**SOT Shahid Khan, Afghan Returnee (Pashto)**

*“We lived for 14 years in Pakistan. And then everyone was in a hurry to leave and running. The authorities didn’t even let us keep our papers.”*

**Shot: 18Nov23**

**Torkham Border Crossing**

**1:25-1:47**

Ajmal receives high energy biscuits at a WFP distribution point.

Ajmal lived in Pakistan for 10 years and most of his children were born there. He had a stable job working at a brick factory when one morning officials came and told him he had 2 hours to leave the country.

**Shot: 18Nov23**

**Torkham Border Crossing**

**1:47-1:58**

**SOT Ajmal, Afghan father of 9 (Pashto)**

*“The authorities only gave us two hours to leave the country so we packed our belongings onto the truck and left as quickly as possible.”*

**Shot: 18Nov23**

**Torkham Border Crossing**

**1:58-2:03**

Ajmal’s family waiting to be registered.

**Shot: 18Nov23**

**Torkham Border Crossing**

**2:03-2:24**

**SOT Hsiaowei Lee, Country DirectorWFP Afghanistan (English)**

*“They return to Afghanistan at the worst of times, with no food, little resources and nowhere to go. It is particularly dire as the harsh Afghan winter is only weeks away and as the country still reels from devastating earthquakes, a battered economy and a worsening climate crisis.”*

**Shot: 17Nov23**

**Torkham Border Crossing**

**2:24-2:38**

People receiving WFP cash assistance and high energy biscuits.

**Shot: 17Nov23**

**Torkham Border Crossing**

**2:38-3:02**

GVs of children eating WFP fortified biscuits.

**Shot: 18Nov23**

**Torkham Border Crossing**

**ENDS**

**Thousands of Afghans living in Pakistan are crossing back into Afghanistan after the Government of Pakistan’s announcement that all undocumented Afghans must leave the country by 1 November. WFP is providing emergency food assistance at border crossings with plans to assist more than a million vulnerable returnees in the coming months.**

•At two official crossings in Nangarhar and Kandahar provinces, WFP is providing returnee families with fortified biscuits upon arrival at the border and after registration by the International Organization of Migration (IOM) with cash assistance to help cover their most urgent needs.

•Many of the returnees have lost their livelihoods and arrive hungry at the border, where WFP has already supported 250,000 people. But this initial response is being taken from an already critically underfunded programme and without additional funding WFP will not be able to continue the operation.

\*The cash transfers from WFP allow returnee families to cover their immediate needs, including food, for one month on local markets, giving them more choice and agency. WFP is planning to reach 1 million returnees over the coming months and urgently needs US$27.5 million to provide assistance to these families. Once arrived in major cities or their areas of origin, they will require further support to withstand the coming winter.

\*For the first days of the response, WFP provided in-kind food rations to last a family of seven for one month. More than 90,000 people received in-kind assistance. On 10 November, WFP switched from in-kind assistance to cash.

**Afghanistan is still reeling from the impact of a series of devastating earthquakes that flattened entire villages in the west of the country last month and affected nearly 160,000 people who need urgent assistance to survive winter.**

•At least 1,400 people died and many more were injured. Over 20,000 homes were completely destroyed and reduced to rubble.

•Within hours of the initial earthquake families within the quake zone were receiving fortified biscuits from WFP and within days WFP had set up mobile warehouses to protect food and partner’s supplies.

•The earthquakes struck already vulnerable communities barely able to eke out a living on small plots of land and a few livestock, further deepening their misery and ability to support themselves.

•WFP is helping over 100,000 people affected by the earthquakes with food, school meal programmes and nutrition services. However, rebuilding communities hit by this disaster will require more than emergency assistance. They will need support over the longer term to rebuild their lives.

**Hunger affects one third of the people in Afghanistan and humanitarian funding is at a low point. WFP urgently needs US$400 million to reach the 7 million most vulnerable people and help them survive winter.**

•Already, WFP had been forced to cut 10 million Afghans from its programme as insufficient funding stopped us operating in 150 districts. Life-threatening malnutrition has spiked, placing hundreds of thousands of children at risk.

•Families across the country are less prepared than ever to face the harsh Afghan winter. They have depleted their resources, and many could be forced to leave their homes if humanitarian aid is not sustained.

•WFP urgently needs US$400 million to be able to preposition food before winter and to help the most vulnerable 7 million people survive winter. In Afghanistan, these include communities experiencing emergency levels of food insecurity and women who are being increasingly pushed out of public life and for whom WFP is often the last lifeline.

# # #

The United Nations World Food Programme is 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.

Follow us on Twitter: @wfp\_media @WFP\_Afghanistan

**For more information please contact (email address:** [**firstname.lastname@wfp.org**](mailto:firstname.lastname@wfp.org)**):**

Philippe Kropf, WFP/Kabul, Mob. +93 707 271 901

Ziauddin Safi, WFP/Kabul, Mob. +93 706 934 875