

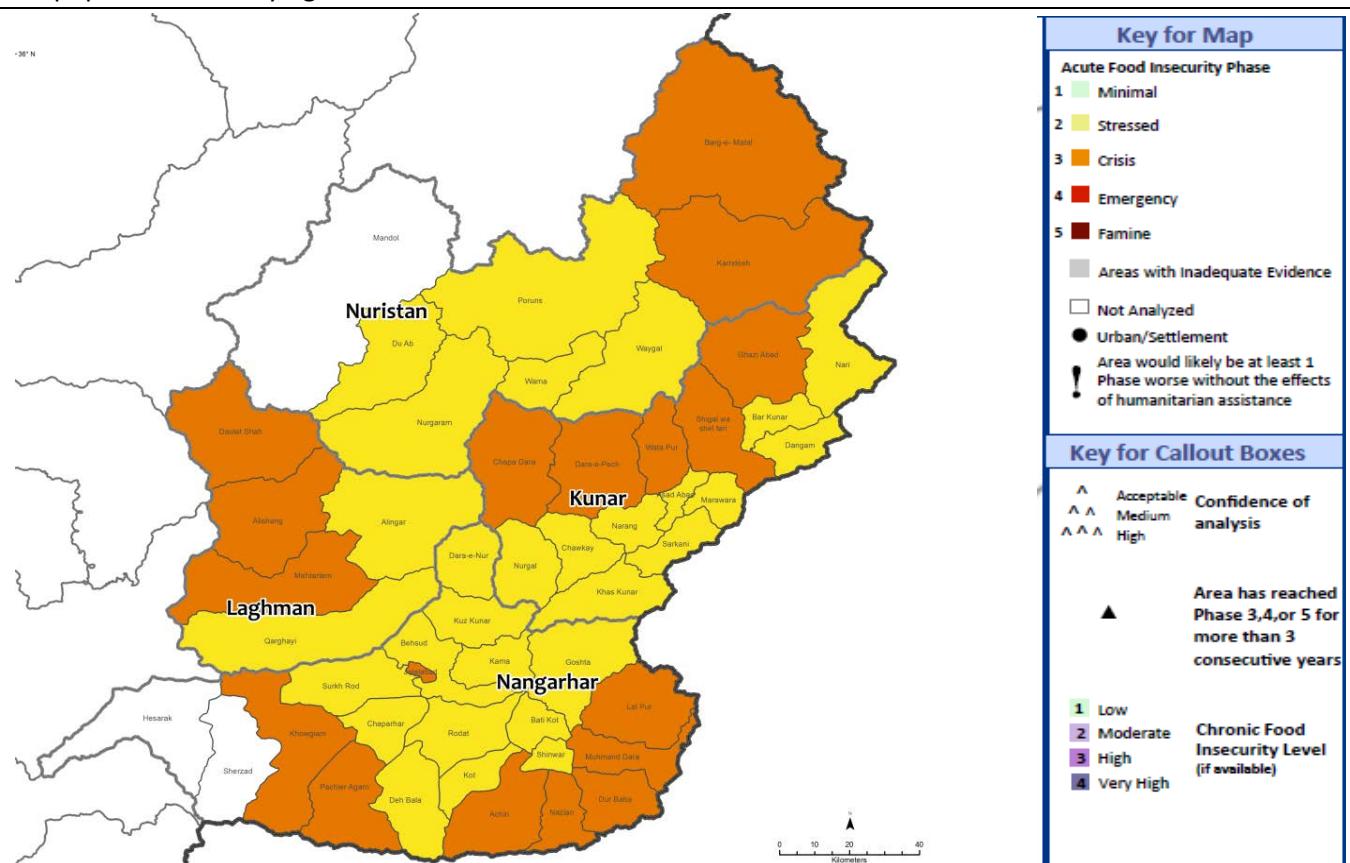


Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) in Afghanistan
Acute Food Insecurity Situation Overview for East Region
- May- July 2017 -

Created: May 2017
Valid until July 2017

HIGHLIGHTS:

