AFGHANISTAN

Afghanistan's food crisis reaches unprecedented levels as nearly 19 million people are highly food insecure due to prolonged drought, conflict and economic collapse

IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY ANALYSIS
September 2021 - March 2022
Issued in October 2021

CURRENT SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER 2021

18.8M

47% of the population

People facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above)

IN NEED OF URGENT ACTION

Phase 5	0 People in Catastrophe
Phase 4	6,856,000 People in Emergency
Phase 3	11,988,000 People in Crisis
Phase 2	13,613,000 People in Stressed
Phase 1	7,954,000 People in food security

PROJECTED NOVEMBER 2021 – MARCH 2022

22.8M

55% of the population

People facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above)

IN NEED OF URGENT ACTION

Phase 5	0 People in Catastrophe
Phase 4	8,740,000 People in Emergency
Phase 3	14,074,000 People in Crisis
Phase 2	12,473,000 People in Stressed
Phase 1	6,441,000 People in food security

Overview

In September and October 2021 (the post-harvest season), nearly 19 million people in Afghanistan experienced high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above), an almost 30% increase from the same season last year (14.5 million people). The main drivers of acute food insecurity include drought and its impacts on crops and livestock, the collapse of public services, a severe economic crisis and increasing food prices. An estimated 6.8 million people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and 11.9 million people in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) require urgent action to save their lives, reduce food gaps and protect their livelihoods.

Between November 2021 and March 2022 (the winter lean season), a further deterioration in food security is expected, with the number of people in IPC Phase 3 or above increasing to 22.8 million, a nearly 35% increase from the same season last year (16.9m). Out of 22.8 million people, 14 million will likely be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and 8.7 million in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). The number of areas in Emergency is expected to significantly increase in the projection analysis period from 21 to 32 analytical domains. It is likely that household food access between the end of winter and the following spring season will further deteriorate due to: the continuing La Niña climatic episode bringing below-average winter precipitation for the second consecutive year, the impact of high food prices, sanctions on the *de facto* authorities, growing unemployment and possibly increased displacement. Reduced incomes, lower international and domestic remittances and continuing obstacles to humanitarian assistance (many related to the financial crisis and limited physical access during the winter period) are expected to contribute to the deterioration of food security.

The estimated 55% population in IPC Phase 3 or above in the November 2021 – March 2022 projection (lean season) is the highest ever recorded in the country. This record magnitude is preceded only by a 47% population classification in IPC Phase 3 or above in the Nov 2018 - Feb 2019 lean season. This previous classification focused on rural areas only, and the results were heavily affected by the severe drought of 2018 (a detailed population comparison is provided on page 9).

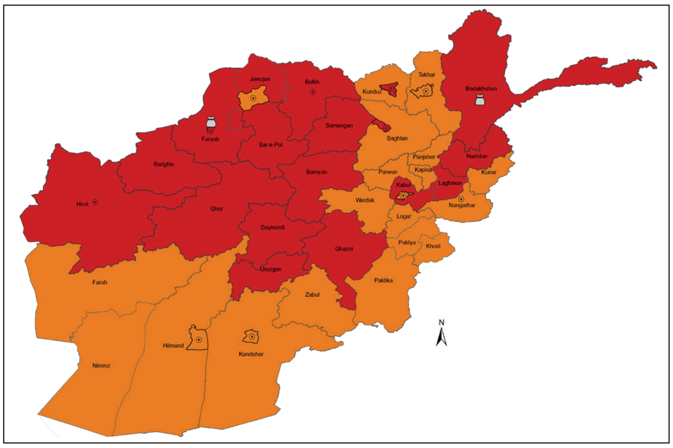
Key Drivers

Drought: Twenty-five out of 34 provinces were affected by a severe drought. Below average cumulative precipitation during the wet season (Oct. 2020 – May 2021) resulted in reduced snowfall reducing water for cultivation.

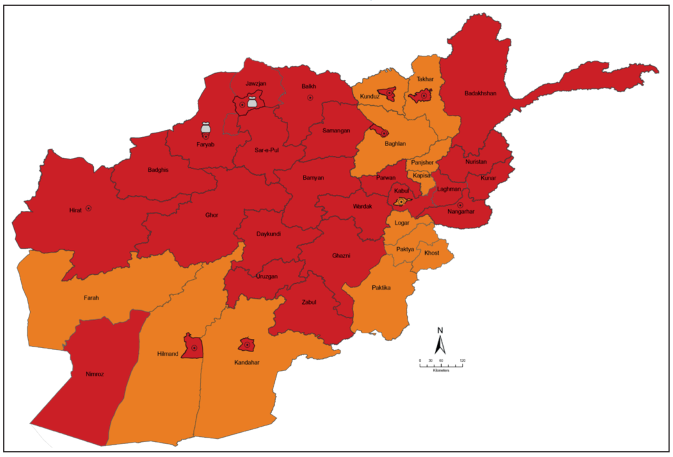
Conflict: Increased conflict between January and September 2021 drove over 664,000 people out of their homes, disrupting their livelihood systems. This adds to about 3.5 million Afghans already displaced.

Economic Decline: In the wake of Afghanistan's political transition and the consequent freezing of US$ 9.5 billion in national assets, the economy plummeted. The banking system suffered severe disruption, and the national currency lost 12.5 percent of value, leading to high unemployment and food prices.

Current Acute Food Insecurity Sept - Oct 2021



Projected Acute food Insecurity Nov 2021 - Mar 2022



Key for the Map

IPC Acute Food Insecurity Phase Classification

- 1 - Minimal
- 2 - Stressed
- 3 - Crisis
- 4 - Emergency
- 5 - Famine
- Urban settlement classification

Classification takes into account levels humanitarian food assistance provided

- At least 25% of households meet 25-50% of caloric needs from humanitarian food assistance
- At least 25% of households meet over 50% of caloric needs from humanitarian food assistance

Evidence Level: ***High

IMPORTANT EXPLANATORY NOTE

At the request of the humanitarian community in Afghanistan, this IPC report uses Flowminder population estimates, which are used for the annual Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), indicating 41.7 million people in Afghanistan. Previous IPC reports employed National Statistics and information Agency of Afghanistan (NSIA) population estimates, indicating 33.5 million people. This change will ensure complete alignment between the IPC report and future HRPs. However, it will have implications for comparability and trends analyses. IPC data for Afghanistan using both NSIA and Flowminder estimates are included in the statistical annexes to this report.

CURRENT SITUATION OVERVIEW (SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER 2021)

In the current period, corresponding to the 2021 post-harvest season in the country, 18.8 million people (47% of the population) are estimated to be experiencing high levels of food insecurity in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) and Phase 4 (Emergency). This includes 6.8 million (17% of the total population) classified in Emergency nationwide and 11.9 million (30%) in Crisis. Of the 45 geographical areas analysed (34 rural and 11 urban analytical domains), 16 rural areas (Badakshan, Badghis, Balkh, Bamyan, Daikundi, Faryab, Ghazni, Ghor, Hirat, Jawzjan, Kabul, Laghman, Nuristan, Samangan, Sar-i-Pul and Uruzgan) and five urban areas (Baghlan, Balkh, Faryab, Hirat and Kunduz) were classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4), 24 areas in Crisis (IPC Phase 3), and none of the areas were classified in Stressed (Phase 2) or Minimal (Phase 1).

A La Niña drought in 2021 impacted food production. Twenty-five provinces out of 34 were affected by agricultural stress related to the drought in 2021. Below-average cumulative precipitation during the wet season (October 2020 – May 2021) and above-average temperatures resulted in reduced snowfall and reduced snow-melt (vital for irrigation in many areas) and a reduced area under cultivation. As preliminary estimates, the 2021 cereal harvest is 20% below 2020 levels and 15% below the five-year average. The 2021 Seasonal Food Security Assessment (SFSA), undertaken by the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster (FSAC), revealed that drought represented a major shock for about 37% of rural households. Aside from drought, rural households with access to land reported crop pests and diseases and the inability to obtain fertiliser and seed. Poorly maintained and/or conflict-damaged irrigation systems were another impediment to food production. Casual agricultural labour opportunities in drought-affected areas were reduced due to lower areas under production and reduced harvests.

The post-harvest SFSA shows that household food reserves dropped dramatically during 2021. Compared to last year, the number of households reporting cereal stock of less than three months doubled from 28% to 57%, and those reporting cereal stocks of less than one month increased from 7% last year to 19%, an almost three-fold increase. Besides the impact of drought, low access to agricultural inputs (seeds and fertilisers in particular) created major constraints for farmers. Only 24% of farmers had access to sufficient non-certified seeds during the last wheat cultivation season, and only 8% certified seeds. For the upcoming wheat cultivation season, only 31% and 8%, respectively, said they had access to the same type of seeds. The price of fertiliser increased by 25 -30% compared to the same period last year. Livestock, a major source of food and income for rural communities, have been affected. According to a statement by the Office of the President in June 2021, almost 3 million animals are at risk. As per SFSA, 41.6% of those who own livestock reported that the number of their livestock decreased compared to last year. Sixty-four percent of the livestock owners reported that they had faced problems raising animals in the past six months, out of which 20% reported lack of water and 43% reported lack of pasture as the first major shock. Considering the poor harvest and the early winter lean season, household food security is dire.

Displacement continues to drive food insecurity. From January to September 2021, around 664,200 people were displaced due to intensified conflict and livelihood-related factors. Most of the people were diplaced to provincial urban centres, regional capitals and Kabul, which has exacerbated the already oversaturated labour market and placed further pressure on limited facilities in those areas. Due to prolonged conflict and droughts, the country already had 3.5 million prolonged IDPs in December 2020. The 2021 SFSA found that 9% of randomly selected respondents were IDPs. This indicates that the actual number of displaced people could be higher than estimated.

