



Frequent disasters, volatile market prices, limited sources of income, high vulnerability and low coping capacity of households and high insecurity risks are the major causes of emergency and crisis conditions. Poor food utilization contributes to high acute malnutrition

KEY INFORMATION

Population: >26 million

Food consumption:

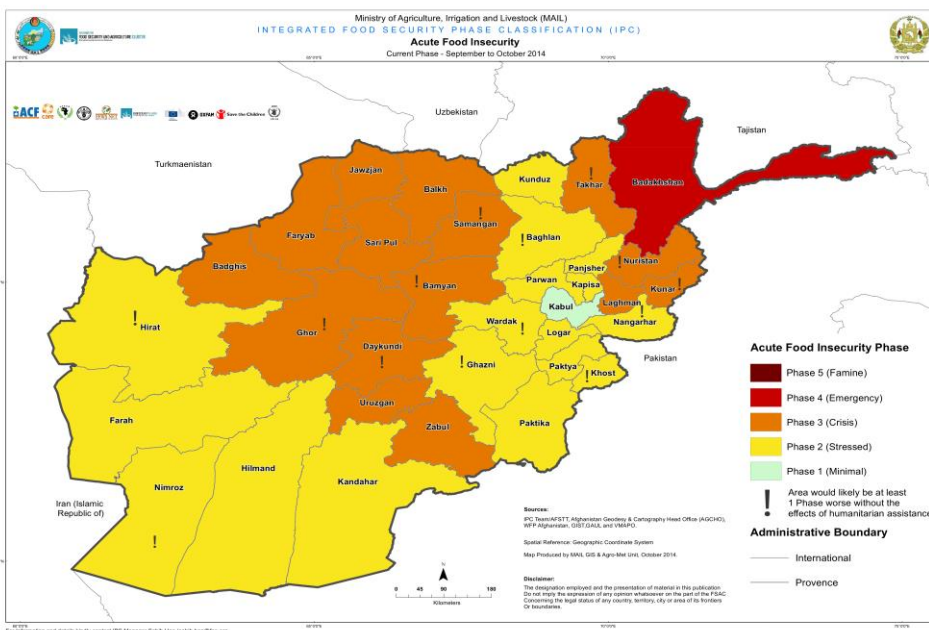
- On average, 5.7% of the population has a poor food consumption score and 25.8% borderline (SFSA-2014, data collected in May-June).
- Poor consumption ranges from 0.4 to 48.4% in the different provinces.
- HHS: 19.2% households have moderate to severe hunger.
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Global Acute Malnutrition (moderate and severe wasting): 9.5% (2013, NNS).

National poverty rate: 36.5% (NRVA 2012).

KEY IPC FINDINGS AND HIGHLIGHTS

- **The IPC Acute Food Insecurity Analysis Workshop (15-22 September) covered all 34 provinces of Afghanistan.**
 - **Badakhshan is the only province classified in phase 4 (emergency) which is worst affected by acute food insecurity. 15 provinces are in Phase 3 (crisis), 17 in Phase 2 (stressed) and 1 in Phase 1 (minimal).**
 - **Overall, 23.4% of people are food insecure (Phase 3 or higher).**
- **Recent shocks** – particularly natural disasters, extreme weather, conflict, insecurity and animal disease – contributed to increasing acute food insecurity prevalence in significant number of provinces. Heavy rains caused flood and damaged livelihoods and assets in a number of provinces.
- **Average rains in some provinces led to increased production and good pasture conditions;** however, this did not benefit extremely poor households that hold few livestock as a result of animal disease, mortality, and crisis sales.
- **Little or no rain led to drought conditions in a few provinces,** which decreased food availability and food access due to higher market prices. Provinces affected by last year drought are not fully recovered.
- **Insecurity** is also disrupting market supply in many provinces, leading to below-normal/potentially inadequate supply of food and non-food commodities.
- **Recommendations:** The Current IPC is based on the pre-harvest acute indicators, therefore, a post-harvest IPC will provide other side of the food insecurity. Further recommend to repeat IPC acute food insecurity analysis later; strengthen AFSTT technical capacity and Government leadership in the IPC process; increase stakeholder participation in IRTGs; conduct Seasonal Food Security Assessment in 2015 (post-harvest); explore conducting IPC analysis at district level.



Background

Afghanistan – a landlocked, mountainous country – has a population of over 26 million and a poverty rate of 36.5 percent-headcount (NRVA 2012). Though it has some significant natural resources, land and water resources in particular are very limited. Frequent disasters have continuously affected livelihoods and have increased vulnerability and food insecurity.