- IPC Acute analysis was carried out for clustered districts in the provinces of east region Nangarhar, Kunar, Laghman and Nooristan.
- Each province comprised of several clusters, within each province 1-4 districts are grouped in each cluster.
- Based on the IPC acute analysis of the 4 provinces overall 26% of the population in east region are classified in phase 3 & 4 of IPC acute food security phase classification.
- Achen, Naziyan & Badpakh are the most food insecure districts with 13- 15 % Food insecure population in emergency.
- Mostly, capital of the provinces such as Jalal Abad and Mehtarlam are the vulnerable locations that are suffering with large number of food insecure population due to huge influx returnees and returnees.
- Beside the Returnees and IDPS, host communities are also the most affected food insecure portion of the communities.
- Lack of or limited access to sustainable job opportunities are the major factors driving food insecurity.
- Huge influx of returnees and IDPs has immense adverse impact on labour wages especially in cities where more than 52% of the population are relying on it.



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Classification of severity of acute food insecurity conducted according to the IPC Protocols.



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KEY DRIVERS and CONSEQUENCES OF THE SEVERE ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY

- Nearly for the past 2 years eastern provinces of Afghanistan mainly Jalal Abad experienced huge influxes of returnees from Pakistan, 36% of them could not return to their places of origin. This has led to sharing of limited resources, facilities and livelihood options between the returnees and the host communities thus making the latter equally stressed and vulnerable. Considering the political intentions and policies between Pakistan and Afghanistan massive move of returnees are expected in near future.
- The eastern region is affected double by Pakistan policy change against Afghan migrants 1) one of the main cash income source for people of eastern zone was labour migration to Pakistan and its stopped and 2) massive return of Afghan refugees from Pakistan mainly to eastern zone impacted people livelihood due to already limited livelihood means, over saturated labour market and facilities in the region accompanied by reduced level of aid flow to the country and the region.
- Ongoing intensive insecurity incidents in eastern provinces caused many people to leave their homes and stay in main cities with no sustainable livelihoods and coping strategies and rest of the people with limitation in their already livelihood means.
- Lack of access to safe drinking water and health facility are the major driving factors for acute food insecurity situation in the eastern region of the country.
- For returnees the average monthly income before and after their refuge in Pakistan declined substantially almost by 60%. In.
- Almost 69% of the income sources for returnees are from wage/ casual labour, 65% of this group reported loss of employment as main shock. This is based on latest report which will have tangible negative implications making them food insecure in short term.

IPC Acute Food Insecurity Phase Name and Description	
IPC Phase 1 Minimal	More than four in five households (HHs) are able to meet essential food and non-food needs without engaging in typical, unsustainable strategies to access food and income, including any reliance on humanitarian assistance.
IPC Phase 2 Stressed	Even with any humanitarian assistance at least one in five HHs in the area have the following or worse: Minimally adequate food consumption but are unable to afford some essential non-food expenditures without engaging in irreversible coping strategies.
IPC Phase 3 Crisis	Even with any humanitarian assistance at least one in five HHs in the area have the following or worse: Food consumption gaps with high or above usual acute malnutrition OR Are marginally able to meet minimum food needs only with accelerated depletion of livelihood assets that will lead to food consumption gaps.
IPC Phase 4 Emergency	Even with any humanitarian assistance at least one in five HHs in the area have the following or worse: Large food consumption gaps resulting in very high acute malnutrition and excess mortality OR Extreme loss of livelihood assets that will lead to food consumption gaps in the short term.
IPC Phase 5 Famine	Even with any humanitarian assistance at least one in five HHs in the area have an extreme lack of food and other basic needs where starvation, death, and destitution are evident. (Evidence for all three criteria of food consumption, wasting, and CDR is required to classify Famine.)



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POLICY AND DECISION MAKERS

- Ministry of Agriculture, irrigation and livestock is the pioneer in the IPC process in Afghanistan, this it's recommended that MAIL should take leading role in the publication of IPC analysis to other food security players in the country.
- Beside returnees and IDPS households in east region, host communities are also suffering from the ongoing condition which will result into intensive acute food insecurity situations, thus all partners are requested to have special attention for saving host communities livelihoods in concern areas.
- However beside the emergency assistance for the sever food insecure population classified in phase 3 or higher, urgent actions are required to protect livelihoods, reduce food consumption gaps and reduce acute malnutrition in each of the concerned areas.
- Provision of marketable vocational skills training in supporting retunes, IDPs and host communities for improving their access to food and sustaining livelihood is one of the necessity to avoid further deterioration of their livelihood.
- Ensure education opportunities for returnees and IDPs children to enhance their human capital and avoid increasing dependency at household level.
- Shelter, access to improved water source and sanitation facilities is a concern for returnees and IDPs and part of the permanent resident households to be taken care of.