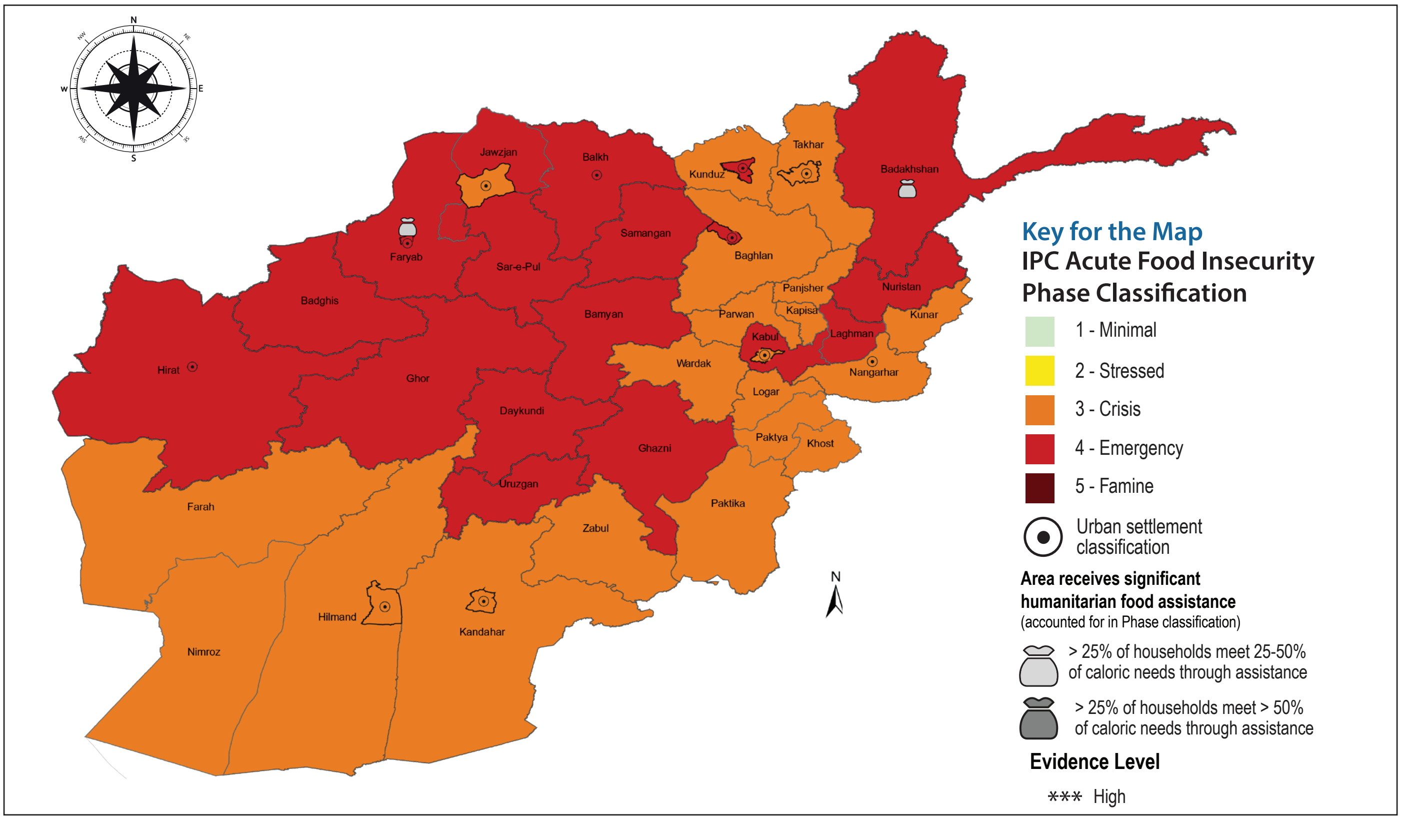
A profound economic crisis is severely restricting household access to food.

Impacts on Employment: The political transition in August 2021 resulted in significant disruptions to public finances, services and international assistance and had enormous impacts on employment, particularly for women. The political transition also led to over 500,000 Afghan security force members losing their jobs while civil servants, who comprise a significant proportion of the urban population, have been unpaid for over three months. Overall, the economic crisis that followed the political transition has negatively impacted the labour market in both urban and rural areas. The World Food Programme's (WFP) market and price monitoring showed a drastic decline in the number of days work available for casual labour in urban areas: these were two days per week in July, dropping to 1.8 days in August and to only one day of work in September, a level which is 50% lower compared to both July 2021 and September 2020. According to the 2021 SFSA, 95% of the population reported reduced incomes, out of which 76% reported a significant decrease (83% for urban and 72% for rural households) compared to the previous year. The main reasons for decreased income were reduced employment (42%) and conflict (41%).

Impact on Food Markets and Prices: The period between August to September corresponds to the post-harvest season when wheat and wheat flour prices usually decrease slightly following seasonal trends. However, in 2021, there has been a dramatic and sudden price increase for wheat flour (+28% from June to September) and other food commodities. In addition, cooking oil prices increased by 55% compared to the same period last year and more than 80% above the previous 5-year average, contributing to increasing food and non-food prices. Moreover, the political transition also led to a freeze of US$ 9.5 billion in government assets, further deteriorating the economy and resulting in a 12.5% currency devaluation, which in turn contributed to increasing prices of food and non-food items, especially for imported ones. These higher food prices are negatively impacting the purchasing power of lower-income groups across the country, reducing their access to food. The impact of high prices is not only limited to poor households, with other household income groups unable to access cash due to banking restrictions on cash withdrawals (currently limited to USD200/household/week).

The Nutrition Cluster[1] estimates that 27 out of 34 provinces are above the emergency threshold for acute malnutrition. At least 3.9 million people need acute malnutrition treatment services in 2021, including one million children under five with severe acute malnutrition (SAM), 2.2 million children under five with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM), and 0.7 million pregnant and lactating women (PLW) with acute malnutrition.

IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY CURRENT SITUATION (SEPT - OCT 2021)



Between September and October 2021, around 18.8 million people (47% of the population) were estimated to be in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) and IPC Phase 4 (Emergency). This is broken down as 6.8 million (17%) classified in Emergency and 11.9 million (30%) in Crisis nationwide. Areas in IPC Phase 4 include those mainly reliant on rain-fed agriculture and were most affected by the drought, high altitude locations that are vulnerable to shocks, and urban centers that have been impacted as a consequence of the economic crisis in the country. Of the 45 areas analysed (34 rural and 11 urban analytical domains), 16 rural areas (Badakshan, Badghis, Balkh, Bamyan, Daykundi, Faryab, Ghazni, Ghor, Hirat, Jawzjan, Kabul, Laghman, Nuristan, Samangan, Sar-i-Pul and Uruzgan) and five urban areas (Baghlan, Balkh, Faryab, Hirat and Kunduz) were classified in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency). Across all areas, the evidence level for the analysis is High (***).

The Impact of Humanitarian Food Assistance (HFA):

In anticipation of the drought and with the continued COVID-19 impacts, humanitarian assistance in Afghanistan has been significantly scaled up in comparison with previous years. For the current period, the IPC analysis considered figures shared by humanitarian partners covering the beneficiaries assisted in September, which corresponds to the period of data collection. Based on the figures shared, two areas were found to have received significant assistance, as per the definition in IPC Protocols (more than 25% of households received at least 50% of their kilocalorie needs) - Badakhshan and Faryab urban. In total, around four million people received emergency assistance from WFP in September, with food rations covering half of the households' kilocalorie needs. However, these assistance levels are lower than the figures planned for the same period and included in the March 2021 round of IPC analysis (around 5.5 million). This decrease may have contributed, among other aggravating factors, to the worsening food insecurity observed in the current round of analysis. Before and after the political transition, WFP was able to reach all parts of the country. The essential providers of humanitarian assistance remain operational in the country.

For the projection period, given the anticipation of a worsening crisis and the early start of the lean seasons, plans are in place for a significant scale-up of assistance to nine million people starting in December 2021. However, at the time of the analysis, funding was confirmed for only 40% of the planned assistance, and the targeted beneficiary figures were adjusted accordingly. Issues of access in the projection period are critical, as some hard-to-reach areas are characterised by harsh winters which may continue to impede humanitarian interventions where they are most critically needed. Lack of funding remains the primary constraint to scaling up the response. It is noted that beyond the scale-up of assistance, the timeliness of delivery is critical.