The country relies predominantly on a rural economy, with nearly 80 percent of Afghans living in rural areas. The agriculture sector employs over two-thirds of the workforce and is the backbone of the economy, providing an income for more than 80 percent of the population. Agriculture is practiced largely on a subsistence basis. About one-third of the population is below the minimum level of dietary energy consumption.

Afghanistan partly relies on imports to meet its food requirements, and market prices have a significant impact on the food security situation. Wheat is the major staple in the country, though domestic wheat production (estimated at 5.168 million tonnes) falls short of national requirements by about 90 000 tonnes. Wheat in the form of wheat flour is mostly imported from Pakistan, and partly from the Tajikistan corridor and Iran. The 2nd major cereal consumed is rice, which is mostly imported. The availability of cereals is generally sufficient, but increases in market prices have impacted the ability of inhabitants to access adequate food. Other factors contributing to acute food insecurity in many provinces include limited sources of income, declining purchasing power, high vulnerability to shocks and low coping capacity of households, poor rainfall, poor food utilization, inadequate health and sanitation conditions and internal conflict. Continuous natural disasters, like the recent flood made many vulnerable and food insecure.

Methods and process

The IPC was introduced in August 2011 in Afghanistan, in order to provide a tool for planning and targeting of food insecure areas, with financial support from ECHO and led by FAO through the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster (FSAC). IPC activities began with the introduction of the IPC Version 2.0 in Afghanistan and the strengthening of technical Food Security Situation Analysis capacity using a standardized approach. IPC was jointly introduced with the Response Analysis Framework (RAF) tool in order to improve the response analysis capacity of FSAC.

The Afghanistan Food Security Technical Team (AFSTT) carried out three acute IPC analyses in 2012. The first was carried out July-August 2012 and was supported by readily available sectoral data and a number of provincial or regional food security assessment reports which allowed analysts to classify the rural food security situation in 16 provinces. Two months later, the FSAC's assessment results were integrated into the analysis, and IPC map coverage was extended to 26 provinces. A projected acute analysis (for January- March 2013) was attempted in December 2012 upon receiving more detailed information on expected humanitarian assistance as part of the winterization preparations. However, results of the last analysis were not released to the public because of convergence problems.

The IPC analysis covering all provinces was carried out on 5-17 November 2013, using provinces as units of analysis and relying on secondary information from various sources (particularly the September 2013 Seasonal Food Security Assessment [SFSA] carried out by FSAC). The process began in July 2013 with the formation of IPC Regional Technical teams (IRTGs).

The IPC management was transferred to MAIL with the financial support of EU and administered by Landell-Mills in April 2014. The current IPC has been conducted on 15-22 September 2014 under the new management. Information was organized according to the IPC contributing factors (hazard, availability, access, absorption and stability) and outcome indicators (food consumption, livelihood change and nutrition), as per the IPC analytical framework. Other secondary sources included the National Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (NRVA) 2011-12; agriculture outlook and wheat balance sheet 2012-14 and market price information from the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL); provincial profiles (provincial governments); IDPs and affected populations (UNOCHA, IOM, UNHCR); National Nutrition Survey 2012 and the poverty rate (World Bank, May 2012). The analysis involved experts in agriculture, food security, livestock, disasters, nutrition, statistics and economics, as well as those with provincial knowledge and experience. The map produced is based on consensus from all members of the AFSTT (including IRTGs).

Recommendations

- IPC acute food security analysis should be repeated in post-harvest situation, depending on availability of data and funds.
- AFSTT and IRTGs technical capacity should be strengthened.
- Government (MAIL) leadership in the IPC process should be strengthened during transition period, however, major partners should be kept intact in the process.
- Respective UN agencies, Government and NGOs should participate in and commit to support IRTGs on a regular basis.
- The Seasonal Food Security Assessment is suggested to be conducted at post-harvest time, around Jul-Aug 2015.
- Opportunity to conduct the IPC analysis at district level should be initiated, depending on data availability.

Key findings and highlights on the most food insecure provinces (September-October 2014)

According to the IPC analysis, 1 province is in Phase 4, 15 in Phase 3, 17 in Phase 2 and 1 in Phase 1. Around 4.5 percent of the total population (1.183 million people) is in Phase 4, 18.8 percent (4.902 million) in Phase 3, 26.3 percent (6.841 million) in Phase 2 and 51.2 percent (13.328 million) in Phase 1. About 25 percent of the populations of Badakhshan are in Phase 4.

Badakhshan has a long history of poverty and food insecurity as a result of remoteness, poor accessibility, mostly mountainous terrain and very harsh winters. Good rains are essential both for crop cultivation (which is mostly rainfed) and pastureland for livestock grazing.