NEXT STEPS FOR ANALYSIS, MONITORING AND UPDATES

- The seasonal assessment should be carried out at least twice a year in Afghanistan to timely inform the IPC. It may not be necessary to cover all 34 provinces, or use the same detailed questionnaire in both assessments. Beside rural population, the snap shot of urban population is also required to be reflected in these assessments.
- Thresholds could be developed for some key contributing factor's indicators taking into account livelihoods with the support of specialists.
- It is recommended that stakeholders conduct more livelihood based assessments and more nutrition surveys. Nutrition surveillance data would also add value to the analysis.
- Since situation for some provinces of north east and central highlands are worsening, TWG with support of IRTG will conduct 2nd round of Analysis for those specific provinces.
- Roll out of IPC Chronic analysis with support of GSU is strongly recommended. Considering the chronic nature of food insecurity and undernutrition in Afghanistan, should be initiated next year in order to identify the linkage between chronic and acute food insecurity differentiate the underlying causes and limiting factors of food insecurity in the country.
- Regular market monitoring, to see food availability and prices is one of the key determinants as many Afghans are relying on markets for the food. As the flow of IDP's and returnees is increasing, there is need to monitor market conditions on regular basis. (MAIL is playing active role in terms of monitoring the prices).



Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock
Directorate of Agricultural Statistics Management & Information System



POPULATION TABLE

S/ N	Province	Cluster	Districts	Population	Minimal		Stress		Crissis		Emergency		Total Phase 3 & 4	
					%	Pp.	%	Pp.	%	Pp.	%	Pp.	%	Pp.
1	Kunar	1	Dar-e-Pech Chapa Dara Watapor	126,848	32%	40,591	30%	38,054	28%	35,517	10%	12,685	38%	48,202
		2	Noorgal Sawkai Narang o Badil Asadabad	147,309	54%	79,547	32%	47,139	9%	13,258	5%	7,365	14%	20,623
		3	Bar Kunar Dangam Nari	69,980	44%	30,791	38%	26,592	9%	6,298	9%	6,298	18%	12,596
		4	Khas Kunar Sarkani Marawara	89,461	50%	44,731	33%	29,522	9%	8,051	8%	7,157	17%	15,208
		5	Ghazi Abad Shigal wa Shultan	34,529	42%	14,502	35%	12,085	15%	5,179	8%	2,762	23%	7,942
2	Laghman	1	Alingar Qarghayee	240,115	33%	79,238	50%	120,058	9%	21,610	8%	19,209	17%	40,820
		2	Dawlat Shah Alishang Badpakh	118,527	26%	30,817	37%	43,855	25%	29,632	12%	14,223	37%	43,855
		3	Mehtarlam	142,096	40%	56,838	23%	32,682	25%	35,524	12%	17,052	37%	52,576
3	Nangarhar	1	Behsud Goshta Kama Kuz Kunar	398,279	33%	131,432	49%	195,157	8%	31,862	10%	39,828	18%	71,690
		2	Dur Baba Lalpoor Mohmand Dara	101,358	26%	26,353	39%	39,530	25%	25,340	10%	10,136	35%	35,475
		3	Hesarak Khogyani Shirzad	278,670	40%	111,468	20%	55,734	28%	78,028	12%	33,440	40%	111,468
		4	Batikot Deh Bala Nazyan	151,608	33%	50,031	43%	65,191	12%	18,193	12%	18,193	24%	36,386
		5	Achin Kot Shinwar Rodat	314,289	36%	113,144	46%	144,573	10%	31,429	8%	25,143	18%	56,572
		6	Jalalabad	292,477	40%	116,991	25%	73,119	25%	73,119	10%	29,248	35%	102,367
		7	Chaparhar Pachiragn Sorkhrod	309,891	33%	102,264	49%	151,847	10%	30,989	8%	24,791	18%	55,780
		8	Dara-e-Noor	47,748	23%	10,982	32%	15,279	30%	14,324	15%	7,162	45%	21,487
4	Nooristan	1	Noorgaram Mandol Doab	41,065	36%	14,783	50%	20,533	11%	4,517	3%	1,232	14%	5,749
		2	Bar-e-Matal Kamdish	41,679	30%	12,504	31%	12,920	25%	10,420	14%	5,835	39%	16,255
		3	Paroon Wama Waygal	45,240	40%	18,096	43%	19,453	9%	4,072	8%	3,619	17%	7,691
Total				2,991,169	36	1,085,103	38	1,143,324	16	477,363	10	285,379	25	762,742



