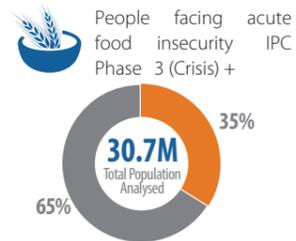


Current Acute Food Insecurity Situation April - May 2020



10.9 million people in Afghanistan are estimated to be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse acute food insecurity between April and May 2020



Overview

Food insecurity is alarmingly high in Afghanistan during the current period (April-May 2020) with 10.9 million people (35% of the population analysed) facing IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) or above. These include around 7.38 million people in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and 3.47 million people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). With the harvest beginning in June, it is expected that food insecurity will slightly improve. From June to November 2020, it is expected that 10.3 million people (34% of the population) will face acute food insecurity, with 22% of the population in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and 11% in Emergency (IPC Phase 4).

After the harvest, it is likely the food insecurity situation will improve in rural areas, since households will have increased access to food from own production and prices may also decrease. However, despite the overall reduction in people facing acute food insecurity, the population in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) is expected to increase in the projection period, as the urban households relying on market for food purchase and on daily labor opportunities for their income, will likely experience larger food gaps. In urban centers, the negative economic impacts of COVID-19 are likely to counteract the positive impacts of the harvest. The severity will be higher in areas where humanitarian access is limited.

Although food is still available in nearly all markets, the prices of basic food commodities increased by 10 to 20%. The lockdown measures put in place in response to the COVID-19 pandemic significantly decreased daily labor opportunities, reducing household purchasing power and food access.

Key Drivers



COVID-19

As a consequence of the pandemic, complete or partial lockdown measures have been imposed in the country, resulting in a significant decrease in daily wage opportunities and small trader income.



High Food Prices

Unusually high food prices linked to border closures and panic buying, caused by COVID-19, further exacerbate food access for households already living below the poverty line. Food commodity prices have increased by 10 to 20%.



Conflict

Ongoing conflict in most of the analysed provinces has caused population displacement, affected people's livelihoods or caused them to lose their livelihoods completely. In 2020, there have been an estimated 65,000 newly internally displaced people (IDPs) as a result of conflict.



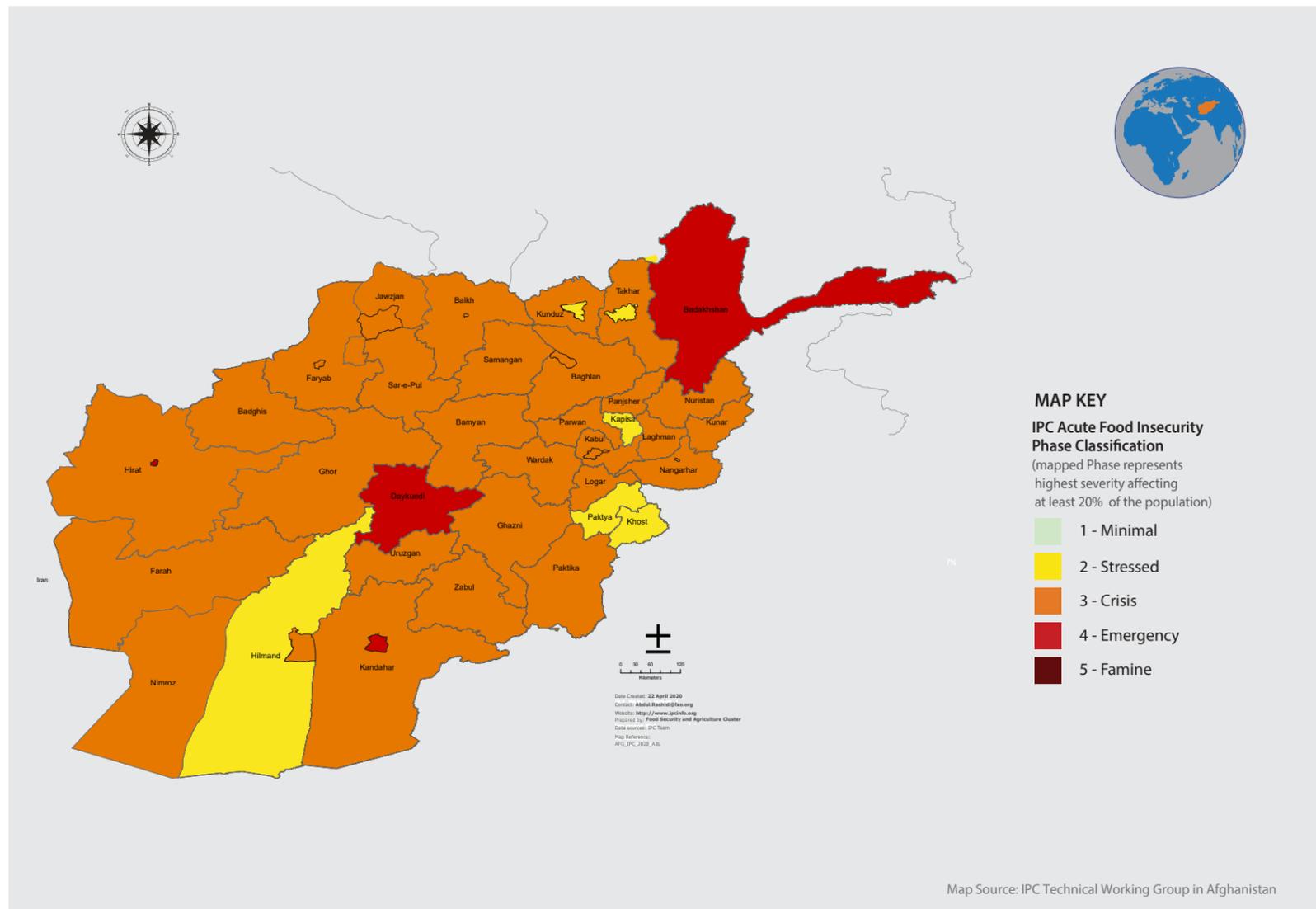
Reduced Employment Opportunities

Households are facing an increasing stress on their financial access due to largescale unemployment, which is expected to worsen as COVID-19 lockdowns measures continue.

IPC Analysis Partners



Current Acute Food Insecurity Situation | April - May 2020



The Impact of COVID-19

Urban areas of Afghanistan are expected to be more acutely impacted by the pandemic with ongoing lockdowns across major cities and towns leading to widespread economic downturns. The most vulnerable groups will be particularly at risk. These groups include daily wage laborers (especially non-agriculture labor in urban areas), IDPs and returnees, people relying on remittances, service sector workers and small traders. In total, around 34% of the analysed population relies on income sources that are most vulnerable to the economic shocks caused by the lockdowns.

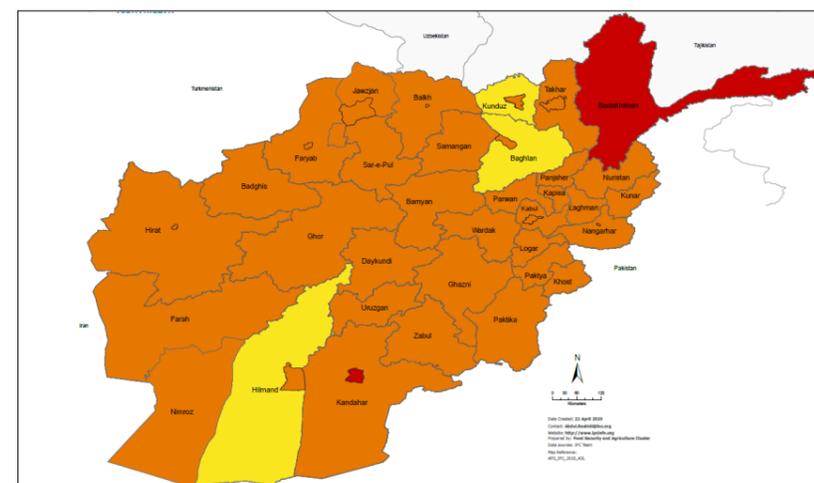
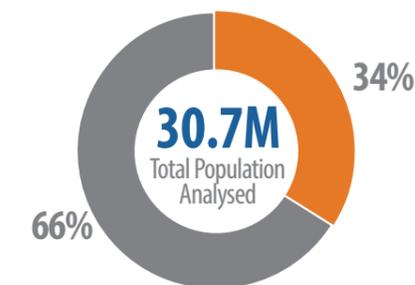
Additionally, households in urban areas are more reliant on markets for food and, therefore, do not have sufficient stocks from their own agricultural production to cover consumption needs. The spike in market food prices has had severe impacts on urban food insecurity. Moreover, 70% of urban households reported a decrease in income, of which 64% is attributed to decreased employment opportunities. This proportion is expected to increase substantially following the ongoing lockdown measures. The flow of remittances has also been impacted by global lockdowns due to COVID-19, leading to large-scale unemployment.

In the projection period, the impact of COVID-19 on economic access is expected to continue. There will, however, likely be a slight improvement during the harvest season as food price levels will likely decrease. People from urban areas may also migrate to rural areas in response to decreased employment opportunities in urban regions.

Projected Acute Food Insecurity Situation | June - November 2020



10.3 million people are expected to be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse from June to November 2020



Food Insecurity in Urban Areas

Urban areas: In the major towns of 11 provinces analysed (Balkh, Baghlan, Kabul, Kandahar, Kunduz, Nangarhar, Takhar, Jawzjan, Hirat, Hilmand and Faryab), around 2.48 million people are classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4). The proportion of food insecure people is expected to increase by 3% to 2.72 million in the projection period, as the economic impacts of COVID-19 lockdown measures are expected to outweigh the positive impacts of the harvest season.