According to the Seasonal Food Security Assessment (May-June) 2014, 38.4 percent of the households were having poor food consumption, while only 23.2 percent had acceptable food consumption. On household hunger scale (HHS), the province has 22 percent of households in severe hunger or above. According to food diversity scale, 10.8 percent of the households consume less than 4 food groups, while 82 percent less than 8.

Livestock holding being a major livelihood declined during 2014 (cattle declined by 3.3 percent, while goats by 30 percent). Similarly, a significant decline was witnessed in poultry holding. A wide food gap was observed as food stock holding declined by 15.8 percent while food consumption deteriorated by more than 30 percent compared to last year. The terms of trade between labour wage and wheat flour price has been worsened by 29.4%, while labor work was available for only 8 days a month.

According to the NRVA, which is conducted every two to three years, Badakhshan is classified in Category 5 (extremely food insecure). The NRVA 2011-12 found that 78.5 percent of the population was food insecure (the highest of all provinces). However, the acute malnutrition per NNS 2013 was found as 9.3 percent (GAM), while underweight is 32.7%.

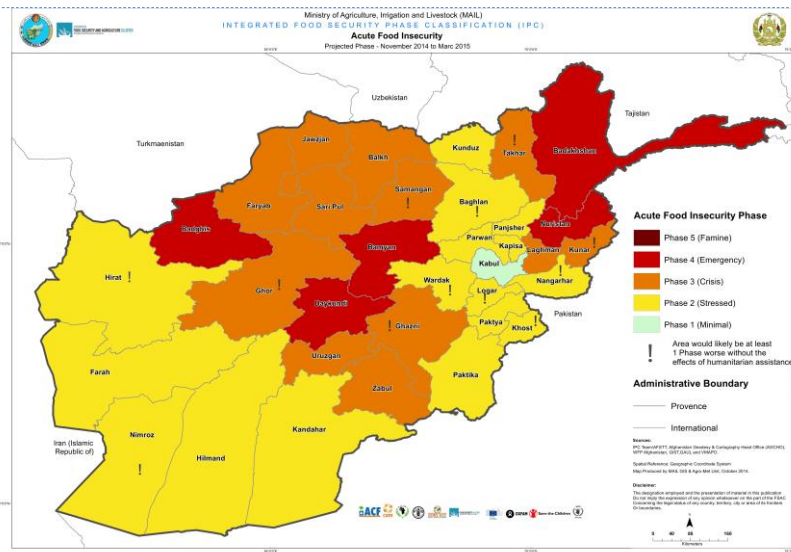
Main obstacles to food security for all provinces

Physical access (with severe weather conditions during winter resulting in the blockage of roads), civil insecurity and high cost of mobility limit supply, access to markets and the **availability of food**. **Financial access** is also limited owing to seasonal fluctuations in market prices and insufficient income. **Vulnerability** to natural hazards is high, especially for poor farmers with no access to modern cultivation technologies and pastoralists. Their capacity to cope with shocks is very limited, causing them to shift to more unstable and unreliable livelihoods, such as casual labour. **Food utilization** is quite poor as a result of inadequate access to improved water and sanitation services. The high malnutrition rates further hamper the improvement of the food security situation.

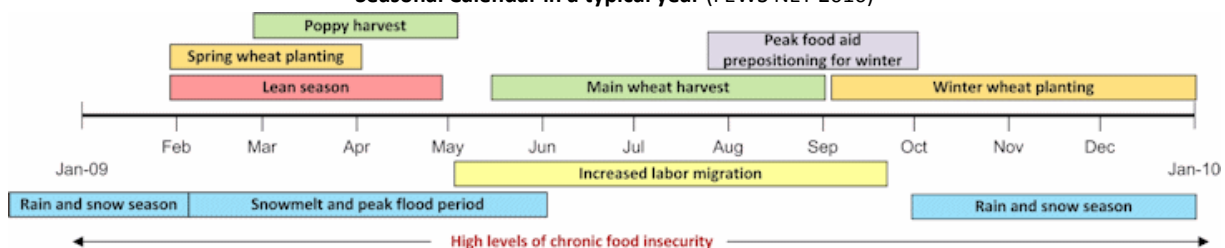
Projected situation for November 14-March 2015

High food insecurity is projected for the period from November 2014 to March 2015. The situation is expected to deteriorate as a result of severe winter conditions, heavy snow and the blockage of roads in certain provinces. Market prices are expected to increase, as per the seasonal pattern, while food availability will remain an issue. The high rate of livelihood change and limited job opportunities for labors will result in higher rate of food insecurity. Bamyan and Daykundi, Nooristan and Badghis provinces are expected to shift from Phase 3 to 4 because of multiple issues mentioned above. Badghis is facing a crop failure this year and thus food insecurity will further increase in winter with lower availability and poor access. Ghazni province is expected to deteriorate from Phase 2 to 3. While other provinces should remain in the same phase, a higher proportion of the total population will possibly enter in to a worse phase.

