

Existing rates of: **Wasting: 9.5%** **Stunting: 40.9%** **Proportion of population underweight: 25%**

Source: Government of Afghanistan (National Nutrition Survey, 2013)










Strong Performance




- The National Nutrition Policy/Strategy identifies time bound nutrition targets and a multisectoral and multistakeholder policy coordination mechanism has been set up.
- Policymakers in Afghanistan benefit from regular nutrition surveys that are statistically representative at national level. The last survey was published in 2015.
- The Government has fully enshrined the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes into domestic law.
- The Government of Afghanistan promotes complementary feeding practices and has achieved two high doses of vitamin A supplementation for 98% of children in 2015.













Areas for improvement

- In Afghanistan, the law does not give women economic rights equal to men. Men and women have equal legal access to agricultural land, but this is not effectively enforced and discriminatory practices against women continue, increasing their vulnerability to hunger and undernutrition.
- Relative to other HANCI countries, Afghanistan's medium/long term national development policy (Afghanistan national peace and development framework (ANPDF)) places weak importance to nutrition.
- Afghanistan does not have a separate budget line for nutrition; this prevents transparency and accountability for spending.
- Weak access to an improved source of drinking water (66.4% in 2015) and an improved sanitation facility (26.2% in 2015) prevents positive outcomes for hunger and nutrition in Afghanistan.
- In Afghanistan only 58.6% of women aged 15-49 were visited at least once during pregnancy by skilled health personnel in 2015.
- In Afghanistan, constitutional protection of the right to food and the right to social security is weak.
- Social safety nets in Afghanistan are basic and only cover few risks for a limited number of beneficiaries.
- Civil registration rates are weak (37.4% in 2010-2011) and potentially hold back children's access to critical public services such as health and education.


Key data for Afghanistan
Hunger Reduction Commitment Index (HRCI)

Public spending	Score*	Year	HRCI Rank of 45
 Public spending on agriculture as share of total public spending ¹	4.3%	2011	26th
 Public spending on health as share of total public spending ²	2%	2015	44th
Policies			
 Access to land (security of tenure) ³	Moderate	2016	Joint 28th
 Access to agricultural research and extension services ³	Moderate	2013	34th
 Civil registration system — coverage of live births	37.4%	2010-2011	33rd
 Functioning of social protection systems ³	Weak	2016	Joint 41st
Laws			
 Level of constitutional protection of the right to food ³	Weak	2016	Joint 30th
 Equality of women's access to agricultural land (property rights) ⁴	In Law, not in Practice	2014	Joint 4th
 Equality of women's economic rights ⁴	Not in Law	2014	Joint 30th
 Constitution recognises the right to social security (yes/no)	No	2017	Joint 34th

¹ No benchmark² No benchmark³ Possible scores are:  Very weak/Weak  Moderate  Strong/Very strong⁴ Possible scores are:  Not in Law  In Law, Not in Practice  In Law & Practice
Nutrition Commitment Index (NCI)

Public spending	Score*	Year	NCI Rank of 45
 Separate budget for nutrition (no/sectoral only/yes)	No	2017	Joint 35th
Policies			
 Vitamin A supplementation coverage for children	98%	2015	Joint 6th
 Government promotes complementary feeding (yes/no)	Yes	2012	Joint 1st
 Population with access to an improved water source	66.4%	2015	38th
 Population with access to improved sanitation	26.2%	2015	31st
 Health care visits for pregnant women	58.6%	2015	44th
 Nutrition features in national development policy ¹	Weak	2017-2021	41st
 National nutrition policy/strategy (yes/no)	Yes	2017	Joint 1st
 Multisector and multistakeholder policy coordination (yes/no)	Yes	2017	Joint 1st
 Time bound nutrition targets (yes/no)	Yes	2017	Joint 1st
 National nutrition survey in last 3 years (yes/no)	Yes	2015	Joint 1st
Laws			
 ICMBMS [^] enshrined in domestic law ²	Fully Enshrined	2016	Joint 1st

¹ Possible scores are:  Weak  Moderate  Strong (Note: Performance relative to other countries)² Possible scores are:  Not enshrined in law  Few/Many aspects enshrined  Fully enshrined[^] International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes

*For full details visit:
www.hancindex.org