1. Nutrition Cluster Situation and Response Dashboard - February 2021: https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/copy_of_nutrition_cluster_dashboard_2021_002.pdf

Current Flowminder population table: September – October 2021

SN	Province	Total population analysed	Phase 1		Phase 2		Phase 3		Phase 4		Phase 5		Area Phase	Phase 3+	
			#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%		#people	%
1	Badakhshan	1,357,037	135,704	10	474,963	35	407,111	30	339,259	25	0	0	4	746,370	55
2	Badghis	707,535	106,130	15	176,884	25	212,260	30	212,260	30	0	0	4	424,521	60
3	Baghlan	1,043,175	469,429	45	312,953	30	156,476	15	104,318	10	0	0	3	260,794	25
4	Baghlan Urban	263,068	118,381	45	39,460	15	52,614	20	52,614	20	0	0	4	105,227	40
5	Balkh	1,313,264	196,990	15	393,979	30	459,643	35	262,653	20	0	0	4	722,295	55
6	Balkh Urban	629,667	94,450	15	188,900	30	220,383	35	125,933	20	0	0	4	346,317	55
7	Bamyan	637,983	127,597	20	191,395	30	191,395	30	127,597	20	0	0	4	318,992	50
8	Daykundi	664,948	132,990	20	199,484	30	199,484	30	132,990	20	0	0	4	332,474	50
9	Farah	724,841	253,694	35	217,452	30	181,210	25	72,484	10	0	0	3	253,694	35
10	Faryab	1,254,709	125,471	10	313,677	25	439,148	35	376,413	30	0	0	4	815,561	65
11	Faryab Urban	173,310	17,331	10	43,328	25	60,659	35	51,993	30	0	0	4	112,652	65
12	Ghazni	1,754,092	263,114	15	526,228	30	526,228	30	438,523	25	0	0	4	964,751	55
13	Ghor	984,184	98,418	10	246,046	25	344,464	35	295,255	30	0	0	4	639,719	65
14	Helmand Urban	115,646	23,129	20	34,694	30	40,476	35	17,347	15	0	0	3	57,823	50
15	Hilmand	1,746,240	349,248	20	611,184	35	523,872	30	261,936	15	0	0	3	785,808	45
16	Hirat	2,008,831	401,766	20	401,766	20	703,091	35	502,208	25	0	0	4	1,205,299	60
17	Hirat Urban	747,077	149,415	20	224,123	30	224,123	30	149,415	20	0	0	4	373,538	50
18	Jawzjan	617,753	61,775	10	216,214	35	185,326	30	154,438	25	0	0	4	339,764	55
19	Jawzjan Urban	157,371	23,606	15	47,211	30	62,948	40	23,606	15	0	0	3	86,554	55
20	Kabul	975,103	146,265	15	390,041	40	243,776	25	195,021	20	0	0	4	438,796	45
21	Kabul Urban	5,725,413	858,812	15	2,576,436	45	1,717,624	30	572,541	10	0	0	3	2,290,165	40
22	Kandahar	1,122,028	280,507	25	392,710	35	336,608	30	112,203	10	0	0	3	448,811	40
23	Kandahar Urban	679,816	169,954	25	237,935	35	169,954	25	101,972	15	0	0	3	271,926	40
24	Kapisa	628,639	157,160	25	220,024	35	188,592	30	62,864	10	0	0	3	251,456	40
25	Khost	819,460	327,784	40	245,838	30	204,865	25	40,973	5	0	0	3	245,838	30
26	Kunar	642,920	128,584	20	225,022	35	192,876	30	96,438	15	0	0	3	289,314	45
27	Kunduz	1,216,842	486,737	40	243,368	20	304,210	25	182,526	15	0	0	3	486,737	40
28	Kunduz Urban	246,524	49,305	20	73,957	30	73,957	30	49,305	20	0	0	4	123,262	50
29	Laghman	635,317	127,063	20	222,361	35	158,829	25	127,063	20	0	0	4	285,893	45
30	Logar	559,215	111,843	20	251,647	45	139,804	25	55,922	10	0	0	3	195,725	35
31	Nangarhar	1,836,462	275,469	15	734,585	40	550,938	30	275,469	15	0	0	3	826,408	45
32	Nangarhar Urban	354,311	53,147	15	124,009	35	124,009	35	53,147	15	0	0	3	177,155	50
33	Nimroz	236,308	35,446	15	82,708	35	82,708	35	35,446	15	0	0	3	118,154	50
34	Nuristan	210,895	42,179	20	63,268	30	63,268	30	42,179	20	0	0	4	105,447	50
35	Paktika	998,379	199,676	20	299,514	30	349,433	35	149,757	15	0	0	3	499,189	50
36	Paktya	787,829	157,566	20	315,132	40	236,349	30	78,783	10	0	0	3	315,132	40
37	Panjsher	218,763	54,691	25	87,505	40	54,691	25	21,876	10	0	0	3	76,567	35
38	Parwan	949,721	189,944	20	284,916	30	332,402	35	142,458	15	0	0	3	474,861	50
39	Samangan	554,213	55,421	10	193,974	35	193,974	35	110,843	20	0	0	4	304,817	55
40	Sari pul	799,480	79,948	10	279,818	35	279,818	35	159,896	20	0	0	4	439,714	55
41	Takhar	1,298,654	389,596	30	584,394	45	194,798	15	129,865	10	0	0	3	324,663	25
42	Takhar Urban	108,598	32,579	30	38,009	35	21,720	20	16,290	15	0	0	3	38,009	35
43	Uruzgan	561,409	84,211	15	140,352	25	196,493	35	140,352	25	0	0	4	336,846	60
44	Wardak	850,019	212,505	25	297,506	35	212,505	25	127,503	15	0	0	3	340,007	40
45	Zabul	494,813	98,963	20	148,444	30	173,184	35	74,222	15	0	0	3	247,406	50
	Grand Total	**40,411,860**	**7,953,992**	**20**	**13,613,415**	**33**	**11,988,297**	**30**	**6,856,155**	**17**	**0**	**0**		**18,844,453**	**47**

Note: A population in Phase 3+ does not necessarily reflect the full population in need of urgent action. This is because some households may be in Phase 2 or even 1 but only because of receipt of assistance, and thus, they may be in need of continued action.

PROJECTED SITUATION OVERVIEW (NOVEMBER 2021 - MARCH 2022)

During the projection analysis period (November 2021 to March 2022), corresponding to the lean season, the total population facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) is expected to increase to 22.8 million (55% of the analysed population). This represents an 8% increase in the total number of people facing high levels of acute food insecurity from the current projection period. The number of areas classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) is expected to increase from 21 in the current periof to 32, including five urban centres (Helmand, Jawzjan, Kandahar, Takhar, Nangarhar) plus Nangarhar rural, Nimroz, Parwan, Wardak, Zabul and Kunar. The main reasons for the change in the situation in urban areas are the prolonged effects of the economic downturn on households' capacity to access food. Households in rural areas are affected by a combination of seasonal erosion of physical and economic access and high food prices. No analytical domain has been classified in IPC Phase 2 (Stressed) or IPC Phase 1 (Minimal).

Afghanistan's economy was already characterised by high levels of fragility and aid dependence and food security was significantly impacted by drought. The economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, both domestically and internationally, has compounded this fragility. Since August, international development assistance, longer-term development projects and institutional support have been suspended. The freeze of foreign assets is driving a liquidity crisis, resulting in the devaluation of the Afghani currency, compounding the economic shock. While measures may be implemented to prevent a total collapse of the economy, this may not go far beyond maintaining the basic functioning of the financial sector. Even with these mitigation measures in place, the economy is expected to further contract in the projection period, and this will lead to further increases in acute food insecurity.

Worsening unemployment and further income reductions are expected in the projection period against a backdrop of a contracting economy. The reduction/loss of employment will also be driven by seasonal factors, the continuing reduction/suspension of development assistance, and weak economic performance. Lack of employment opportunities during the winter season will affect the vulnerable food insecure people who mainly rely on wage labour as their main income source, particularly during the projection period.

Prices of food commodities usually increase during the winter season when transportation costs also typically increase. Impacts are greater in areas with access challenges, particularly for the hard-to-reach and high elevation areas that experience cold winters. Food prices over the projected period are anticipated to be the key factor determining household access to food and food consumption in the coming months.

Key Assumptions for the projection period

Rainfall: Below-average rainfall is again expected for the peak planting period in October and November, with an estimated 20-30 percent reduction in wheat crop production compared to a five-year average.

Sanctions on the *de facto* authorities will continue to have economic impacts and limit cash availability, causing serious impediments to markets and trade. Government and businesses will have difficulty paying their employees.

Foreign aid accounted for 40% of Afghan GDP and is facing an uncertain future, though some countries promised to help through UN agencies and international organisations. It is expected that this will continue to be the case in the projection period.

Conflict: The security situation is likely to stabilise in the projection period, with a lower level of conflict and violence compared to previous years.

Currency depreciation is likely to continue because of sanctions, driving up food prices to above-average levels and pushing up the cost of agricultural inputs.

Food imports will continue at a lower level because of impacts of the sanctions on trade, leading to higher prices. The wheat deficit alone is estimated at 3MMT.

Unemployment will be driven by drought and the economic crisis. In urban areas the closure of NGOs, reduced foreign aid, closure of businesses and government institutions will lead to reduced income and employment, especially for women.

Drought impacts on livestock to continue: An increase in distress sales is expected and the livestock rearing cost will likely increase. Access to agriculture land may increase, but cost of inputs will also continue to increase because of high fuel prices and inflation.

Access to health services: A funding pause that went into effect in late August 2021 means that more than 2,000 (90%) health facilities out of 2,400 (90%) are now at risk of closing.

Emergency assistance is expected to increase, but the scale-up will not be sufficient to reach many more vulnerable households, particularly at the onset of winter, which represents the seasonal peak of food assistance needs.

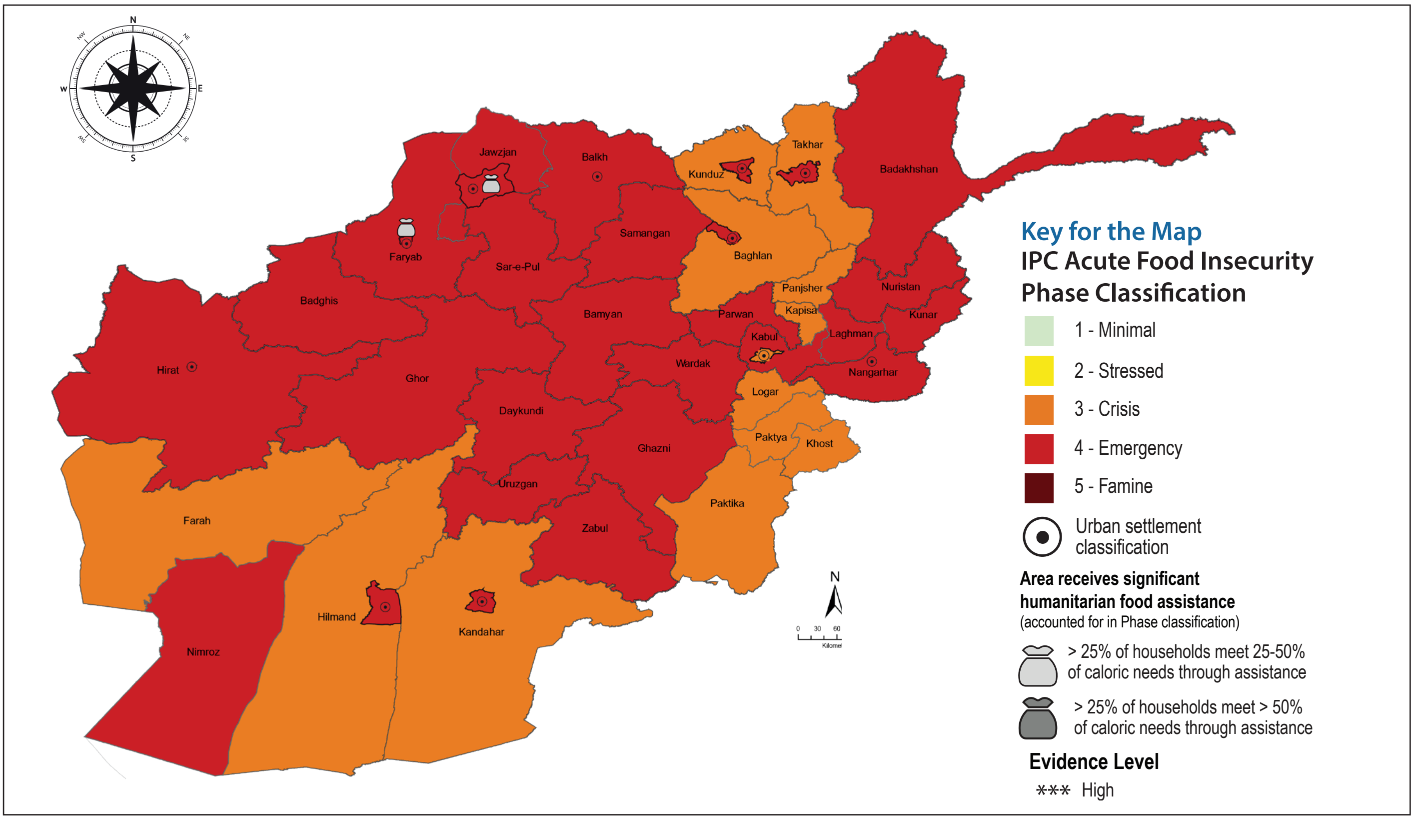
As per the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the country's economy will contract by up to 30% this year - which could push millions into poverty and aggravate the humanitarian crisis.

Already in September, around 19% of households reported their cereal stocks from their own production would last less than a month, while 39% of households reported stocks to last between one to three months – therefore no longer available during the projected period. Only about 27% of the households reported having stocks lasting between three and six months (covering the initial part of the lean season) and only 16% reported having enough stocks for more than six months, highlighting a dramatic need for emergency food assistance. Given the weak-moderate La Niña forecasts for the 2021-22 wet seasons, the associated abiotic-biotic shocks, and the fact that this is a back-to-back weather phenomenon, it is quite likely that the marginal and smallholder livestock owners (nomadic, semi-settled and settled/mixed livestock owners) will be adversely affected during the projection period.

Additionally, inaccessibility to food markets and road blockages in some areas of the country, such as Daykundi, Bamyan, Ghor, Badakshan, Nuristan and a number of districts in the north of the country, will likely limit the physical access of people to food due to snowfall during the winter season. The below-average precipitation level forecasted (October 2021 –January 2022) might positively impact accessibility in some of these areas, but will likely negatively affect pasture in early spring, winter and spring irrigation, cultivation and production at the later stage. Poor pasture conditions during the peak of winter, snowfall in high altitudes and lack of access to residual crop fodder make livestock conditions worse, resulting in poor body condition, increased susceptibility and morbidity to pests and diseases and reduced milk productivity. Consequently, income and food from the livestock sector will also be affected. Low livestock productivity particularly affects the nutritional status and food security of women and children.

The security situation will likely stabilise during the projection period with a lower level of conflict and violence compared to previous years. Some conflict by armed groups may be seen, however, these episodes will likely not significantly impact food security. It is expected that some armed groups will remain active, with the potential for complex attacks that could cause instability and fear in Kabul, other urban centres and beyond, and may look to destabilise the de facto authorities and the economy.

IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY PROJECTION (NOVEMBER 2021 - MARCH 2022)



Projection Flowminder population table: November 2021 – March 2022

SN	Province	Total population analysed	Phase 1		Phase 2		Phase 3		Phase 4		Phase 5		Area Phase	Phase 3+	
			#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%		#people	%
1	Badakhshan	1,401,209	140,121	10	350,302	25	490,423	35	420,363	30	0	0	4	910,786	65
2	Badghis	730,566	73,057	10	146,113	20	292,226	40	219,170	30	0	0	4	511,396	70
3	Baghlan	1,077,131	323,139	30	323,139	30	269,283	25	161,570	15	0	0	3	430,853	40
4	Baghlan Urban	271,631	81,489	30	67,908	25	67,908	25	54,326	20	0	0	4	122,234	45
5	Balkh	1,356,012	203,402	15	271,202	20	542,405	40	339,003	25	0	0	4	881,408	65
6	Balkh Urban	650,163	97,524	15	130,033	20	260,065	40	162,541	25	0	0	4	422,606	65
7	Bamyan	658,750	131,750	20	131,750	20	230,563	35	164,688	25	0	0	4	395,250	60
8	Daykundi	686,593	102,989	15	137,319	20	274,637	40	171,648	25	0	0	4	446,285	65
9	Farah	748,435	149,687	20	224,531	30	261,952	35	112,265	15	0	0	3	374,218	50
10	Faryab	1,295,551	129,555	10	259,110	20	518,220	40	388,665	30	0	0	4	906,886	70
11	Faryab Urban	178,951	17,895	10	44,738	25	62,633	35	53,685	30	0	0	4	116,318	65
12	Ghazni	1,811,190	271,678	15	452,797	25	633,916	35	452,797	25	0	0	4	1,086,714	60
13	Ghor	1,016,220	101,622	10	203,244	20	406,488	40	304,866	30	0	0	4	711,354	70
14	Helmand Urban	119,410	17,912	15	41,794	35	35,823	30	23,882	20	0	0	4	59,705	50
15	Hilmand	1,803,082	270,462	15	721,233	40	540,925	30	270,462	15	0	0	3	811,387	45
16	Hirat	2,074,221	207,422	10	518,555	25	725,977	35	622,266	30	0	0	4	1,348,243	65
17	Hirat Urban	771,395	115,709	15	231,418	30	269,988	35	154,279	20	0	0	4	424,267	55
18	Jawzjan	637,862	63,786	10	159,465	25	223,252	35	191,359	30	0	0	4	414,610	65
19	Jawzjan Urban	162,493	16,249	10	48,748	30	56,873	35	40,623	25	0	0	4	97,496	60
20	Kabul	1,006,843	100,684	10	402,737	40	302,053	30	201,369	20	0	0	4	503,422	50
21	Kabul Urban	5,911,781	591,178	10	2,364,712	40	2,069,123	35	886,767	15	0	0	3	2,955,890	50
22	Kandahar	1,158,551	231,710	20	405,493	35	347,565	30	173,783	15	0	0	3	521,348	45
23	Kandahar Urban	701,944	140,389	20	210,583	30	210,583	30	140,389	20	0	0	4	350,972	50
24	Kapisa	649,102	129,820	20	227,186	35	194,731	30	97,365	15	0	0	3	292,096	45
25	Khost	846,134	296,147	35	253,840	30	211,534	25	84,613	10	0	0	3	296,147	35
26	Kunar	663,847	99,577	15	199,154	30	232,347	35	132,769	20	0	0	4	365,116	55
27	Kunduz	1,256,451	502,580	40	251,290	20	314,113	25	188,468	15	0	0	3	502,580	40
28	Kunduz Urban	254,549	38,182	15	76,365	30	76,365	30	63,637	25	0	0	4	140,002	55
29	Laghman	655,998	65,600	10	229,599	35	196,799	30	163,999	25	0	0	4	360,799	55
30	Logar	577,418	115,484	20	230,967	40	144,355	25	86,613	15	0	0	3	230,967	40
31	Nangarhar	1,896,240	284,436	15	474,060	25	663,684	35	474,060	25	0	0	4	1,137,744	60
32	Nangarhar Urban	365,844	36,584	10	109,753	30	128,045	35	91,461	25	0	0	4	219,506	60
33	Nimroz	244,000	24,400	10	85,400	35	85,400	35	48,800	20	0	0	4	134,200	55
34	Nuristan	217,760	32,664	15	43,552	20	76,216	35	65,328	30	0	0	4	141,544	65
35	Paktika	1,030,877	154,632	15	360,807	35	360,807	35	154,632	15	0	0	3	515,438	50
36	Paktya	813,474	162,695	20	284,716	35	284,716	35	81,347	10	0	0	3	366,063	45
37	Panjsher	225,884	56,471	25	67,765	30	67,765	30	33,883	15	0	0	3	101,648	45
38	Parwan	980,635	147,095	15	245,159	25	392,254	40	196,127	20	0	0	4	588,381	60
39	Samangan	572,253	57,225	10	143,063	25	228,901	40	143,063	25	0	0	4	371,964	65
40	Sari pul	825,504	82,550	10	206,376	25	288,926	35	247,651	30	0	0	4	536,577	65
41	Takhar	1,340,926	335,232	25	536,371	40	268,185	20	201,139	15	0	0	3	469,324	35
42	Takhar Urban	112,133	28,033	25	39,247	35	22,427	20	22,427	20	0	0	4	44,853	40
43	Uruzgan	579,684	28,984	5	144,921	25	231,873	40	173,905	30	0	0	4	405,779	70
44	Wardak	877,687	131,653	15	263,306	30	307,191	35	175,537	20	0	0	4	482,728	55
45	Zabul	510,919	51,092	10	153,276	30	204,368	40	102,184	20	0	0	4	306,552	60
	Grand Total	**41,727,304**	**6,440,549**	**15**	**12,473,098**	**30**	**14,073,883**	**34**	**8,739,775**	**21**	**0**	**0**		**22,813,658**	**55**

Note: A population in Phase 3+ does not necessarily reflect the full population in need of urgent action. This is because some households may be in Phase 2 or even 1 but only because of receipt of assistance, and thus, they may be in need of continued action.

FOOD SECURITY SITUATION IN SELECTED URBAN AREAS

Food insecurity is growing in urban areas. Eleven major towns of selected provinces were analysed to assess the specific vulnerabilities of urban households. Across the urban areas, around 3.98 million people (43% of the analysed population) were facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above), of which 1.2 million people (13%) were classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). Five out of 11 urban areas were classified in Emergency, and another six urban areas were classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3). The urban area of Faryab (Maimana), with 65% of its total population classified in IPC Phase 3 or above, is the most vulnerable urban center, followed by Balkh (Mazar), Jawzjan, Helmand (Lashkergah), Hirat, Kunduz, Nangarhar, (e) Baghlan (Pul-e-Khumri), Kabul, and Kandahar, each having 40-55% of their respective populations classified in IPC Phase 3 or above. The impact of the transition of power on the functionality of key services (banks, markets, transports, communication) as well as on labour opportunities (e.g. civil servants and functionality of public and private economic comparts) coupled with unseasonable inflation spikes for food products, deeply affected the capacity of most urban households to produce an income and access food.

Remittance flows have been severely affected: The financial freeze in government assets is affecting international remittance flows, compounding reductions resulting from the lingering economic impact of COVID-19 across the world and greatly impacting those households relying on remittances. According to the World Bank, remittances account for 4% of Afghanistan's GDP or $800M a year. According to the 2021 SFSA, 7.4% of households receive remittances, and 2.5% are the primary income source. Remittances are a critical buffer during shocks; the suspension of such services has had a detrimental impact on households' coping capacities.

As a result, the proportion of urban dwellers in IPC Phase 3 or above increased from 36% last year to 43%. The number of people in high acute food insecurity is expected to increase in the projection period (November 2021 - March 2022) to 4.9 million people (52%) due to the expected increase in prices and the decrease in job opportunities particularly for government workers. Compared to last year's financial access, the overall situation has significantly deteriorated due to a slowdown of business and industry and food prices significantly increasing this year compared to the previous year's.

Population table for the current period: September – October 2021

Urban centres	Total population analysed	Phase 1		Phase 2		Phase 3		Phase 4		Phase 5		Area Phase	Phase 3+	
		#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%		#people	%
Baghlan Urban	263,068	118,381	45	39,460	15	52,614	20	52,614	20	0	0	4	105,227	40
Balkh Urban	629,667	94,450	15	188,900	30	220,383	35	125,933	20	0	0	4	346,317	55
Faryab Urban	173,310	17,331	10	43,328	25	60,659	35	51,993	30	0	0	4	112,652	65
Helmand Urban	115,646	23,129	20	34,694	30	40,476	35	17,347	15	0	0	3	57,823	50
Hirat Urban	747,077	149,415	20	224,123	30	224,123	30	149,415	20	0	0	4	373,538	50
Jawzjan Urban	157,371	23,606	15	47,211	30	62,948	40	23,606	15	0	0	3	86,554	55
Kabul Urban	5,725,413	858,812	15	2,576,436	45	1,717,624	30	572,541	10	0	0	3	2,290,165	40
Kandahar Urban	679,816	169,954	25	237,935	35	169,954	25	101,972	15	0	0	3	271,926	40
Kunduz Urban	246,524	49,305	20	73,957	30	73,957	30	49,305	20	0	0	4	123,262	50
Nangarhar Urban	354,311	53,147	15	124,009	35	124,009	35	53,147	15	0	0	3	177,155	50
Takhar Urban	108,598	32,579	30	38,009	35	21,720	20	16,290	15	0	0	3	38,009	35
Grand Total	**9,200,800**	**1,590,109**	**17**	**3,628,062**	**39**	**2,768,466**	**30**	**1,214,163**	**13**	**0**	**0**		**3,982,629**	**43**

Urban Population table for the projected period: November 2021 – March 2022

Urban centres	Total population analysed	Phase 1		Phase 2		Phase 3		Phase 4		Phase 5		Area Phase	Phase 3+	
		#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%		#people	%
Baghlan Urban	271,631	81,489	30	67,908	25	67,908	25	54,326	20	0	0	4	122,234	45
Balkh Urban	650,163	97,524	15	130,033	20	260,065	40	162,541	25	0	0	4	422,606	65
Faryab Urban	178,951	17,895	10	44,738	25	62,633	35	53,685	30	0	0	4	116,318	65
Helmand Urban	119,410	17,912	15	41,794	35	35,823	30	23,882	20	0	0	4	59,705	50
Hirat Urban	771,395	115,709	15	231,418	30	269,988	35	154,279	20	0	0	4	424,267	55
Jawzjan Urban	162,493	16,249	10	48,748	30	56,873	35	40,623	25	0	0	4	97,496	60
Kabul Urban	5,911,781	591,178	10	2,364,712	40	2,069,123	35	886,767	15	0	0	3	2,955,890	50
Kandahar Urban	701,944	140,389	20	210,583	30	210,583	30	140,389	20	0	0	4	350,972	50
Kunduz Urban	254,549	38,182	15	76,365	30	76,365	30	63,637	25	0	0	4	140,002	55
Nangarhar Urban	365,844	36,584	10	109,753	30	128,045	35	91,461	25	0	0	4	219,506	60
Takhar Urban	112,133	28,033	25	39,247	35	22,427	20	22,427	20	0	0	4	44,853	40
Grand Total	**9,500,295**	**1,181,146**	**12**	**3,365,298**	**35**	**3,259,833**	**34**	**1,694,017**	**18**	**0**	**0**		**4,953,850**	**52**

FOCUS ON INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE (IDPs)

While this particular IPC analysis could not produce detailed and separate estimates on the food insecurity of displaced populations, this report urges partners to continue supporting new IDPs as a particularly vulnerable group. This report also urges partners to include prolonged IDPs in response, as their situation is not very different from that of new IDPs. Prolonged IDPs became more vulnerable because of the COVID-19 pandemic, economic crisis and political change, as they mostly rely on unsustainable income sources. Safety nets or livelihoods programmes must be introduced to support IDPs staying over longer periods to sustain at least basic standards of living.

Afghanistan faces one of the world's most acute internal displacement crises as it suffers protracted conflict, ongoing insecurity, and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, along with natural hazards such as droughts, floods and earthquakes. Displacement has become a familiar survival strategy for many Afghans. Millions of individuals, families and communities migrated within and outside the country. Rural communities mainly migrated to nearby urban or semi-urban settlements where security is relatively better, and land is still affordable or available for temporary settlement free of the rental cost. While these settlements may provide safety from conflict with non-state actors, internal communal conflict on land use, lack of basic services like electricity, water, access to latrines, education and poor shelter conditions are major issues.

Usually, because of the severity of the conflict and its sudden nature, most of the livelihood assets of IDPs are either looted, sold at very meagre prices and/or killed in the case of livestock or lost. IDPs often migrate without the necessary legal documents of identity and school certificates of their children, which hinders their access to support services. They also pay very high prices for transportation to move their families to a safer location. Therefore, in the absence of agriculture and livestock-based livelihoods and with no urban labour skills, they are left with almost zero livelihood options. Most of the IDPs bring agriculture-based livelihood skills to these urban areas where there is no market for their skills. Their arrival increases the pressure on the local job market, reducing wages and adding strain on infrastructure, ultimately fuelling tensions and conflict with the local population.

On average, half a million people fled their homes every year because of the conflict. From January to September 2021, intensified conflict caused 664,200 new people to be displaced. Most of these IDPs (75%) are found in need of urgent humanitarian assistance as per the historical trend data from FSAC Afghanistan. According to the internal displacement monitoring centre (iDMC) there were 3,547,000 IDPs in Afghanistan as of 31 December 2020 and this number has increased to 4,181,800 as of September 2021. In addition to this, close to 805,000 people have returned from neighbouring countries to Afghanistan so far this year.

Food security situation for displaced populations: Various assessments conducted on IDPs by Food Security and Agriculture Cluster (FSAC) partners show worse food security scores on indicators than any other population category in Afghanistan. In 2021, REACH conducted an assessment with different vulnerable groups on the move that included new and prolonged IDPs, returnees and refugees; these people on the move are mostly concentrated in 11 urban areas (Nangarhar, Hirat, Kabul, Faryab, Takhar, Kunduz, Kandahar, Hilmand, Balkh, Baghlan and Jawzjan) on which the urban IPC analysis focused. According to the findings of this assessment, 42% of the IDPs have a poor and 36% have a borderline food consumption score; they have a very low level of income, far below the cost of a basic food basket, and 75% of the IDP's reported a high level of debt. With the recent severe economic crisis, the FSAC of Afghanistan aims to target 90% of the newly displaced IDPs with a multisector response, aligning the response with these numbers.

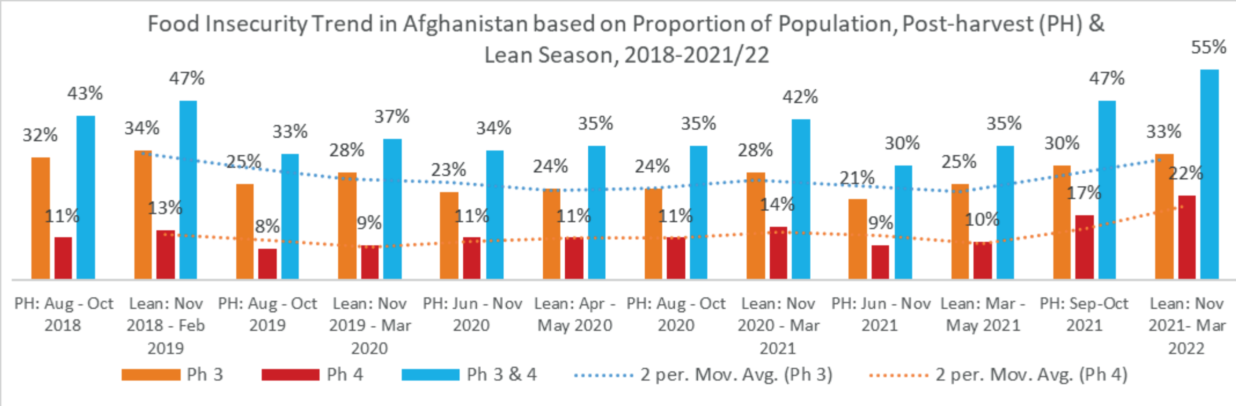
Despite the general improvement in the security situation, significant challenges remain with regards to returning. The preference is to stay closer to urban and semi-urban areas to be safe, find income opportunities, or receive assistance. Whereas the labour markets are already saturated, income-earning opportunities have already shrunk, and assistance is limited. Meanwhile, there is a lack of sustainable solution programmes and support to allocating specific areas to build houses and rehabilitate livelihoods to avoid a worsening situation.

COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY ANALYSES

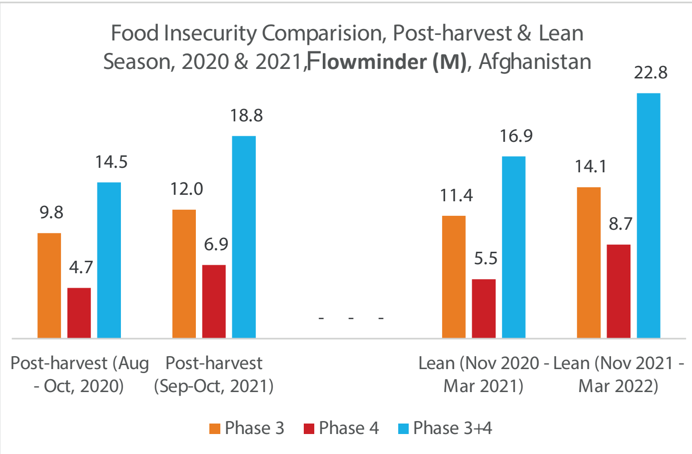
At the request of the IPC Steering Committee in Afghanistan, this report uses population estimates from Flowminder actualised for 2021. In contrast, previous IPC reports used National Statistics and Information Authority (NSIA) population estimates. The main advantage of using Flowminder numbers is that it provides numbers that allow full alignment between the IPC report and the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP).

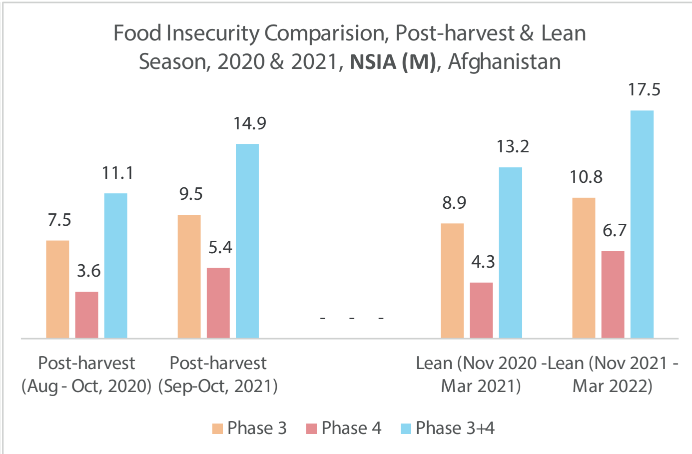
Previous IPC results provided estimations of the population in IPC Phase 3 and 4 (Crisis and Emergency) employing NSIA figures, indicating 10.9 million people in the current period and 9.4 million people in the projection period as being highly food insecure. It would be incorrect to compare former results (employing a population base of 34 million) with the latest results, which use a population base of 41.7 million. For comparison's sake, only the prevalence of populations in different phases should be compared. Alternatively, the population results using the Flowminder population base, which were provided in the previous IPC analysis reports in the annexes, can be compared.

The graph below provides a trend analysis between 2018 to 2021/22 in terms of the proportion of the population classified in IPC Phases 3 and 4 (Crisis and Emergency). To understand the trend from previous years, analyses covering the same period / season will be compared. The graph shows that this year, the proportion of population classified in Crisis and Emergency is 55% (33% in Crisis and 22% in Emergency) which is the highest so far, followed by the 2018 lean season proportion of population classified in Crisis and Emergency which was 47% (34% in Crisis and 13% in Emergency). It should be noted that 2018 was a severe drought year and only rural populations were analysed during that round.



The graphs below show the comparison between post-harvest of 2020 and 2021 and the lean season of 2020/21 and 2021/22 based on both Flowminder and NSIA population. The first graph below, left (Flowminder) shows that the population in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) increased to 14.1 million during November 2021 – March 2o22 (projected lean season) from 11.4 million in the same season last year, corresponding to a 23% increase. The population in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) increased to 8.7 million from 5.5 million, corresponding to a 58% increase. **Overall, IPC Phase 3 and 4 populations increased to 22.8 million from 16.9 million, an increase of 35% compared to the same season of last year.** On the other hand, the second graph, based on NSIA population estimates, shows that overall, IPC Phase 3 and 4 populations increased to 17.5 million during the projection analysis period (November 2021 – March 2022) from 13.2 million at the same time last year.[1]





In the March 2021 round, there were four provinces in IPC Phase 2 (Stressed). These have all moved to IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) in October 2021. The number of provinces in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) has increased from four (both in the current and projected periods) in March 2021 to 21 in October 2021. No area was classified in IPC Phase 5 (Catastrophe/Famine) in both the March 2021 and the October 2021 rounds.

[1] The year-to-year increase in the proportion of people in IPC Phase 3 or above according to NSIA differs slightly from the one using Flowminder due to the different methods applied to distribute the total population across various areas of analysis.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

Response Priorities

1. It is urgent to **save lives and livelihoods** for the populations in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) and IPC Phase 3 (Crisis). Humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan must be immediately scaled up. The emergence of IPC Phase 5 "Catastrophe" conditions cannot be excluded if timely and sufficient assistance is not provided.
2. Considering the onset of the winter, the timeliness of mobilisation of resources is crucial. Furthermore, **in-kind food assistance should be pre-positioned and delivered** to IPC Phase 4 and IPC Phase 3 populations that might be cut off by winter weather.
3. Humanitarian agencies should advocate to the international community for the **resumption of essential food trade with Afghanistan.** The stabilisation of Afghanistan's food markets is essential for the wellbeing of the population, particularly for households facing food deficits. Functional food markets and the ability to pay local suppliers will enable an effective humanitarian response.
4. A priority intervention is to **support at-risk women and children in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) and IPC Phase 3 (Crisis)**. Programs targeting pregnant and lactating women and children under five should be a priority.
5. Completing the **winter wheat season campaign (seeds and fertilisers)** and scale-up to support spring season crops and vulnerable herding households is essential to prevent further deterioration of household food production capacity. **Emergency access to drought-resistant improved crop inputs** should be increased in areas where prolonged dry spell trends are consistent. This needs to be combined with **improved access to water**, small scale rehabilitation of irrigation infrastructure and resumption of long-term investment in irrigation and watershed management. **Emergency livelihood support to small farmers** must take place to ensure they retain the capability to recover quickly from the current shock. Building on the experience of 2018/2019, livestock support should be provided to small and medium-scale farmers, especially women farmers, to contain livestock asset depletion. This will help in reducing malnutrition in women and children.
6. The **newly vulnerable urban food insecure population groups** should be supported through unconditional cash or voucher assistance until the labour market recovers. The TWG recognises that cash or voucher assistance is complicated by the financial freeze that has made it difficult to pay operational partners and retailers in Afghanistan. The IPC Technical Working Group (TWG) recommends that detailed market surveys should take place to capture impacts on market functionality, as well as potential support to retailers and/or the market system. A poorly designed cash-based transfer intervention could contribute to price volatility, and this risk will need to be mitigated. Resumption of cash assistance among the most vulnerable in rural areas with limited access to production assets is urgently needed to sustain their access to food.
7. **Small-scale emergency livelihood programmes** are required to reduce large-scale income gaps and lack of economic opportunities. In urban areas, a marketing review is required before launching such projects. In rural areas, building on experiences of small scale, poultry and kitchen gardening support will ensure access to nutritious food and income.
8. Ensure **adequate monitoring of food insecurity and malnutrition** during the winter season to raise any alerts and verify if the assumptions remain valid at all times in every area of analysis.

Situation Monitoring and Update of Activities

The current and projected food security situations across Afghanistan are profoundly concerning. As a result, and considering the volatile nature of key food security drivers and the severity of the situation, **the TWG will meet monthly to review evidence from established monitoring systems and field surveys.** The TWG may decide to undertake a review of the recent analysis and its estimates of the population, based on new information, in particular, if the situation appears to be worsening beyond projections. The areas where high food insecurity is observed require urgent technical staff missions to understand the food security situation.

The Afghanistan Food Security and Agriculture Cluster (FSAC) and Nutrition Clusters will need to collaborate to acquire up-to-date information on nutrition emanating from the Afghanistan Health Management Information System and screening and surveys carried out by cluster members.

Risk factors to monitor

Key risk factors to monitor will include the performance of the winter rains, the policy environment (and the financial freeze), security, macroeconomic indicators (including inflation and the exchange rate), trends in food imports, access to services and conflict.

- Back-to-back droughts: Precipitation below average over the next winter season could continue to negatively impact food production and food access in the rain-fed agriculture zones in 2022. These areas were already drought-affected in 2021. Agriculture and livestock production, crop and livestock diseases and access to inputs and services need to be monitored to capture impact on rural food security and depletion of productive assets.
- Food imports and food markets: Should there be an extended disruption to food imports, price increases, speculation and price increases are likely.
- Financial freeze: Sanctions are curtailing the private sector and leading to urban unemployment. A scenario of prolonged financial disruption would lead to a protracted economic crisis. A resumption in payments would allow businesses to resume operations and unemployment to ease.
- Exchange rates: It is possible the exchange rate might further weaken, which would lead to higher inflation, affecting the purchasing power of the poorest households.
- Access to services: The health sector is on the brink of collapse, and efforts are underway to support it. Should disruptions continue, they could restrict people's access to care during the winter lean season, a time of high vulnerability.
- Conflict: While there has been a significant reduction in conflict since the political transition, continuing security incidents in October 2021 indicate that further increases in conflict/violence may occur.
- Humanitarian assistance: The pledged and pre-positioned humanitarian assistance before the peak of winter, as per the assumptions, needs close monitoring.

PROCESS, METHODOLOGY AND LIMITATIONS

Process and Methodology

The IPC Acute Food Insecurity analysis was conducted for two time periods: the current period (September – October 2021) and the projection period (November – March 2021). The analysis covered all 34 provinces of the country. Twenty-three provinces were covered at the provincial level, whereas for 11 provinces, rural and major urban centres were analysed separately, making the total analysis units 45.

The national analysis workshop was held on 28 September–5 October 2021 in Kabul, Afghanistan. The workshop adopted a hybrid approach where the majority of workshop participants had physical presence while a few others participated virtually. The workshop was attended by 51 experts from across Afghanistan, representing UN organisations, international and national NGOs, technical agencies, and academia. The active participation and support of officials and staff from the entities mentioned above and organisations are highly acknowledged.

The data used in the analysis was organised according to the IPC analytical framework and entails food insecurity contributing factors, outcome indicators and multiple secondary data sources. The data was collected from multiple sources, namely from national and international organisations.

Sources

Data sources used for the analysis included: 1) Seasonal Food Security Assessment (SFSA) 2021 conducted by the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster (FSAC). 2) Population estimation and income and expenditure survey from NSIA. 3) Food prices – WFP. 4) Afghanistan Livelihood Conditions Survey 2016-2017 – NSIA. 5) Refugee & IDP data from OCHA and IOM. 6) Precipitation, temperature, snow, and estimated risk of natural disasters – iMMAP. 7) Situation Update – UNOCHA. 8) Economic situation update – Aljazeera, New York Times, Reuters, VOA, and BBC. 9) The Whole of Afghanistan assessment from REACH International. 10) Data on humanitarian food assistance delivered and planned from WFP. 11) Rainfall, NDVI, and cereal prices – WFP. 12) Food Supply, Agricultural Livelihoods & Food Security in the Context of COVID-19 and other Shocks in Afghanistan assessment conducted by FAO. 13) Provinces Impacted by Drought – World Bank. 14) Nutrition data from Nutrition Cluster (NC's dashboard). 15) Other localised assessment conducted by I/NGOs FSAC partners.

Limitations of the analysis

This IPC workshop was conducted with a hybrid approach due to COVID–19 travel restrictions for a few organisations. This resulted in minor communication problems due to a weak internet connection and unstable electricity power for participants joining virtually. SFSA was collected right after the political transition, when food security conditions were changing rapidly.

Note about Annex

Background on use of Flowminder population data

Since 2011, Afghanistan's National Statistics and Information Authority (NSIA) has conducted a form of rolling census, the Socio-Demographic and Economic Survey (SDES), which includes enumeration of 50% of households (the survey has covered around 12 of the 34 provinces). This process's main challenge was the lack of reliable current disaggregated population data at provincial and district level. For some of the provinces, including Helmand, Zabul, Daikundi and Paktika, the population is solely based on the 1979 census projections because no household listing data was available at the time of the population rebasing in 2004. As such, Afghanistan's official population estimates are significantly underestimated, and it is recommended that alternate estimates based upon household listing projections be used for programmatic purposes. Therefore, the Government requested the United Nations back in 2017 to assist the NSIA in estimating spatially disaggregated population data through a collaborative partnership of Government/UNFPA/Flowminder/World Pop to generate population counts disaggregated by age and sex at the district level for the entire country. Survey data (SDES and micro census), GIS data and satellite imagery were among key sources of Flowminder population estimations. Statistical modelling was used to estimate population counts for areas with no population data.

Acute Food Insecurity Phase name and description

Phase 1 None/Minimal	Phase 2 Stressed	Phase 3 Crisis	Phase 4 Emergency	Phase 5 Catastrophe/ Famine
Households are able to meet essential food and non-food needs without engaging in atypical and unsustainable strategies to access food and income.	Households have minimally adequate food consumption but are unable to afford some essential non-food expenditures without engaging in stress-coping strategies.	Households either: • have food consumption gaps that are reflected by high or above-usual acute malnutrition; **or** • are marginally able to meet minimum food needs but only by depleting essential livelihood assets or through crisis-coping strategies.	Households either: • have large food consumption gaps that are reflected in very high acute malnutrition and excess mortality; **or** • are able to mitigate large food consumption gaps but only by employing emergency livelihood strategies and asset liquidation	Households have an extreme lack of food and/or other basic needs even after full employment of coping strategies. Starvation, death, destitution and extremely critical acute malnutrition levels are evident. For famine classification, area needs to have extreme critical levels of acute malnutrition and mortality.)

What is the IPC and IPC Acute Food Insecurity?

The IPC is a set of tools and procedures to classify the severity and characteristics of acute food and nutrition crises as well as chronic food insecurity based on international standards. The IPC consists of four mutually reinforcing functions, each with a set of specific protocols (tools and procedures). The core IPC parameters include consensus building, convergence of evidence, accountability, transparency and comparability. The IPC analysis aims at informing emergency response as well as medium and long-term food security policy and programming.

For the IPC, Acute Food Insecurity is defined as any manifestation of food insecurity found in a specified area at a specific point in time of a severity that threatens lives or livelihoods, or both, regardless of the causes, context or duration. It is highly susceptible to change and can occur and manifest in a population within a short amount of time, as a result of sudden changes or shocks that negatively impact on the determinants of food insecurity.

Contact for further Information

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Classification of food insecurity and malnutrition conducted using the IPC protocols, which are developed and implemented worldwide by the IPC Global Partnership - Action Against Hunger, CARE, CILSS, EC-JRC , FAO, FEWSNET, Global Food Security Cluster, Global Nutrition Cluster, IGAD, Oxfam, PROGRESAN-SICA, SADC, Save the Children, UNICEF and WFP.

IPC Analysis Partners

Action Against Hunger, ACTED, Afghanaid, Aga Khan Agency for Habitat Afghanistan, ANCC, care, Cordaid, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Afghanistan Food Security Cluster, HumanResources Development Agency (HRDA), iMMAP, International Rescue Committee, Afghanistankomiteen Norwegian Afghanistan Committee کمیته ناروی برای افغانستان, NRC Norwegian Refugee Council, REACH, Save the Children, welt hunger hilfe, WFP World Food Programme, World Vision

Annex 1

NSIA Population table for the current period: September – October 2021

SN	Province	Total population analysed	Phase 1		Phase 2		Phase 3		Phase 4		Phase 5		Area Phase	Phase 3+	
			#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%		#people	%
1	Badakhshan	1,072,785	107,279	10	375,475	35	321,836	30	268,196	25	0	0	4	590,032	55
2	Badghis	559,297	83,895	15	139,824	25	167,789	30	167,789	30	0	0	4	335,578	60
3	Baghlan	825,568	371,506	45	247,670	30	123,835	15	82,557	10	0	0	3	206,392	25
4	Baghlan Urban	208,192	93,686	45	31,229	15	41,638	20	41,638	20	0	0	4	83,277	40
5	Balkh	1,043,257	156,489	15	312,977	30	365,140	35	208,651	20	0	0	4	573,791	55
6	Balkh Urban	500,207	75,031	15	150,062	30	175,072	35	100,041	20	0	0	4	275,114	55
7	Bamyan	504,312	100,862	20	151,294	30	151,294	30	100,862	20	0	0	4	252,156	50
8	Daykundi	525,529	105,106	20	157,659	30	157,659	30	105,106	20	0	0	4	262,765	50
9	Farah	573,146	200,601	35	171,944	30	143,287	25	57,315	10	0	0	3	200,601	35
10	Faryab	992,444	99,244	10	248,111	25	347,355	35	297,733	30	0	0	4	645,089	65
11	Faryab Urban	137,084	13,708	10	34,271	25	47,979	35	41,125	30	0	0	4	89,105	65
12	Ghazni	1,386,764	208,015	15	416,029	30	416,029	30	346,691	25	0	0	4	762,720	55
13	Ghor	777,882	77,788	10	194,471	25	272,259	35	233,365	30	0	0	4	505,623	65
14	Helmand Urban	91,439	18,288	20	27,432	30	32,004	35	13,716	15	0	0	3	45,720	50
15	Hilmand	1,380,723	276,145	20	483,253	35	414,217	30	207,108	15	0	0	3	621,325	45
16	Hirat	1,594,267	318,853	20	318,853	20	557,993	35	398,567	25	0	0	4	956,560	60
17	Hirat Urban	592,902	118,580	20	177,871	30	177,871	30	118,580	20	0	0	4	296,451	50
18	Jawzjan	488,928	48,893	10	171,125	35	146,678	30	122,232	25	0	0	4	268,910	55
19	Jawzjan Urban	124,553	18,683	15	37,366	30	49,821	40	18,683	15	0	0	3	68,504	55
20	Kabul	783,737	117,561	15	313,495	40	195,934	25	156,747	20	0	0	4	352,682	45
21	Kabul Urban	4,601,789	690,268	15	2,070,805	45	1,380,537	30	460,179	10	0	0	3	1,840,716	40
22	Kandahar	891,645	222,911	25	312,076	35	267,494	30	89,165	10	0	0	3	356,658	40
23	Kandahar Urban	540,231	135,058	25	189,081	35	135,058	25	81,035	15	0	0	3	216,092	40
24	Kapisa	496,840	124,210	25	173,894	35	149,052	30	49,684	10	0	0	3	198,736	40
25	Khost	647,730	259,092	40	194,319	30	161,933	25	32,387	5	0	0	3	194,319	30
26	Kunar	508,224	101,645	20	177,878	35	152,467	30	76,234	15	0	0	3	228,701	45
27	Kunduz	964,685	385,874	40	192,937	20	241,171	25	144,703	15	0	0	3	385,874	40
28	Kunduz Urban	195,439	39,088	20	58,632	30	58,632	30	39,088	20	0	0	4	97,720	50
29	Laghman	502,148	100,430	20	175,752	35	125,537	25	100,430	20	0	0	4	225,967	45
30	Logar	442,037	88,407	20	198,917	45	110,509	25	44,204	10	0	0	3	154,713	35
31	Nangarhar	1,454,846	218,227	15	581,938	40	436,454	30	218,227	15	0	0	3	654,681	45
32	Nangarhar Urban	280,685	42,103	15	98,240	35	98,240	35	42,103	15	0	0	3	140,343	50
33	Nimroz	186,963	28,044	15	65,437	35	65,437	35	28,044	15	0	0	3	93,482	50
34	Nuristan	166,676	33,335	20	50,003	30	50,003	30	33,335	20	0	0	4	83,338	50
35	Paktika	789,079	157,816	20	236,724	30	276,178	35	118,362	15	0	0	3	394,540	50
36	Paktya	622,831	124,566	20	249,132	40	186,849	30	62,283	10	0	0	3	249,132	40
37	Panjsher	172,895	43,224	25	69,158	40	43,224	25	17,290	10	0	0	3	60,513	35
38	Parwan	751,040	150,208	20	225,312	30	262,864	35	112,656	15	0	0	3	375,520	50
39	Samangan	438,235	43,824	10	153,382	35	153,382	35	87,647	20	0	0	4	241,029	55
40	Sari pul	632,182	63,218	10	221,264	35	221,264	35	126,436	20	0	0	4	347,700	55
41	Takhar	1,027,269	308,181	30	462,271	45	154,090	15	102,727	10	0	0	3	256,817	25
42	Takhar Urban	85,904	25,771	30	30,066	35	17,181	20	12,886	15	0	0	3	30,066	35
43	Uruzgan	443,804	66,571	15	110,951	25	155,331	35	110,951	25	0	0	4	266,282	60
44	Wardak	671,817	167,954	25	235,136	35	167,954	25	100,773	15	0	0	3	268,727	40
45	Zabul	391,150	78,230	20	117,345	30	136,903	35	58,673	15	0	0	3	195,575	50
	Grand Total	32,069,160	6,308,467	20	10,811,059	34	9,513,433	30	5,436,202	17	0	0		14,949,634	47

NSIA Population table for the projected period: November 2021 – March 2022

SN	Province	Total population analysed	Phase 1		Phase 2		Phase 3		Phase 4		Phase 5		Area Phase	Phase 3+	
			#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%		#people	%
1	Badakhshan	1,072,785	107,279	10	268,196	25	375,475	35	321,836	30	0	0	4	697,310	65
2	Badghis	559,297	55,930	10	111,859	20	223,719	40	167,789	30	0	0	4	391,508	70
3	Baghlan	825,568	247,670	30	247,670	30	206,392	25	123,835	15	0	0	3	330,227	40
4	Baghlan Urban	208,192	62,458	30	52,048	25	52,048	25	41,638	20	0	0	4	93,686	45
5	Balkh	1,043,257	156,489	15	208,651	20	417,303	40	260,814	25	0	0	4	678,117	65
6	Balkh Urban	500,207	75,031	15	100,041	20	200,083	40	125,052	25	0	0	4	325,135	65
7	Bamyan	504,312	100,862	20	100,862	20	176,509	35	126,078	25	0	0	4	302,587	60
8	Daykundi	525,529	78,829	15	105,106	20	210,212	40	131,382	25	0	0	4	341,594	65
9	Farah	573,146	114,629	20	171,944	30	200,601	35	85,972	15	0	0	3	286,573	50
10	Faryab	992,444	99,244	10	198,489	20	396,978	40	297,733	30	0	0	4	694,711	70
11	Faryab Urban	137,084	13,708	10	34,271	25	47,979	35	41,125	30	0	0	4	89,105	65
12	Ghazni	1,386,764	208,015	15	346,691	25	485,367	35	346,691	25	0	0	4	832,058	60
13	Ghor	777,882	77,788	10	155,576	20	311,153	40	233,365	30	0	0	4	544,517	70
14	Helmand Urban	91,439	13,716	15	32,004	35	27,432	30	18,288	20	0	0	4	45,720	50
15	Hilmand	1,380,723	207,108	15	552,289	40	414,217	30	207,108	15	0	0	3	621,325	45
16	Hirat	1,594,267	159,427	10	398,567	25	557,993	35	478,280	30	0	0	4	1,036,274	65
17	Hirat Urban	592,902	88,935	15	177,871	30	207,516	35	118,580	20	0	0	4	326,096	55
18	Jawzjan	488,928	48,893	10	122,232	25	171,125	35	146,678	30	0	0	4	317,803	65
19	Jawzjan Urban	124,553	12,455	10	37,366	30	43,594	35	31,138	25	0	0	4	74,732	60
20	Kabul	783,737	78,374	10	313,495	40	235,121	30	156,747	20	0	0	4	391,869	50
21	Kabul Urban	4,601,789	460,179	10	1,840,716	40	1,610,626	35	690,268	15	0	0	3	2,300,895	50
22	Kandahar	891,645	178,329	20	312,076	35	267,494	30	133,747	15	0	0	3	401,240	45
23	Kandahar Urban	540,231	108,046	20	162,069	30	162,069	30	108,046	20	0	0	4	270,116	50
24	Kapisa	496,840	99,368	20	173,894	35	149,052	30	74,526	15	0	0	3	223,578	45
25	Khost	647,730	226,706	35	194,319	30	161,933	25	64,773	10	0	0	3	226,706	35
26	Kunar	508,224	76,234	15	152,467	30	177,878	35	101,645	20	0	0	4	279,523	55
27	Kunduz	964,685	385,874	40	192,937	20	241,171	25	144,703	15	0	0	3	385,874	40
28	Kunduz Urban	195,439	29,316	15	58,632	30	58,632	30	48,860	25	0	0	4	107,491	55
29	Laghman	502,148	50,215	10	175,752	35	150,644	30	125,537	25	0	0	4	276,181	55
30	Logar	442,037	88,407	20	176,815	40	110,509	25	66,306	15	0	0	3	176,815	40
31	Nangarhar	1,454,846	218,227	15	363,712	25	509,196	35	363,712	25	0	0	4	872,908	60
32	Nangarhar Urban	280,685	28,069	10	84,206	30	98,240	35	70,171	25	0	0	4	168,411	60
33	Nimroz	186,963	18,696	10	65,437	35	65,437	35	37,393	20	0	0	4	102,830	55
34	Nuristan	166,676	25,001	15	33,335	20	58,337	35	50,003	30	0	0	4	108,339	65
35	Paktika	789,079	118,362	15	276,178	35	276,178	35	118,362	15	0	0	3	394,540	50
36	Paktya	622,831	124,566	20	217,991	35	217,991	35	62,283	10	0	0	3	280,274	45
37	Panjsher	172,895	43,224	25	51,869	30	51,869	30	25,934	15	0	0	3	77,803	45
38	Parwan	751,040	112,656	15	187,760	25	300,416	40	150,208	20	0	0	4	450,624	60
39	Samangan	438,235	43,824	10	109,559	25	175,294	40	109,559	25	0	0	4	284,853	65
40	Sari pul	632,182	63,218	10	158,046	25	221,264	35	189,655	30	0	0	4	410,918	65
41	Takhar	1,027,269	256,817	25	410,908	40	205,454	20	154,090	15	0	0	3	359,544	35
42	Takhar Urban	85,904	21,476	25	30,066	35	17,181	20	17,181	20	0	0	4	34,362	40
43	Uruzgan	443,804	22,190	5	110,951	25	177,522	40	133,141	30	0	0	4	310,663	70
44	Wardak	671,817	100,773	15	201,545	30	235,136	35	134,363	20	0	0	4	369,499	55
45	Zabul	391,150	39,115	10	117,345	30	156,460	40	78,230	20	0	0	4	234,690	60
	Grand Total	32,069,160	4,945,727	15	9,593,811	30	10,816,796	34	6,712,826	21	0	0		17,529,622	55