Map 2: Acute Food Insecurity – Situation Forecast for November 2014-March 2015



Seasonal Calendar in a typical year (FEWS NET 2010)



IPC – Acute food insecurity population estimates for the current situation

Population estimates are based on food consumption, on equivalence of the IPC phases. The SFSA 2014 results were used, however, the results were triangulated with other acute indicators as and where needed.

		IPC 2014 Phase	Total Population	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4	Phase 5	Phase 3 or higher	
Region	Province	Current		Population					Population	%age
Central	Kabul	1	4,086,500	3,297,806	478,121	277,882	32,692		310,574	7.6
Central	Kapisa	2	426,800	226,204	119,504	79,378	1,714		81,092	19.0
Central	Logar	2	379,400	246,610	60,704	66,016	6,070		72,086	19.0
Central	Panjsher	2	148,600	49,038	71,328	25,262	2,972		28,234	19.0
Central	Parwan	2	642,300	70,653	449,610	94,863	27,174		122,037	19.0
Central	Wardak	2	577,100	323,176	144,275	88,873	20,776		109,649	19.0
Central Highlands	Bamyan	3	432,700	97,098	140,887	112,502	82,213		194,715	45.0
Central Highlands	Daykundi	3	410,800	74,026	143,698	115,024	78,052		193,076	47.0
East	Kunar	3	436,000	202,171	144,013	72,376	17,440		89,816	20.6
East	Laghman	3	431,200	212,987	90,063	107,369	20,781		128,150	29.7
East	Nangarhar	2	1,462,600	1,038,446	146,260	266,146	11,748		277,894	19.0
East	Nooristan	3	375,100	139,536	42,762	121,532	71,269		192,801	51.4
North	Balkh	3	1,271,300	660,415	232,038	317,825	61,022		378,847	29.8
North	Faryab	3	964,600	540,576	67,864	337,610	18,550		356,160	36.9
North	Jawzjan	3	521,400	332,712	75,023	109,494	4,171		113,665	21.8
North	Samangan	3	375,100	133,511	97,352	94,525	49,712		144,237	38.5
North	Sar-i-Pul	3	541,000	287,933	86,980	146,611	19,476		166,087	30.7
North-East	Badakhshan	4	919,900	213,417	200,538	275,970	229,975		505,945	55.0
North-East	Baghlan	2	879,000	382,365	329,625	163,494	3,516		167,010	19.0
North-East	Kunduz	2	972,200	432,629	354,853	173,052	11,666		184,718	19.0
North-East	Takhar	3	950,100	457,378	231,445	213,773	47,505		261,278	27.5
South East	Ghazni	2	1,188,600	298,339	664,427	221,080	4,754		225,834	19.0
South East	Khost	2	556,000	325,260	125,100	98,968	6,672		105,640	19.0
South East	Paktika	2	420,700	277,662	63,105	66,471	13,462		79,933	19.0
South East	Paktya	2	534,000	18,690	413,850	97,188	4,272		101,460	19.0
Southern	Helmand	2	894,200	321,912	402,390	136,365	33,533		169,898	19.0
Southern	Kandahar	2	1,175,800	658,448	293,950	213,996	9,406		223,402	19.0
Southern	Nimroz	2	159,300	33,453	95,580	18,638	11,629		30,267	19.0
Southern	Urozgan	3	374,100	158,937	114,435	92,029	8,700		100,729	26.9
Southern	Zabul	3	294,100	104,351	102,695	82,348	4,706		87,054	29.6
West	Badghis	3	479,800	194,461	138,520	139,142	7,677		146,819	30.6
West	Farah	2	490,600	238,922	158,464	47,753	45,461		93,214	19.0
West	Ghor	3	668,000	171,158	198,914	167,000	130,928		297,928	44.6
West	Herat	2	1,816,100	1,107,821	363,220	261,239	83,820		345,059	19.0
Afghanistan	Total		26,023,100	13,328,100	6,841,592	4,901,794	1,183,514	0.0	6,085,308	23.4

* No population in Phase 5 (famine).

Contacts for further information

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IPC Global Partners



*The EC in the global partnership is represented by the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission