IPC Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
Evidence and Standards for Better Food Security and Nutrition Decisions

AFGHANISTAN

IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY ANALYSIS
AUGUST – FEBRUARY 2019
Report # 10 | Issued in October 2019

Aug 2018 – Oct 2018

9.8 million
43.6% of the rural population

People facing severe acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3+) IN **NEED** OF URGENT ACTION

Phase 5	0 People in Catastrophe
Phase 4	2,583,371 People in Emergency
Phase 3	7,255,036 People in Crisis
Phase 2	6,877,624 People in Stress
Phase 1	5,851,033 People minimally food insecure

Nov 2018 – Feb 2019

10.6 million
47.1% of the rural population

People who will be facing severe acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3+) IN **NEED** OF URGENT ACTION

Phase 5	0 People in Catastrophe
Phase 4	2,897,164 People in Emergency
Phase 3	7,731,348 People in Crisis
Phase 2	6,785,308 People in Stress
Phase 1	5,153,244 People minimally food insecure

Note: In this graphic, population estimates are rounded. For the detailed population estimates table(s), see page 9,10

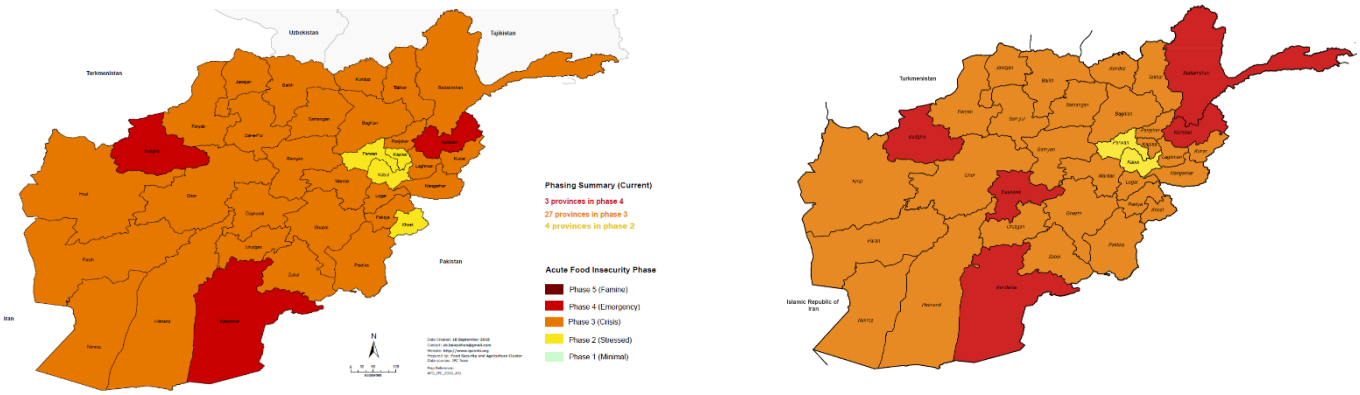
How Severe, How Many and When: September 2018, 9.8 million people (43.6% of the rural population) were estimated to be in Food Crisis and Emergency (IPC Phase 3 and Phase 4). An estimated 2.6 million are classified in IPC Phase 4 nationwide: these people require urgent action to reduce their food deficits and to protect their livelihoods. The current Phase 3 and 4 estimates correspond to a 17.4% increase (from 26.2% to 43.6%) compared to the previous analysis for the same time period last year (2017).

Where and Who: Out of all 34 provinces nationwide 3 provinces (Badghis, Nuristan and Kandahar) have been classified as IPC Phase 4. No province is classified in IPC Phase 1 and only 4 provinces (Kabul, Parwan, Khost and Kapisa) are classified in IPC Phase 2. The remaining 27 provinces were classified in IPC Phase 3: Badakhshan, Kunduz, Takhar, Baghlan, Kunar, Laghman, Nangarhar, Faryab, Jawzjan, Balkh, Samangan, Sar-i-Pul, Daykundi, Bamyan, Wardak, Ghazni, Logar, Panjshir, Paktia, Paktika, Uruzgan, Zabul, Helmand, Nimroz, Ghor, Farah and Herat. Additionally, no provinces were classified in Phase 5.

Projections suggest that from November 2018 to February 2019, the total population in Phase 3 and Phase 4 is expected to increase to 10.6 million (47.1% of the rural population). The number of Phase 4 provinces is expected to increase to 5, adding Badakhshan and Daykundi. Out of the 27 provinces classified in Phase 3, seven had very high proportions of the population that are actually expected to be in IPC Phase 4; these are Badakhshan (18%), Daykundi (15%), Farah (15%), Ghor (15%), Uruzgan (15%), Herat (15%) and Helmand (15%).

Why: The results of the IPC analysis show that Afghanistan is experiencing a major livelihood crisis. This crisis has been primarily caused by the severe drought which limits food production and depletes farmers and livestock keepers of assets and livelihoods; however, the years of civil conflict and instability as well as the severely degraded condition of much of the land have compounded the impacts of the drought, leading to the food security crisis situation we are witnessing today.

IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY SITUATION CURRENT AND PROJECTED MAPS



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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, IGAD, Oxfam, PROGRESAN-SICA, Save the Children, UNICEF and WFP.

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AFGHANISTAN

IPC CLASSIFICATION MAP AND POPULATION ESTIMATES

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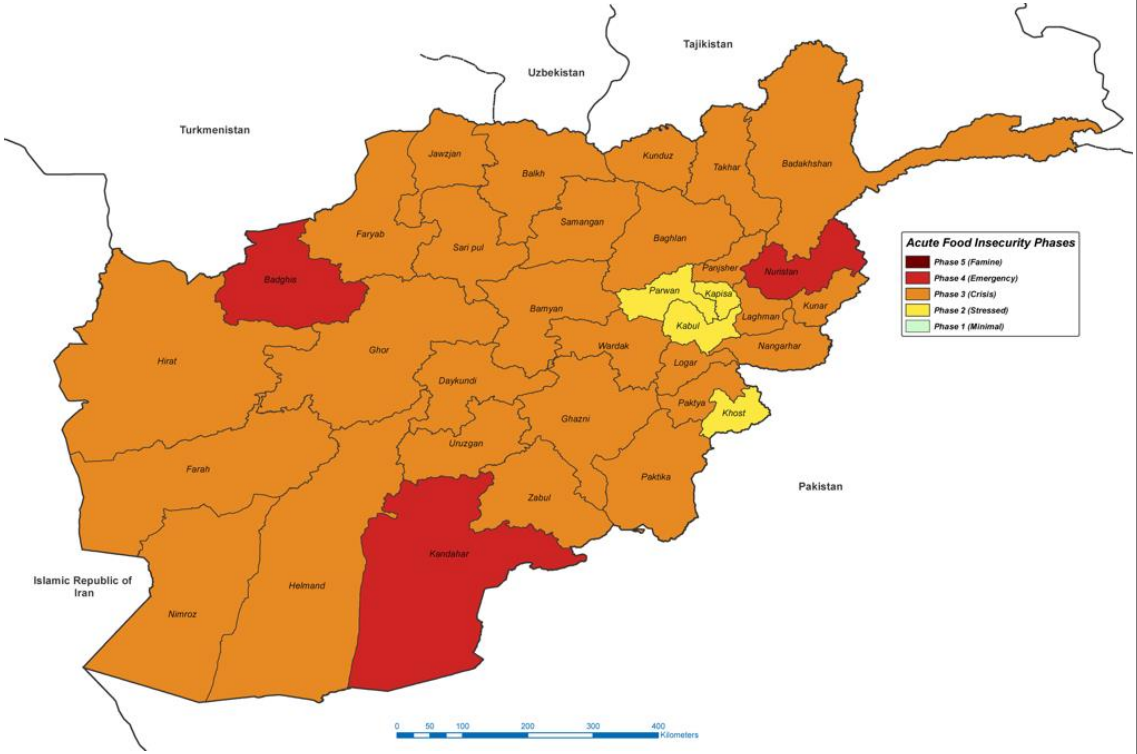
CURRENT IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY SITUATION FOR *AUGUST-OCTOBER 2018*



Rural Population Table for Current Period (August – October 2018)

S/N	Province	Population	Phase-1	Phase-2	Phase-3	Phase-4	Overall Phase	Phase 3+4
			Population (%)	Population (%)	Population (%)	Population (%)		Population (%)
1	Badakhshan	976,602	97,660 (10)	292,981 (30)	410,173 (42)	175,788 (18)	3	585,961 (60)
2	Badghis	514,413	51,441(10)	77,162 (15)	154,324 (30)	231,486 (45)	4	385,810 (75)
3	Baghlan	776,046	232,814 (30)	232,814 (30)	271,616 (35)	38,802 (5)	3	310,418 (40)
4	Balkh	892,684	267,805 (30)	267,805 (30)	312,439 (35)	44,634 (5)	3	357,074 (40)
5	Bamyan	464,370	69,656 (15)	139,311 (30)	208,967 (45)	46,437 (10)	3	255,404 (55)
6	Daykundi	498,840	74,826 (15)	124,710 (25)	224,478 (45)	74,826 (15)	3	299,304 (60)
7	Farah	502,480	75,372 (15)	150,744 (30)	200,992 (40)	75,372 (15)	3	276,364 (55)
8	Faryab	936,311	234,078 (25)	280,893 (30)	327,709 (35)	93,631 (10)	3	421,340 (45)
9	Ghazni	1,249,269	374,781 (30)	437,244 (35)	312,317 (25)	124,927 (10)	3	437,244 (35)
10	Ghor	730,494	109,574 (15)	182,624 (25)	328,722 (45)	109,574 (15)	3	438,296 (60)
11	Helmand	1,299,837	194,976 (15)	324,959 (25)	584,927 (45)	194,976 (15)	3	779,902 (60)
12	Hirat	1,437,637	215,646 (15)	431,291 (30)	575,055 (40)	215,646 (15)	3	790,700 (55)
13	Jawzjan	453,207	113,302 (25)	158,622 (35)	135,962 (30)	45,321 (10)	3	181,283 (40)
14	Kabul	719,715	431,829 (60)	158,337 (22)	71,972 (10)	57,577 (8)	2	129,549 (18)
15	Kandahar	846,363	169,273 (20)	253,909 (30)	253,909 (30)	169,273 (20)	4	423,182 (50)
16	Kapisa	469,888	211,450 (45)	187,955 (40)	56,387 (12)	14,097 (3)	2	70,483 (15)
17	Khost	601,795	210,628 (35)	300,898 (50)	60,180 (10)	30,090 (5)	2	90,269 (15)
18	Kunar	466,937	93,387 (20)	186,775 (40)	140,081 (30)	46,694 (10)	3	186,775 (40)
19	Kunduz	912,188	364,875 (40)	228,047 (25)	228,047 (25)	91,219 (10)	3	319,266 (35)
20	Laghman	470,915	94,183 (20)	141,275 (30)	188,366 (40)	47,092 (10)	3	235,458 (50)
21	Logar	408,554	163,422 (40)	142,994 (35)	81,711 (20)	20,428 (5)	3	102,139 (25)
22	Nangarhar	1,375,660	275,132 (20)	412,698 (30)	550,264 (40)	137,566 (10)	3	687,830 (50)
23	Nimroz	147,947	44,384 (30)	44,384 (30)	44,384 (30)	14,795 (10)	3	59,179 (40)
24	Nuristan	158,211	31,642 (20)	31,642 (20)	63,284 (40)	31,642 (20)	4	94,927 (60)
25	Paktika	563,685	169,106 (30)	169,106 (30)	140,921 (25)	84,553 (15)	3	225,474 (40)
26	Paktya	744,094	186,024 (25)	223,228 (30)	223,228 (30)	111,614 (15)	3	334,842 (45)
27	Panjsher	164,115	82,058 (50)	49,235 (30)	24,617 (15)	8,206 (5)	3	32,823 (20)
28	Parwan	646,833	452,783 (70)	129,367 (20)	64,683 (10)	0	2	64,683 (10)
29	Samangan	383,018	114,905 (30)	114,905 (30)	134,056 (35)	19,151 (5)	3	153,207 (40)
30	Sari pul	551,495	137,874 (25)	193,023 (35)	193,023 (35)	27,575 (5)	3	220,598 (40)
31	Takhar	804,917	201,229 (25)	281,721 (35)	281,721 (35)	40,246 (5)	3	321,967 (40)
32	Uruzgan	405,646	60,847 (15)	129,807 (32)	154,145 (38)	60,847 (15)	3	214,992 (53)
33	Wardak	634,259	190,278 (30)	253,704 (40)	126,852 (20)	63,426 (10)	3	190,278 (30)
34	Zabul	358,640	53,796 (15)	143,456 (40)	125,524 (35)	35,864 (10)	3	161,388 (45)
	Total	22,567,065	5,851,033 (26)	6,877,624 (30)	7,255,036 (32)	2,583,371 (11)		9,838,408 (43.6)

PROJECTED IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY SITUATION FOR *November 2018 - February 2019*

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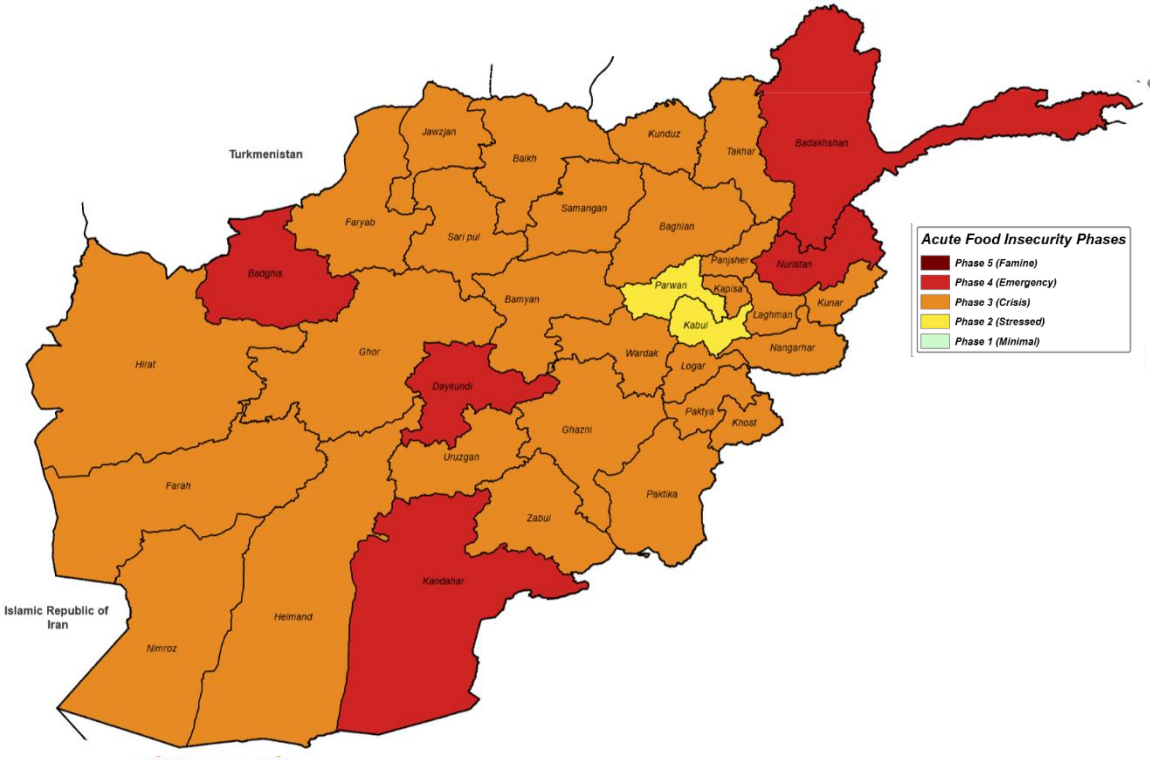

Rural Population Table for Projected Period (November 2018 – February 2019)

S/N	Province	Population	Phase -1	Phase - 2	Phase - 3	Phase - 4	Overall Phase	Phase 3+4
			Population (%)	Population (%)	Population (%)	Population (%)		Population (%)
1	Badakhshan	719,715	71,972 (10)	143,943 (20)	323,872 (45)	179,929 (25)	4	503,801 (70)
2	Badghis	469,888	37,591 (8)	61,085 (13)	150,364 (32)	220,847 (47)	4	371,212 (79)
3	Baghlan	646,833	194,050 (30)	194,050 (30)	194,050 (30)	64,683 (10)	3	258,733 (40)
4	Balkh	634,259	190,278 (30)	190,278 (30)	221,991 (35)	31,713 (5)	3	253,704 (40)
5	Bamyan	408,554	49,026 (12)	122,566 (30)	183,849 (45)	53,112 (13)	3	236,961 (58)
6	Daykundi	1,375,660	68,783 (5)	343,915 (25)	687,830 (50)	275,132 (20)	4	962,962 (70)
7	Farah	470,915	47,092 (10)	150,693 (32)	193,075 (41)	80,056 (17)	3	273,131 (58)
8	Faryab	164,115	24,617 (15)	45,952 (28)	73,852 (45)	19,694 (12)	3	93,546 (57)
9	Ghazni	776,046	155,209 (20)	310,418 (40)	232,814 (30)	77,605 (10)	3	310,418 (40)
10	Ghor	464,370	69,656 (15)	116,093 (25)	208,967 (45)	69,656 (15)	3	278,622 (60)
11	Helmand	1,249,269	187,390 (15)	312,317 (25)	562,171 (45)	187,390 (15)	3	749,561 (60)
12	Hirat	744,094	111,614 (15)	223,228 (30)	297,638 (40)	111,614 (15)	3	409,252 (55)
13	Jawzjan	563,685	169,106 (30)	197,290 (35)	169,106 (30)	28,184 (5)	3	197,290 (35)
14	Kabul	601,795	361,077 (60)	150,449 (25)	90,269 (15)	0	2	90,269 (15)
15	Kandahar	466,937	60,702 (13)	140,081 (30)	163,428 (35)	102,726 (22)	4	266,154 (57)
16	Kapisa	158,211	63,284 (40)	63,284 (40)	31,642 (20)	0	3	31,642 (20)
17	Khost	976,602	292,981 (30)	390,641 (40)	195,320 (20)	97,660 (10)	3	292,981 (30)
18	Kunar	912,188	182,438 (20)	319,266 (35)	319,266 (35)	91,219 (10	3	410,485 (45)
19	Kunduz	804,917	201,229 (25)	281,721 (35)	241,475 (30)	80,492 (10)	3	321,967 (40)
20	Laghman	383,018	76,604 (20)	95,755 (25)	172,358 (45)	38,302 (10)	3	210,660 (55)
21	Logar	892,684	223,171 (25)	357,074 (40)	223,171 (25)	89,268 (10)	3	312,439 (35)
22	Nangarhar	551,495	110,299 (20)	137,874 (25)	248,173 (45)	55,150 (10)	3	303,322 (55)
23	Nimroz	730,494	219,148 (30)	219,148 (30)	219,148 (30)	73,049 (10)	3	292,198 (40)
24	Nuristan	498,840	49,884 (10)	99,768 (20)	224,478 (45)	124,710 (25)	4	349,188 (70)
25	Paktika	405,646	121,694 (30)	101,412 (25)	121,694 (30)	60,847 (15)	3	182,541 (45)
26	Paktya	358,640	89,660 (25)	89,660 (25)	125,524 (35)	53,796 (15)	3	179,320 (50)
27	Panjsher	846,363	380,863 (45)	253,909 (30)	143,882 (17)	67,709 (8)	3	211,591 (25)
28	Parwan	453,207	303,649 (67)	81,577 (18)	54,385 (12)	13,596 (3)	2	67,981 (15)
29	Samangan	936,311	280,893 (30)	280,893 (30)	327,709 (35)	46,816 (5)	3	374,524 (40)
30	Sari pul	1,299,837	389,951 (30)	389,951 (30)	389,951 (30)	129,984 (10)	3	519,935 (40)
31	Takhar	514,413	102,883 (20)	154,324 (30)	180,045 (35)	77,162 (15)	3	257,207 (50)
32	Uruzgan	1,437,637	143,764 (10)	488,797 (34)	575,055 (40)	230,022 (16)	3	805,077 (56)
33	Wardak	502,480	100,496 (20)	226,116 (45)	125,620 (25)	50,248 (10)	3	175,868 (35)
34	Zabul	147,947	22,192 (15)	51,781 (35)	59,179 (40)	14,795 (10)	3	73,974 (50)
Total		22,567,065	5,153,244 (23)	6,785,308 (30)	7,731,348 (34.2)	2,897,164 (12.8)		10,628,513 (47.1)

SITUATION OVERVIEW, KEY DRIVERS AND LIMITING FACTORS

Current Situation Overview

In Afghanistan, the winter wet season is critical for successful agriculture and food production throughout the year. The planting season for Afghanistan's main crop, wheat, starts when autumn rainfall allows farmers to sow seeds – all the way up to December in some regions. Winter snow is also essential because it brings with it the low temperatures that insulate the wheat seeds, and the moisture that allows the wheat seed to germinate. Precipitation during this period is also crucial for irrigation in the spring and summer time; meltwater from high altitude snow and glaciers fuels the rivers throughout the year, upon which many irrigation systems depend. Winter precipitation also contributes to the year-round recharge of groundwater aquifers, which source the kareez irrigation and domestic water systems throughout the country.

Decreases in precipitation during this period can have devastating effects on crops and livestock, which in turn can further exacerbate the already chronically food-insecure population, and send poor farming families further into poverty. Add to this four decades of conflict which have left the land, the institutions, and the infrastructure of Afghanistan in a fragile state. Altogether this means that people and institutions are woefully unprepared to cope with further social and environmental disasters.

In 2018, an extended period of dryness during the winter planting season (Dec-Feb) occurred; in most parts of the country, there was a precipitation deficit over 70 percent during the traditionally wet months, and informal field interviews and surveys at that time suggested farmers were feeling the impacts of the dry spell already in the early days of the year. Impacts included insufficient food, loss of livelihoods and assets, and distress coping techniques such as internal displacement, reducing planting area, and distress selling livestock in order to recoup some money before the livestock got sick or starved.

Shocks to livelihoods include things like drought, animal disease, flooding, earthquakes, armed conflict, and forced displacement. The results of the IPC analysis clearly show that much of the population has experienced one or more shocks in the past six months, and this has led to Phase 3 classification for most of the country. Survey results show that close to 60 percent of households have used crisis or emergency livelihood coping techniques moving to cities, distress selling livestock, reducing planting area, skipping meals or eating poor quality food in the past year. Overuse of such techniques compromises their ability to recover losses of assets and deal with future shocks. There are also reports of drought-induced migration, especially in Badghis where reportedly more than 200 000 people have been displaced.

From January-August 2018, 209 396 individuals have been affected by natural disasters nationwide. Drought and flash floods are the most frequent of such disasters; the most severely affected provinces are Herat and Badghis, which accounts for 74 percent of the total individuals affected. During the same time period, almost 178 000 people were displaced due to the ongoing civil conflict in 31 out of 34 provinces of Afghanistan. 58 percent of these individuals are in the provinces of Faryab, Kunduz, Farah, Badakhshan and Kunar. Armed groups active in these provinces often prevent humanitarian assistance from being delivered to target areas: trucks carrying supplies are stolen, or people coming to receive assistance are threatened. Such IDPS typically move to cities, placing undue pressure on the economies, environment and food supplies of settlements that do not have the infrastructure to absorb this influx of people.

Last year there was a nationwide wheat production deficit of 1.5 million MT, whereas this year reduced precipitation brought a further deficit of 2.3 million MT of wheat production, particularly in rain-fed fields. Wheat is the staple food of the country, so deficit in wheat production impacts not only the food security and income of wheat growers, but means that the country has to import wheat, which can have broader implications for the national economy.

Reduced precipitation also had negatively impacted pasture conditions, resulting in reduced, poor, or no fodder for livestock. This has led to livestock that are in poor condition, and are being distress sold by pastoralists at low prices in order to prevent premature animal death and recoup some of the animals' value.

The IPC analysis found that only 23% of households did not experience livestock deaths or decreased livestock productivity, 48% of households experienced both, and the remaining 29% of households experienced one or the other. As a result of this, animal ownership rates have also decreased: results showed a 29% reduction in sheep and goat ownership, 24% reduction in cattle ownership and 40% reduction in buffalo ownership.

Ownership of the more drought resistant species such as sheep and goats has remained relatively stable overall, with small localized decreases.

Compounding the impact of the drought are other factors that have negatively affected the livelihoods and income levels of household; these factors include repatriation of Afghanis from neighbouring Pakistan and Iran, and the depreciation of regional currencies in Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan. This lowers the purchasing power of households and can also impact food prices. If the country needs to import more high-priced food, the food insecurity could spread into higher socio-economic classes.

Projected Situation Overview

FEWSNET predictions indicate that El Niño conditions are appearing; this means that above-average precipitation is expected in the coming planting season, starting in late October or November. This bodes well for agriculture for 2019, especially if emergency provision of seeds, tools, and livestock health inputs are delivered to farmers on time for them to use. However, the impacts from this years' drought will not immediately desist. Even if emergency responses are timely and the fall planting and winter growing seasons are successful, the next harvest won't happen until May to July of 2019; therefore, drought-induced impacts, such as distress selling, skipping meals, displacement and more are expected to continue for many months to come.

Additionally, while El Niño conditions will bring desperately-needed precipitation, they will also bring threats. An estimated 80 percent of Afghanistan's soil is in poor condition and subject to erosion. This, coupled with the still degraded, outdated, or non-existent water control structures in much of the country mean that every spring many parts of the country are subject to life and property-destroying flash floods. If the El Niño brings excessive precipitation, flash floods will threaten the integrity of the soil, pastures and fields and could potentially prevent successful planting. The situation will need to be monitored closely and where possible, water retention structures and flood protection walls will need to be built.

Given the reported low cereal and food stocks, it is predicted that only 10 percent of farming households nationwide will have enough food to sustain them through the projection period. This means most households will gradually become dependent on markets to cover their food needs. If these households had sufficient incomes to purchase food, market dependence would be less of an issue. However, because decreased agricultural production equates to decreased incomes in a country so heavily dependent on agriculture for livelihoods, purchasing power will decline along with income. Additionally, as noted above, the devaluation of various regional currencies may contribute to increased market food prices, making purchasing food a challenge even for those in higher socioeconomic groups. Therefore, food prices over the prediction period are likely to be the key factor that determines extent of household access to food and food consumption in the coming months.

PROFILE OF THE MOST AFFECTED AREAS

BADGHIS -Badghis received 45 percent less rainfall this year as compared to the 10-year average, and a 43 percent decrease compared to last year, creating drought conditions which have severely impacted the food security and livelihoods of the province. This analysis found that more than half of the population is in Phase 4 and they are adopting emergency livelihood coping strategies, including lowering food consumption (reported by 66.2 percent of the households). Almost 100 percent of the households reported that they experienced shocks, including the drought. Because of the drought, Badghis province has experienced sudden and massive displacements to urban centers within the province as well as to Herat. MAIL data indicates that there is a wheat deficit of 78,940 MT. Approximately half of the population reported spend three-quarters of their income on food, far above worldwide averages. Households also reported having difficulties cultivating crops due to the shortage of irrigation water and rain. Moreover, the poverty rate is 56.8 percent, which is slightly above national average, meaning purchasing power is low. Drinking water another major concern. Badghis was in Phase 4 last year, but due to the meagre precipitation the province received, the situation this year has further deteriorated. In the Projection period Badghis is expected to remain in Phase 4, although a higher percentage of the population will be entering that Phase.

NURISTAN - Nuristan is especially prone to natural disasters, and this year the natural disaster that hit Nuristan was the drought. Though there was only a slight decrease in precipitation overall last year, but the precipitation that did come arrived too late for the winter wheat growing season. Estimates suggest that because of the drought, 196 000 livestock have insufficient fodder, and 1100 ha of rain-fed land and 6433 ha of irrigated land were not cultivated. According to the EFSA, 32.8 percent of households in Nuristan were affected by drought. Income has decreased by 41.9 percent from last year. There was also a 157 000 MT deficit in wheat production and a significant decrease in livestock ownership compared to last year. Additionally, 75.7 percent of the population has no access to clean water and 85.1 percent have no access to improved sanitation facilities. The FCS showed the 74.4 percent of the population have poor food consumption, placing them in Phase 4. The LCS score shows that 22.1 percent of the population is using emergency coping strategies, which places them in Phase 4. Therefore overall, Nuristan is classified in Phase 4.

KANDAHAR -Kandahar was highly affected by the prolonged dry spell/drought, which has endangered the food security and livelihoods of 64 percent of the rural population who rely on crop production as a major source of income. Province wide, 72.2 percent of the populations' income is negatively impacted by drought. According to MAIL data, the province has a wheat deficit of 101 708 MT. There was data for Kandahar on several other measures of hunger and nutrition: the Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate based in the weight-for-height score (WHZ) found province-wide malnutrition at 13.8 percent, and an assessment of the Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) score and the WHZ estimated province-wide malnutrition at 22.3 percent. The Food Consumption Score (FCS) index showed that 24.5 percent of the population had poor food consumption. The Livelihood Coping Strategy (LCS) score showed that of 34.4 percent of the population are using emergency coping strategies. As in many other provinces, there are a large number of IDPs and returnees puts more stress on food insecurity of the population, in a time when the community income is significantly decrease by 44.1% compare to last year. This year 91.29% water is decreased due to drought. Overall, Kandahar is classified in Phase 4.

BADAKHSHAN - Precipitation has decreased 45 percent compared to the last 10 years' average, and 13 percent compared to last year alone. This has led to localized dry areas that impact between 13-22 percent of the population as a result of decreased agricultural production. This province has an average wheat deficit of more than 25 000 MT even in typical years, but this year there is likely to be a striking deficit of 94 350 MT. Households reported their incomes have decreased by nearly one-third. Just over half of the households do not have access to improved sanitation systems and 29 percent of households do not have access to safe drinking water. As per Afghanistan Living Conditions Survey (ALCS) data, about 51 percent of the populations have protein deficiencies. The underlying causes of this situation are extreme poverty (81.5 percent) and high chronic food insecurity (65.7 percent) and very limited physical accessibility. In addition, natural disasters have affected 4113 people and conflict caused the displacement of 12 257 people in 2018 alone. In the Projection period conditions in Badakhshan are expected to worsen due to the harsh winter conditions that province tends to experience. Projections suggest the province will be pushed into IPC Phase 4.

DAYKUNDI -Precipitation this wet season was only 64 percent of the 10-year average, and was 17 percent less than last year. This has led to drought-like conditions which have impacted 88 percent of the population and resulted in decreased crop production. Households reported that their incomes decreased 53 percent as compared to last year. Approximately 67 percent of households do not have access to improved sanitation systems and 79 percent of households do not have access to clean drinking water. As per ALCS data, 23 percent of the population has protein deficiencies and 49 percent of households are chronically food insecure, meaning they are highly vulnerable to continuing environmental and social shocks. Overall, Daykundi is classified as being in Phase 3.

HELMAND - Helmand is affected by the current drought (especially in the Northern Districts), and is also highly affected by violent armed conflict; both conditions threaten the food security and livelihoods of 94 percent of the rural population whose main source of income is crop production. The majority of Helmand is considered insecure, and the continuous conflicts have reduced the income of the households by 44.7 percent in the past year. Helmand was another province where additional measures of hunger and nutrition were available: the GAM rate based on the WHZ score showed that 10 percent of the population is suffering from malnutrition, and 12.9 percent of the population has a MUAC of less than 125mm, which also indicates severe malnutrition. Just over 15 percent of households have a poor food consumption score, and 60.6 percent of households are engaging in emergency livelihood coping strategies this year. There are also a large number of IDPs, who put additional stress on food supplies for the population. In Helmand, like many other provinces, community income has decreased by 46.6 percent as compared to last year. The drought hit Helmand especially hard: surface water, which comes from precipitation, decreased by 83 percent as compared to last year. Helmand is overall classified in Phase 3.

GHOR -Analyses of the food consumption data showed that that 51.6 percent of households in Ghor have poor food consumption and are in Phase 4 food insecurity; 32.5 percent have borderline insecure food consumption and are in Phase 3. Nearly 48 percent of households use emergency livelihood coping, placing them in Phase 4 and 31.4 percent are using crisis coping, placing them in Phase 3. Ghor province is also experiencing significant displacement due to the drought. Approximately 70 percent of the households surveyed reported to have experienced shocks. Data from MAIL indicates that there is a deficit of 88 420 MT wheat. Nearly 40 percent of the population spend more than 75 percent of their income on food, again, far above worldwide averages. The precipitation during the summer was decreased as compared to last year. Many households also reported difficulty cultivating crops due to the shortage of irrigation and rain water. Moreover, the poverty rate is 60.5 percent according to the ALCS 2016/2017, and the income has decreased by 58.2 percent in the past year. Altogether these food security indicators place Ghor in Phase 3.

HIRAT - In Hirat, the IPC analysis found that around 39 percent of households have poor food consumption scores that place them below the threshold for Phase 4; however, the review of the data and information from the field suggest that some parts of Hirat, most notably the Northern districts, fall fully into Phase 4.The LCS score shows that 22.2 percent of the population is depleting essential livelihood assets by using emergency coping strategies, placing them in Phase 3. There are also a large number of IDPs, displaced from Badghis proince who put additional stress on food supplies for the population. Food insecurity in Herat is reported to be 50 percent according to ALCS 2016/17 data and approximately 82 percent of farmers reported that they will not have enough seeds for planting wheat next season. Hirat is overall classified in Phase 3.

URUZGAN - Uruzgan is affected by this years' drought: there was a 96.3 percent reduction in precipitation as compared to last year. The province also suffers from frequent and violent conflict. These two factors negatively impact the food security and livelihoods of 97 percent of the rural population, who depend upon crop production as their main source of income. The income of the households in Uruzgan has been reduced by 24.4 percent as compared to last year. The FCS index showed that 15.3 percent of the population had poor food consumption and the LCS score showed that 49.2 percent of the population is using emergency coping strategies. Uruzgan is another province that has a large number of IDPs, who exacerbate the food stress felt by the population. Finally, because of escalating conflicts that block roads, approximately 70 percent of the population from districts surrounding high conflict areas cannot access the main markets to buy food or sell their farm products. Overall, Uruzgan is classified in Phase 3.

RESPONSE PRIORITIES

- Considering that various environmental shocks are becoming near continuous, stakeholders, including the government and donor communities should focus their attention and funding on programs to build resilience to disasters and reduce disaster risks. Such programs will include livelihood diversification, institutional strengthening, land rehabilitation, water management and disaster risk reduction/climate change adaptation programs. Moreover, they must further define and refine policies that synchronize humanitarian emergency assistance and longer-term development in order to break the poverty cycle.
- Emergency response must be focused on minimizing asset depletion by any means possible. The continuing environmental shocks, coupled with worsening civil conflict prevents asset replenishment. However, if farmers are out of seeds, or breeder stocks of animals perish or are distress sold, households will never be able to pull themselves out of poverty and/or achieve an acceptable level of food security.
- The near constant droughts mean that more drought resilient crop varieties are urgently needed. Additionally, climate change is likely bringing increasing and new pests; timely monitoring and control of crop pests will contribute to food security for the most vulnerable farmers.
- Afghanistan is a country of ethnically diverse people, rugged terrain and unrelenting civil unrest. These factors all need to be taken into account when developing strategies for food and livelihood security programming.
- In order to prevent IDPs and decrease the burden on host communities, livelihood supports (human and animal food, seeds, veterinary services, and drinking water) for the drought-affected areas are urgently needed. 24 percent of households have reported having enough food to last less than one month and 30 percent have reported stocks sufficient for a maximum of 3 months. These supports are needed until next harvest season for the people classified in IPC Phase 3 and above.
- Drought-induced IDPs require urgent live-saving supports. The majority of them lack access to any sort of livelihood, so direct support (food, money) should continue through the projected period. For those who are able to return to their homes if/when precipitation returns, supports should be focused on rebuilding their livelihoods (seeds, animal feed, other farming inputs). For those unable to return, direct food and monetary assistance may continue to be necessary.
- A clear interagency policy and strategy for IDPs, returnees and refugees needs to be defined.
- A Pre-harvest Seasonal Food Security Assessment should be carried out, particularly in the most drought-affected provinces.
- If updated information is available, the next IPC analysis should be carried out by March 2019 in order to determine if sufficient harvests are expected and food security and livelihoods will improve; an analysis that is completed by this time will enable decision-makers to respond in time for the summer planting season if continued emergency response is needed.
- Given the chronic nature of food insecurity of Afghanistan, an IPC Chronic Food Security Analysis with the support of GSU/RSU should be conducted.
- Liaising and consulting with the Ministry of Public Health, UNICEF and other organizations involved in nutrition surveys should be done regularly in order to provide timely nutrition information for the IPC analysis.
- The El Niño conditions need to be closely monitored. Both excessive and insufficient rainfall could have negative implications on the upcoming planting and/or harvesting seasons and additional food and livelihood emergency response may be needed.
- Given that this is an election year, anti-government elements and armed groups are expected to be more active. Increased violence will result in more IDPs and will likely prevent emergency response supplies from getting to communities in need. Contingency plans must be made for delivering such supplies, as well as deal with possibly burgeoning IDPs around urban centers.
- Markets, including food availability and prices, need to be monitored as Afghans will be more dependent upon them for food. Returnees, IDPs and regional currency devaluation could all drive market prices up and immediate government subsidies might be needed.