PROFILE OF THE WORST AFFECTED DISTRICT /CLUSTERS

Overall all 51 districts were analysed during the IPC analysis for east region of the country, in order to highlight the worst affected districts in each cluster, following brief description are provided as justification after the technical consensus among the technical working group members.

Nangarhar:

Cluster 2: Dur Baba, Lalpoor, Muhamand Dara Districts. Due to active presence of AGE and military operation, considerable number of people in these districts has been displaced to neighbouring districts resulting in collapse of livelihoods of the communities. Border shelling in Lalpoor district has caused around 2000 people to be displaced adding to the already existing crisis situation. Food consumption score assessed in this region demonstrates phase 3 for poor and borderline consumption. Household hunger scale also indicates phase 3 for this cluster. Nearly 45% of the people use open wells, open springs and Kanda for drinking water, 58% have no access to market and 87% have no access to health facilities, 25% generate income from local production and 29% from labour wage. Reduction in income stands at 29.6% as compared to income before the influx of IDPs and returnees. Also 17.8% increase in prices was witnessed as compared to same time last year. Considering all these elements which has adversely affected the food security situation, this cluster was overall classified in Phase3.

Cluster 3: Hesark, Sherzad & khogyani Districts: Persisting presence of AGE, remoteness and absence of aid agencies that can provide humanitarian assistance are the main problems faced by this cluster. Communities in this cluster mainly rely on their own products. Lack of access to Jalalabad market which is the provincial capital enforces sale of local products within their own communities at cheaper prices that affects the economic status of the producers. Food Consumption Score of this cluster indicates Phase3 for poor and borderline consumption and Household Hunger Score demonstrates Phase2. Use of open-wells and open-springs account for 13.82% of overall drinking water use. 82% of people have no access to health facilities and 32.6% population have faced reduced income as compared to their income before the influx of IDPs and returnees. Compared to same time last year, prices have increased by 21.7%. Considering all these indicators and deteriorated security situation especially in Hesarak, the cluster has overall been classified in Phase3.

Cluster 4: Bati Kot, Deh Bala, Nazyan: Military operations as well as presence of AGE has caused the people to displace to neighbouring districts resulting in their livelihood deterioration. Border shelling in two of the districts has also increased displacement of resident population to nearby districts. Food consumption score of this cluster aligns with Phase3 interpreted as poor and borderline consumption. Household hunger score relates to Phase1. About 29% of the people use open spring and open well water for drinking. 88% of the people in this cluster have no access to health facilities and 64% have no access to market. Reduction in income has affected 50.9% population whereas 7.8% increases in prices have also occurred compared to same time last year. Taking into account the above mentioned indicators as well as other supporting evidence, the cluster has been classified as a whole in Phase2 with the exception of Nazyan district which is classified in Phase3.

Cluster 5: Achin, Kot, Rodat Shenwar: The recent conflict between government and AGE incurred mass displacement from the areas such as Kot, Achin and Ghani khil. Displaced people lost their livelihoods which were mainly agriculture and livestock and were forced to sell their livestock at very low prices. Food consumption score of this cluster indicates Phase 3 whereas Household hunger score lies in Phase 1. 96.2% of the people have no access to health facilities and 67.09% people have no access to market. 38.5% of the drinking water sources are composed of open-well and open-springs. Income has reduced by 57.9% whereas 5.2% increase in prices has been witnessed as compared to same time last year. On the basis of these indicators, this cluster has overall been classified in Phase2 except Achin district where security situation is alarming especially after the mother of all bombs was diffused recently in this district.

Cluster 6: Cluster 6 is the centre and capital of Nangarhar province which is bearing the burden of 21496 documented and 20168 undocumented returnees from Pakistan. Although the returnees have been receiving regular humanitarian assistance but it has worsened the situation of 52% of the settled populations who now has decreased income generation from their usual daily labor wage due to market saturation. Based on the findings of the recent food security assessment, Food Consumption Score and Household Hunger Scale are indicating phase 3 for at least



20% of the population which illustrates that these households are marginally able to meet minimum food needs with accelerated depletion of assets and having food consumption gaps. 45.5% of population has been impacted by reduced income and 0.3% by prices increase.

Kunar:

Cluster 1: Cluster-1 (Chapa Dara, Dara-e-pech, Watapoor): Being located at a mountainous terrain, this area is prone to natural disasters. 64.3% of households have access to agriculture and 38% own livestock. Average land size per household is 1.5 Jerib. High influx of returnees, increase in prices, Increased insecurity, reduced level of income and loss of employment are common factors of their vulnerability to food insecurity. 82% people have reported that they borrow money to buy food. The food consumption score indicates (FCS 9.8% poor and 55.8% borderline), Household hunger scale indicates (HHS: 2.1% high hunger, 25.4% Medium hunger) and Livelihood coping strategies indicate that 46.7% population use crisis or worse strategies). Based on the worsening livelihoods and food security situation as reflected by the recent food security assessment, the cluster has been classified in Phase3.

Cluster 5 (Shigal & Ghazi Abad): The area is mountainous and there is little arable land. The arable land is not enough and people are poor & seasonal flooding usually affects the area. 64.7% of households have access to agriculture and 50.7% own livestock. 94% HHs reported that they borrow money to buy food, 28% reported low irrigation water. Average land size per household is 1.97 Jerib. High influx of returnees, increase in prices and reduced level of income, loss of employment, increasing insecurity in the areas which also limits livelihood activities are the main causes of vulnerability to food insecurity.

The food consumption indicators (FCS 3.3% poor and 20.9% borderline), (HHS: 4.2% high hunger, 11.3% medium hunger) and Livelihood coping (19.1% use distress strategies, 58.4% use crisis or worse strategies) indicates phase-3 (34%).

Laghman:

Cluster 2: (Alishang, Badpakh & Dawlat Shah): This cluster has two livelihood zones with partially intensive irrigated and agro-pastoral zone. 66.3% of people have access to agriculture land and 94% own some sort of livestock. The entire area is prone to natural hazards (mainly drought and flood). High level of recurrence of food insecurity is evident in this area. Access to market is major problem in this cluster. Prolonged insecurity limits people access to livelihood means. Displacement due to insecurity to capital of province and other areas of the country. Livelihood means are limited in the area due to physical and social access. Decrease income by quarter of population, high level of elderly and child headed household in the area due to prolonged conflict and insecurity. 66% of population are using traditional latrines, but access to improved water source got better in the area. All above mentioned reason resulted 25% of people food consumption (FCS: 25% BL and worst) (HHS: 36% moderate or worst), 85% using crisis or worst strategies. Based on these evidence, the cluster has been classified in Phase3.

Cluster 3: (Mehtarlam): This area is capital of province with small urban area, but mostly rural based livelihoods. One third of population income is from agriculture and livestock and quarter also have income from trade and services. The entire area is intensive irrigated, but land access per household is 2.7 Jerib. The area is prone to natural hazard (drought and flood) and high in recurrence of sever food insecurity. One of the main income sources for people of this area was income from labour migration mainly to Pakistan which is disrupted and even stopped. Additionally the area is witness of hosting 6,600 individual or 1,000 households. Reduced income 78%, loss of employment 12% and huge increase in price are reported as shocks to the population. Decrease purchasing power due to loss of employment and reduced income, increasing and prolonged insecurity with already worst food security situation resulted crisis food security situation.

Nooristan

Cluster 2: Bargi-Matal & Kamdesh: Both Kamdesh and Barg-e-Matal districts in Cluster 2 of Nuristan Province are prone to manmade and natural disasters, particularly avalanches and landslides. Such as in 2017, 532 individuals were severely affected by avalanches in Barg-e-Mata District. The Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) recent assessment also confirms that majority of population (41 percent) reported avalanches and landslides as main shocks followed by floods and heavy rainfall. These natural disasters put further pressure on these very



remote districts in terms of food and market access. Conflicts and displacement too affected this cluster, more in Kamdesh District, where nearly 500 individuals reported internal displaced during 2016 and 2017.

Due to its harsh terrain and low cultivable land the cluster is always food deficits but more dependent on livestock products. Due to favorable precipitation during 2016/17 wet season pasture conditions are normal and hence so do livestock conditions and products. Though basic food prices are stable, they are significantly higher than provincial district markets and hub markets in Jalalabad due to far and remote distance. Food utilization is poor because of low access to education and awareness practices. 40% of households in Kamdesh and Barg-e-Matal districts have poor food consumption reflected in MAIL assessment conducted in a pre-harvest, lean season, period, while only five percent reported medium to high hunger during recall of one month with 3 mean score for reduced Coping Strategy Index. 19 percent reported distress coping strategies. Based on covering all evidences it is estimated that about 50 to 65 percent of households are in Crisis situation.

THE PROCESS AND METHODOLOGY

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a set of tools and procedures to classify the nature and severity of food insecurity for decision support. The IPC is a multi-stakeholder process based on broad technical consensus, convergence of evidence, accountability, transparency, and comparability across unit of analysis, countries and over time. The IPC classifies areas with acute food insecurity into five phases –Minimal, Stressed, Crisis, Emergency and Famine -, with each phase aligned with conforming response objectives.

Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and livestock is committed to provide accurate information for all partners in terms of food security with cordial support of all stakeholders. In order to guide the decision maker for their strategic interventions since 2012 Afghanistan is applying the IPC acute analysis at the provincial level. After the successful compilation of IPC analysis in 2015 & 16 followed by comprehensive technical consensus among key stakeholders & vital role of Food security and Agriculture Cluster, there is huge demand from government and other stakeholder agencies of knowing the food security situation at the district level to target the exact most vulnerable population of concerned areas.

Since 2014 the ownership of the IPC process is given to the government of Afghanistan under the direct supervision MAIL. As the IPC is multi stakeholder process, still there is need for cordial support of all partners in the region.

Considering the IPC standard protocols and updates from the Global support unit in terms of acquiring minimum quality of evidence for IPC analysis at the district level is lacking a degree of confidence to meet the minimum evidence required for a rigorous IPC Analysis. Criteria for corroborating data for confidence level of minimum quality is to having at least 1 piece of reliable evidence (direct or indirect) for any food security outcome + at least 4 pieces of reliable evidence from different contributing factors or outcome elements.

To reach this goal, IPC Afghanistan team was bound to have representative data at the district level. In addition, through widespread technical and financial support of EU-MAIL Transition project, FSAC, WFP and UNCHR we were able to collect required data in order to carry out the analysis with minimum confidence level for east region.

To reduce cost and have representative data, IPC core technical team decided to form clusters of districts that will be comprised of 2-3 districts in each province with similar livelihood zones and geographical location, accordingly 19 clusters were established in four provinces for IPC analysis.

Finally IPC Acute Analysis workshop for east region based on available data sources was carried out from 16-18 May 2017. In addition to the IPC technical working group members participants from MAIL, FEWSNET, WFP, UNFAO,FSAC, ACF, RCDC, OXFAM, Afghan Aid & relief international participated.

MAJOR DATA SOURCES FOR IPC ANALYSIS 2016

S/N	Data Source
1	Food Security & Livelihood Assessment from East region
2	SMART Surveys 2016-ACF
3	Agriculture Production and Food Price – MAIL
4	Land Cover Atlas-2010 MAIL-FAO
5	Population- CSO
6	Food Price, ICA, Food Distribution - WFP
7	Refugee & IDP data - UNHCR, OCHA, FSAC, IOM
8	Natural disaster affected population – IOM, FSAC