Rural Population Table for Current Period (August – October 2018)

S/N	Province	Population	Phase-1	Phase-2	Phase-3	Phase-4	Overall Phase	Phase 3+4
			Population (%)	Population (%)	Population (%)	Population (%)		Population (%)
1	Badakhshan	976,602	97,660 (10)	292,981 (30)	410,173 (42)	175,788 (18)	3	585,961 (60)
2	Badghis	514,413	51,441(10)	77,162 (15)	154,324 (30)	231,486 (45)	4	385,810 (75)
3	Baghlan	776,046	232,814 (30)	232,814 (30)	271,616 (35)	38,802 (5)	3	310,418 (40)
4	Balkh	892,684	267,805 (30)	267,805 (30)	312,439 (35)	44,634 (5)	3	357,074 (40)
5	Bamyan	464,370	69,656 (15)	139,311 (30)	208,967 (45)	46,437 (10)	3	255,404 (55)
6	Daykundi	498,840	74,826 (15)	124,710 (25)	224,478 (45)	74,826 (15)	3	299,304 (60)
7	Farah	502,480	75,372 (15)	150,744 (30)	200,992 (40)	75,372 (15)	3	276,364 (55)
8	Faryab	936,311	234,078 (25)	280,893 (30)	327,709 (35)	93,631 (10)	3	421,340 (45)
9	Ghazni	1,249,269	374,781 (30)	437,244 (35)	312,317 (25)	124,927 (10)	3	437,244 (35)
10	Ghor	730,494	109,574 (15)	182,624 (25)	328,722 (45)	109,574 (15)	3	438,296 (60)
11	Helmand	1,299,837	194,976 (15)	324,959 (25)	584,927 (45)	194,976 (15)	3	779,902 (60)
12	Hirat	1,437,637	215,646 (15)	431,291 (30)	575,055 (40)	215,646 (15)	3	790,700 (55)
13	Jawzjan	453,207	113,302 (25)	158,622 (35)	135,962 (30)	45,321 (10)	3	181,283 (40)
14	Kabul	719,715	431,829 (60)	158,337 (22)	71,972 (10)	57,577 (8)	2	129,549 (18)
15	Kandahar	846,363	169,273 (20)	253,909 (30)	253,909 (30)	169,273 (20)	4	423,182 (50)
16	Kapisa	469,888	211,450 (45)	187,955 (40)	56,387 (12)	14,097 (3)	2	70,483 (15)
17	Khost	601,795	210,628 (35)	300,898 (50)	60,180 (10)	30,090 (5)	2	90,269 (15)
18	Kunar	466,937	93,387 (20)	186,775 (40)	140,081 (30)	46,694 (10)	3	186,775 (40)
19	Kunduz	912,188	364,875 (40)	228,047 (25)	228,047 (25)	91,219 (10)	3	319,266 (35)
20	Laghman	470,915	94,183 (20)	141,275 (30)	188,366 (40)	47,092 (10)	3	235,458 (50)
21	Logar	408,554	163,422 (40)	142,994 (35)	81,711 (20)	20,428 (5)	3	102,139 (25)
22	Nangarhar	1,375,660	275,132 (20)	412,698 (30)	550,264 (40)	137,566 (10)	3	687,830 (50)
23	Nimroz	147,947	44,384 (30)	44,384 (30)	44,384 (30)	14,795 (10)	3	59,179 (40)
24	Nuristan	158,211	31,642 (20)	31,642 (20)	63,284 (40)	31,642 (20)	4	94,927 (60)
25	Paktika	563,685	169,106 (30)	169,106 (30)	140,921 (25)	84,553 (15)	3	225,474 (40)
26	Paktya	744,094	186,024 (25)	223,228 (30)	223,228 (30)	111,614 (15)	3	334,842 (45)
27	Panjsher	164,115	82,058 (50)	49,235 (30)	24,617 (15)	8,206 (5)	3	32,823 (20)
28	Parwan	646,833	452,783 (70)	129,367 (20)	64,683 (10)	0	2	64,683 (10)
29	Samangan	383,018	114,905 (30)	114,905 (30)	134,056 (35)	19,151 (5)	3	153,207 (40)
30	Sari pul	551,495	137,874 (25)	193,023 (35)	193,023 (35)	27,575 (5)	3	220,598 (40)
31	Takhar	804,917	201,229 (25)	281,721 (35)	281,721 (35)	40,246 (5)	3	321,967 (40)
32	Uruzgan	405,646	60,847 (15)	129,807 (32)	154,145 (38)	60,847 (15)	3	214,992 (53)
33	Wardak	634,259	190,278 (30)	253,704 (40)	126,852 (20)	63,426 (10)	3	190,278 (30)
34	Zabul	358,640	53,796 (15)	143,456 (40)	125,524 (35)	35,864 (10)	3	161,388 (45)
	Total	**22,567,065**	**5,851,033 (26)**	**6,877,624 (30)**	**7,255,036 (32)**	**2,583,371 (11)**		**9,838,408 (43.6)**

Rural Population Table for Projected Period (November 2018 – February 2019)

S/N	Province	Population	Phase -1	Phase - 2	Phase - 3	Phase - 4	Overall Phase	Phase 3+4
			Population (%)	Population (%)	Population (%)	Population (%)		Population (%)
1	Badakhshan	719,715	71,972 (10)	143,943 (20)	323,872 (45)	179,929 (25)	4	503,801 (70)
2	Badghis	469,888	37,591 (8)	61,085 (13)	150,364 (32)	220,847 (47)	4	371,212 (79)
3	Baghlan	646,833	194,050 (30)	194,050 (30)	194,050 (30)	64,683 (10)	3	258,733 (40)
4	Balkh	634,259	190,278 (30)	190,278 (30)	221,991 (35)	31,713 (5)	3	253,704 (40)
5	Bamyan	408,554	49,026 (12)	122,566 (30)	183,849 (45)	53,112 (13)	3	236,961 (58)
6	Daykundi	1,375,660	68,783 (5)	343,915 (25)	687,830 (50)	275,132 (20)	4	962,962 (70)
7	Farah	470,915	47,092 (10)	150,693 (32)	193,075 (41)	80,056 (17)	3	273,131 (58)
8	Faryab	164,115	24,617 (15)	45,952 (28)	73,852 (45)	19,694 (12)	3	93,546 (57)
9	Ghazni	776,046	155,209 (20)	310,418 (40)	232,814 (30)	77,605 (10)	3	310,418 (40)
10	Ghor	464,370	69,656 (15)	116,093 (25)	208,967 (45)	69,656 (15)	3	278,622 (60)
11	Helmand	1,249,269	187,390 (15)	312,317 (25)	562,171 (45)	187,390 (15)	3	749,561 (60)
12	Hirat	744,094	111,614 (15)	223,228 (30)	297,638 (40)	111,614 (15)	3	409,252 (55)
13	Jawzjan	563,685	169,106 (30)	197,290 (35)	169,106 (30)	28,184 (5)	3	197,290 (35)
14	Kabul	601,795	361,077 (60)	150,449 (25)	90,269 (15)	0	2	90,269 (15)
15	Kandahar	466,937	60,702 (13)	140,081 (30)	163,428 (35)	102,726 (22)	4	266,154 (57)
16	Kapisa	158,211	63,284 (40)	63,284 (40)	31,642 (20)	0	3	31,642 (20)
17	Khost	976,602	292,981 (30)	390,641 (40)	195,320 (20)	97,660 (10)	3	292,981 (30)
18	Kunar	912,188	182,438 (20)	319,266 (35)	319,266 (35)	91,219 ()10	3	410,485 (45)
19	Kunduz	804,917	201,229 (25)	281,721 (35)	241,475 (30)	80,492 (10)	3	321,967 (40)
20	Laghman	383,018	76,604 (20)	95,755 (25)	172,358 (45)	38,302 (10)	3	210,660 (55)
21	Logar	892,684	223,171 (25)	357,074 (40)	223,171 (25)	89,268 (10)	3	312,439 (35)
22	Nangarhar	551,495	110,299 (20)	137,874 (25)	248,173 (45)	55,150 (10)	3	303,322 (55)
23	Nimroz	730,494	219,148 (30)	219,148 (30)	219,148 (30)	73,049 (10)	3	292,198 (40)
24	Nuristan	498,840	49,884 (10)	99,768 (20)	224,478 (45)	124,710 (25)	4	349,188 (70)
25	Paktika	405,646	121,694 (30)	101,412 (25)	121,694 (30)	60,847 (15)	3	182,541 (45)
26	Paktya	358,640	89,660 (25)	89,660 (25)	125,524 (35)	53,796 (15)	3	179,320 (50)
27	Panjsher	846,363	380,863 (45)	253,909 (30)	143,882 (17)	67,709 (8)	3	211,591 (25)
28	Parwan	453,207	303,649 (67)	81,577 (18)	54,385 (12)	13,596 (3)	2	67,981 (15)
29	Samangan	936,311	280,893 (30)	280,893 (30)	327,709 (35)	46,816 (5)	3	374,524 (40)
30	Sari pul	1,299,837	389,951 (30)	389,951 (30)	389,951 (30)	129,984 (10)	3	519,935 (40)
31	Takhar	514,413	102,883 (20)	154,324 (30)	180,045 (35)	77,162 (15)	3	257,207 (50)
32	Uruzgan	1,437,637	143,764 (10)	488,797 (34)	575,055 (40)	230,022 (16)	3	805,077 (56)
33	Wardak	502,480	100,496 (20)	226,116 (45)	125,620 (25)	50,248 (10)	3	175,868 (35)
34	Zabul	147,947	22,192 (15)	51,781 (35)	59,179 (40)	14,795 (10)	3	73,974 (50)
Total		22,567,065	5,153,244 (23)	6,785,308 (30)	7,731,348 (34.2)	2,897,164 (12.8)		10,628,513 (47.1)

Process and Methodology

This IPC analysis assessed two time periods: the current analysis (August to October 2018) was based on surveys and data collected from 2016-2018 that reflected existing factors that lead to food insecurity; and the projected analysis is based on this data coupled with forward looking assumptions, such as data on food stores, likely harvests, weather projections and the political situation for the November 2018 to February 2019 period. The analysis covered the entire 34 provinces of the country, but data was compiled and assessed at the provincial level.

A workshop was held on 8 – 12 September 2018 in Kabul to analyze the various data sets went into this IPC analysis. The workshop was attended by international technical experts as well as over 50 professionals from across of Afghanistan, representing provincial and central governments, UN organizations, NGOs, technical agencies, and academia.

The data used in the analysis was organized according to the IPC analytical framework, which includes predefined food security contributing factors and outcome indicators. It was collected from a wide range of sources; including reports from the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, other government institutions at national and provincial levels, and international organizations. The data used in the analysis was organized according to the IPC analytical framework, which includes predefined food security contributing factors and outcome indicators.

What are IPC and IPC Acute Food Insecurity:

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. 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 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.

It was collected from a wide range of sources; including reports from the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, other government institutions at national and provincial levels, and international organizations.

Data sources used for the analysis included: 1) The Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) 2018 conducted by the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster (FSAC) as the main data set, which was carried out at rural areas of the country (that is why population table includes only the rural population), and the Seasonal Food This IPC analysis assessed two time periods: the current analysis (August to October 2018) was based on surveys and data collected from 2016-2018 that reflected existing factors that lead to food insecurity; and the projected analysis is based on this data coupled with forward looking assumptions, such as data on food stores, likely harvests, weather projections and the political situation for the November 2018 to February 2019 period. The analysis covered the entire 34 provinces of the country, but data was compiled and assessed at the provincial levelSecurity Assessment 2017 from FSAC; 2) The Agriculture Production and Food Price data from MAIL; 3) the SMART Surveys 2017 and 2018 from ACF; 4) Population Estimation from the Central Statistics Office (CSO) of Afghanistan; 5) the ALCS, 2016-2017 from CSO; 6) Food Price, ICA, Food Distribution from WFP; 7) NDVI, Precipitation from FEWSNET; 8) Refugee & IDP data from UNHCR, OCHA, FSAC, IOM; 9) Natural disaster affected population data from IOM and FSAC; 10) the 2016 Land Cover Atlas from FAO; 11) the Whole of Afghanistan Assessment from REACH International; 12) the 2018 Dry Spell Assessment from ACTED; 13) the Jan-July 2018 FSAC Response Plan; and 14) data on humanitarian assistance delivered and planned from WFP.

Note: It worths mentioning that the population estimate currently used in IPC acute analysis is of CSO official estimate for rural Afghanistan (2018-2019), in case flow minder new population estimate for rural Afghanistan is applied in IPC population estimates, it will end up with 3.3 million population in IPC phase-4 and 8.3 million in IPC phase-3.

Limitations of the analysis and recommendation for next analysis:

Due to time constrains a rapid training was provided. It is recommendated to deliver a full level 1 training based on Manual Version 3.0 before the next analysis. It is also recommended to increase number of days of the analysis workshop.

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IPC Analysis Partners: