IPC Integrated Food Security Phase Classification

Evidence and Standards for Better Food Security and Nutrition Decisions

AFGHANISTAN

IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY ANALYSIS

OCTOBER 2023 – MARCH 2024

Published on December 14, 2023

Food insecurity remains high as a result of lingering impacts of climate variability, sustained high food prices, unemployment and macro-economic instability

CURRENT ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY OCTOBER 2023

13.1M 29% of the population analysed. People facing high acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above). IN NEED OF URGENT ACTION	Phase 5	0 People in Catastrophe
	Phase 4	2,441,000 People in Emergency
	Phase 3	10,617,000 People in Crisis
	Phase 2	17,687,000 People Stressed
	Phase 1	13,787,000 People in food security

PROJECTED ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY NOVEMBER 2023 - MARCH 2024

15.8M 36% of the population analysed. People facing high acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above). IN NEED OF URGENT ACTION	Phase 5	0 People in Catastrophe
	Phase 4	3,570,000 People in Emergency
	Phase 3	12,254,000 People in Crisis
	Phase 2	16,389,000 People Stressed
	Phase 1	12,320,000 People in food security

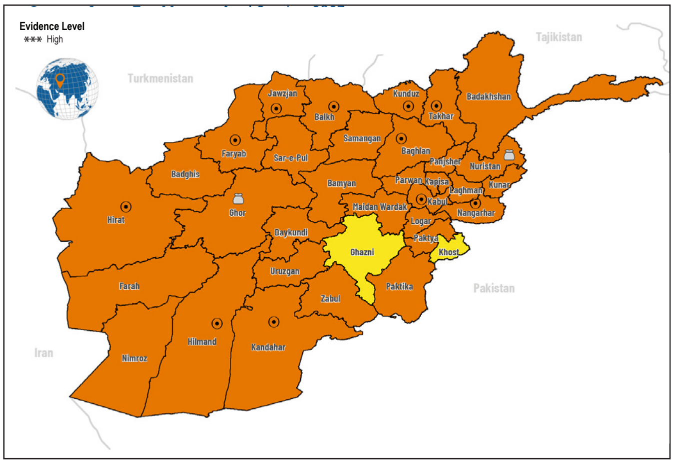
Overview

Afghanistan's economy remains exceedingly fragile, and the food insecurity remains alarmingly high. In October 2023, during the post-harvest season, approximately 13.1 million people, accounting for 29 percent of the total population (based on 2024 Flowminder national population estimates) are facing high level of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above). The main drivers of this acute food insecurity include challenging economic conditions, high unemployment rates compounded by the limited access to income that reduced purchasing power, in a context of continued high prices of food and agricultural inputs, reduced livelihood opportunities and decreased remittances. The adverse impact of extreme and variable climatic conditions, particularly the multi-year drought experienced between 2021 and 2023, continues to be felt in 2023. Additionally, other natural hazards such as flooding and earthquakes further compromise the limited coping capacity of the population, resulting in the persistence of a severe food insecurity situation.

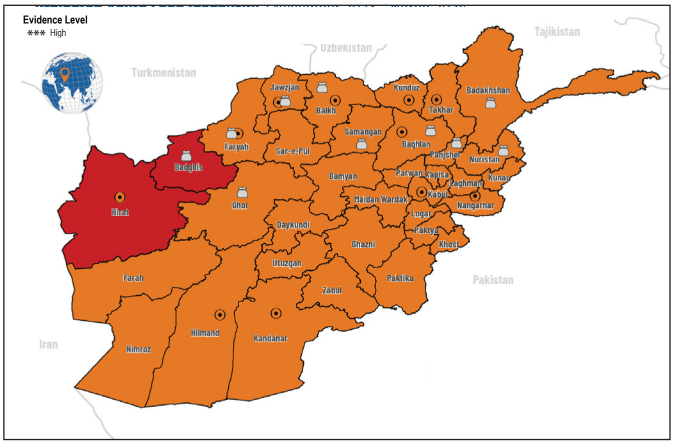
Looking ahead to the projection period between November 2023 and March 2024, corresponding to the winter lean season, a further deterioration in food security is expected, with the number of people in IPC Phase 3 or above likely to rise to 15.8 million (36 percent of the total population based on Flowminder 2024 national population estimate), including about 3.6 million people in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency), and about 12.3 million people in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis).

Compared to the same period of previous years, the decrease of number of people facing high food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) during the lean season (November 2023 – March 2024), and especially in Emergency (IPC Phase 4), can be attributed predominantly to the extensive, timely and efficient delivery of humanitarian food and agriculture assistance.

Current situation: October 2023



Projected situation: November 2023 – March 2024



Key for the Map

IPC Acute Food Insecurity Phase Classification

(mapped Phase represents highest severity affecting at least 20% of the population)

- 1 - Minimal
- 2 - Stressed
- 3 - Crisis
- 4 - Emergency
- 5 - Famine

- Areas with inadequate evidence
- Areas not analysed

Map Symbols

- Urban settlement classification
- IDPs/other settlements classification

Area receives significant humanitarian food assistance
(accounted for in Phase classification)

- > 25% of households meet 25-50% of caloric needs through assistance
- > 25% of households meet > 50% of caloric needs through assistance

DISCLAIMER

Though FEWS NET agrees with the IPC conclusion that millions of people in Afghanistan are in need of urgent humanitarian assistance during the current and projected period, FEWS NET respectfully disagrees with the magnitude and severity of acute food insecurity as concluded upon by the IPC, especially in the projection period.

Key Drivers

Macroeconomic instability

The likelihood of ongoing macroeconomic instability persists, as economic growth is expected to remain stagnant, leading to persistent high poverty levels and unemployment. While inflation is projected to decline further due to a stable supply of both food and non-food commodities, total demand is expected to stay reduced owing to low incomes. Although food prices have slightly decreased, they remain higher than the long-term average. The continued decline in food prices is likely to constrain business activity, thereby impacting the overall performance of the Afghan economy.

Reduced income and unemployment

Households will experience increased financial strain due to reduced income stemming from high unemployment, reduced economic activities, and decreased remittances especially from Iran. Availability of agricultural labour opportunities will be average during the winter wheat planting season and minimal during the winter months. High unemployment rates across formal, informal, and agricultural sectors will lead to an above-average supply of laborers, driving down average incomes and contributing to increased food insecurity in the country.

Displacement

In 2022, a total of 32,424 individuals were displaced from their homes due to conflict, with three out of 34 provinces recorded varying levels of forced displacement. Additionally, the forced displacement of approximately 1.3 million undocumented Afghans residing in Pakistan is anticipated to pose a substantial challenge for those returning to the country. UNHCR estimates that 770,000 people will need support at border points between now and July 2024.

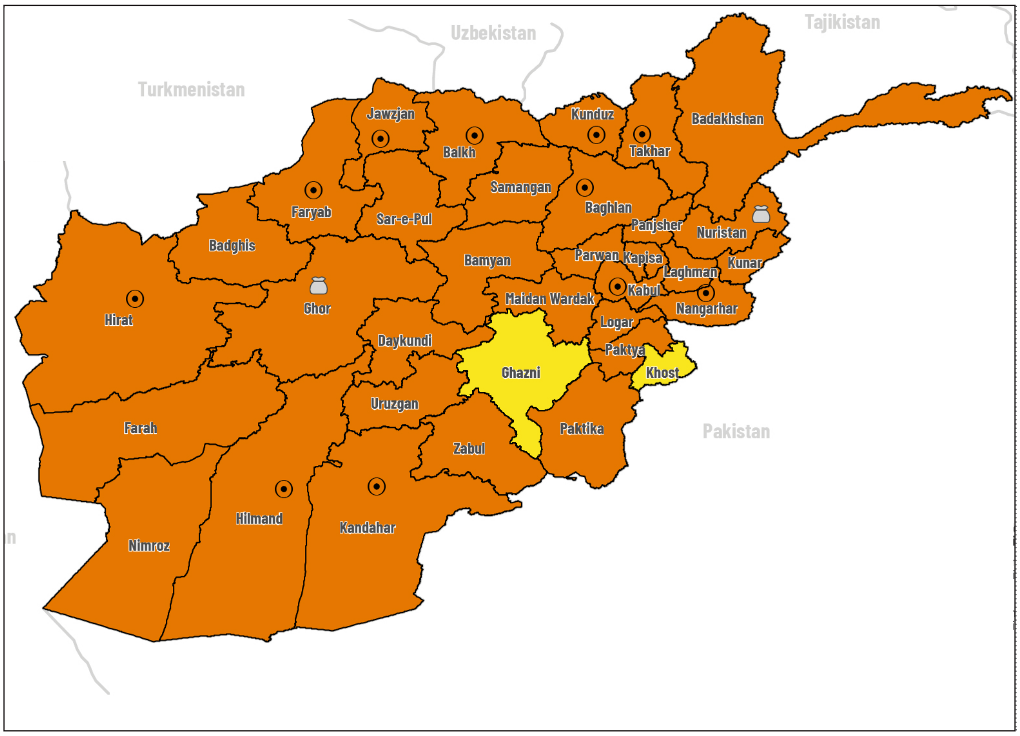
Sustained high commodity prices

Food commodity prices, including wheat flour, have stabilized at levels higher than the long-term average. Small increases in main food commodities are expected, driven by seasonality and likely extending through February. Fertilizer and improved seed prices, while significantly higher compared to June 2021 and to the three years average, are anticipated to rise during the winter wheat cultivation season due to higher demand. High food and energy prices, disruptions in international supply chains, and reduced incomes will impede households' access to food and purchasing power, particularly for marginal farmers, casual labours and petty traders.

Climate and weather variability

Due to the El Niño phenomenon, the precipitation level between October 2023 and May 2024 is forecasted to be above average, including a high probability of snowfall. This will likely have both positive and negative effects. Winter wheat planting is expected to benefit from the favorable 2023/24 seasonal forecast. Pastures are also expected to benefit from the positive weather outlook with improved vegetation conditions after winter. However, the likelihood of above-average precipitation implies an increased risk of flooding from March to May 2024 in flood-prone areas.

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY CURRENT SITUATION MAP AND POPULATION TABLE (OCTOBER 2023)



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Map Symbols

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- IDPs/other settlements classification

Area receives significant humanitarian food assistance
(accounted for in Phase classification)

- > 25% of households meet 25-50% of caloric needs through assistance
- > 25% of households meet > 50% of caloric needs through assistance

Evidence Level
*** High

Population table for the current period: October 2023

Province	Total population analysed*	Phase 1		Phase 2		Phase 3		Phase 4		Phase 5		Area Phase	Phase 3+	
		#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%		#people	%
Badakhshan	1,056,006	264,002	25	369,602	35	316,802	30	105,601	10	0	0	3	422,403	40
Badghis	738,918	147,784	20	221,675	30	295,567	40	73,892	10	0	0	3	369,459	50
Baghlan	1,114,424	278,606	25	501,491	45	278,606	25	55,721	5	0	0	3	334,327	30
Baghlan Urban	164,806	65,922	40	57,682	35	32,961	20	8,240	5	0	0	3	41,201	25
Balkh	1,277,317	319,329	25	574,793	45	383,195	30	0	0	0	0	3	383,195	30
Balkh Urban	1,065,272	319,582	30	426,109	40	319,582	30	0	0	0	0	3	319,582	30
Bamyan	409,703	102,426	25	204,852	50	102,426	25	0	0	0	0	3	102,426	25
Daykundi	434,874	86,975	20	173,950	40	130,462	30	43,487	10	0	0	3	173,949	40
Farah	800,471	240,141	30	280,165	35	240,141	30	40,024	5	0	0	3	280,165	35
Faryab	1,386,310	346,578	25	554,524	40	346,578	25	138,631	10	0	0	3	485,209	35
Faryab Urban	133,519	40,056	30	53,408	40	33,380	25	6,676	5	0	0	3	40,056	30
Ghazni	2,518,656	881,530	35	1,259,328	50	377,798	15	-	0	0	0	2	377,798	15
Ghor	766,306	114,946	15	306,522	40	268,207	35	76,631	10	0	0	3	344,838	45
Hilmand Urban	247,545	61,886	25	99,018	40	74,264	30	12,377	5	0	0	3	86,641	35
Hilmand	2,273,865	454,773	20	1,364,319	60	341,080	15	113,693	5	0	0	3	454,773	20
Hirat	2,538,570	888,500	35	761,571	30	634,643	25	253,857	10	0	0	3	888,500	35
Hirat Urban	1,000,397	450,179	45	350,139	35	150,060	15	50,020	5	0	0	3	200,080	20
Jawzjan	633,276	158,319	25	221,647	35	189,983	30	63,328	10	0	0	3	253,311	40
Jawzjan Urban	230,332	57,583	25	80,616	35	80,616	35	11,517	5	0	0	3	92,133	40

Province	Total population analysed*	Phase 1		Phase 2		Phase 3		Phase 4		Phase 5		Area Phase	Phase 3+	
		#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%		#people	%
Kabul	880,592	264,178	30	352,237	40	264,178	30	0	0	0	0	3	264,178	30
Kabul Urban	6,321,969	2,528,788	40	2,212,689	35	1,264,394	20	316,098	5	0	0	3	1,580,492	25
Kandahar	2,067,723	620,317	30	827,089	40	516,931	25	103,386	5	0	0	3	620,317	30
Kandahar Urban	1,110,457	333,137	30	499,706	45	277,614	25	0	0	0	0	3	277,614	25
Kapisa	514,952	180,233	35	180,233	35	128,738	25	25,748	5	0		3	154,486	30
Khost	1,197,547	479,019	40	538,896	45	119,755	10	59,877	5	0	0	2	179,632	15
Kunar	426,371	106,593	25	149,230	35	149,230	35	21,319	5	0	0	3	170,549	40
Kunduz	1,258,256	377,477	30	440,390	35	314,564	25	125,826	10	0	0	3	440,390	35
Kunduz Urban	300,468	75,117	25	105,164	35	90,140	30	30,047	10	0	0	3	120,187	40
Laghman	423,305	126,992	30	148,157	35	126,992	30	21,165	5	0	0	3	148,157	35
Logar	732,082	219,625	30	366,041	50	109,812	15	36,604	5	0	0	3	146,416	20
Nangarhar	1,543,801	463,140	30	694,710	45	308,760	20	77,190	5	0	0	3	385,950	25
Nangarhar Urban	847,752	211,938	25	254,326	30	296,713	35	84,775	10	0	0	3	381,488	45
Nimroz	359,549	71,910	20	143,820	40	125,842	35	17,977	5	0	0	3	143,819	40
Nuristan	67,722	13,544	20	27,089	40	20,317	30	6,772	10	0	0	3	27,089	40
Paktika	852,934	298,527	35	298,527	35	213,234	25	42,647	5	0	0	3	255,881	30
Paktya	719,915	251,970	35	323,962	45	107,987	15	35,996	5	0	0	3	143,983	20
Panjsher	97,622	34,168	35	39,049	40	19,524	20	4,881	5	0	0	3	24,405	25
Parwan	904,413	316,545	35	361,765	40	180,883	20	45,221	5	0	0	3	226,104	25
Samangan	474,030	142,209	30	165,911	35	118,508	25	47,403	10	0	0	3	165,911	35
Sari pul	880,876	264,263	30	308,307	35	264,263	30	44,044	5	0	0	3	308,307	35
Takhar	1,538,553	461,566	30	461,566	30	461,566	30	153,855	10	0	0	3	615,421	40
Takhar Urban	258,394	77,518	30	77,518	30	90,438	35	12,920	5	0	0	3	103,358	40
Uruzgan	675,532	202,660	30	270,213	40	168,883	25	33,777	5	0	0	3	202,660	30
Wardak	802,490	240,747	30	361,121	45	160,498	20	40,125	5	0	0	3	200,623	25
Zabul	484,728	145,418	30	218,128	45	121,182	25	0	0	0	0	3	121,182	25
Total	**44,532,600**	**13,786,711**	**31**	**17,687,250**	**40**	**10,617,293**	**24**	**2,441,346**	**5**	**0**	**0**		**13,058,639**	**29**

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. Marginal inconsistencies that may arise in the overall percentages of totals and grand totals are attributable to rounding.

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY CURRENT SITUATION OVERVIEW (OCTOBER 2023)

The IPC analysis has been conducted to capture the food insecurity situation in 34 rural and 11 urban areas of analysis. As of October 2023, approximately 13.1 million people (about 29 percent of the total population) are classified in IPC Phase 3 or above. During this period, no provinces are classified in IPC 4 (Emergency). The proportion of Phase 4 population has slightly decreased from the previous summer projection period (May-October 2023). In the current period, over 2.4 million people are classified in Phase 4, as opposed to 2.8 million during the summer. The distribution of Phase 4 population across the country remains high, with 38 of the 45 analysed areas have at least 5 percent of the population in Phase 4, including 13 areas with 10 percent.

Underscoring the marginal improvement in acute food insecurity in the current period were agricultural conditions which, though still insufficient, were more favourable than in the previous two drought years. The labour demand increased due to seasonal agricultural activities. However, while labour opportunities at national level marginally increased albeit at a limited scale, the increase contributed to securing additional income for households across the country. Despite the marginal increases, still 68 percent of households reported a decrease in income compared to last year.

Additionally, the improved climatic conditions have resulted in a more favourable 2023 cereal harvest, and the forecast of above-average precipitation between November 2023 and March 2024 will further contribute to this positive trend. Despite these improvements, and while the wheat harvest is higher than previous years, the production still falls short of the national requirements indicating a necessity for importing wheat or implementing complementary humanitarian food assistance, in a global context of continued macro-economic instability that may result in food consumption gap, underscoring the need for maintaining high levels of humanitarian food and livelihood assistance.

Between 7 and 15 October, three powerful (6.3 magnitude) earthquakes struck Hirat Province in western Afghanistan, resulting in wide-scale destruction across 8 severely affected districts (Ghoryan, Gulran, Guzara, Herat, Injil, Kohsan, Kushk, and Zinda Jan). A total of 275,256 people in 382 villages were directly affected and 10,002 houses were completely destroyed, 20,430 houses were left with severe damage and 17,588 houses had moderate damage as well as families losing food stocks and livestock. Extensive damage was also reported on vital water and sanitation facilities, further compounding the challenges faced by the affected communities.

Despite the reduced humanitarian food assistance (HFA) due to the scale down and reduced rations, the amount and coverage contributed to a significantly exposed population of IPC Phase 4 even over the summer period, which was confirmed in the current analysis. Current period HFA covered 7 percent of the population with a ration size meeting only 50 percent caloric needs for an average household size of seven members. The scale down in World Food Programme (WFP) food assistance in the current period necessitated the dropping of whole districts from assistance. Close to 160 districts were cut from assistance uniformly across the country from September, which drives up food insecurity as many highly vulnerable people residing in districts that were on average better off (and therefore cut from HFA[1]) did not receive any assistance. This has contributed to creating pockets of food insecurity.

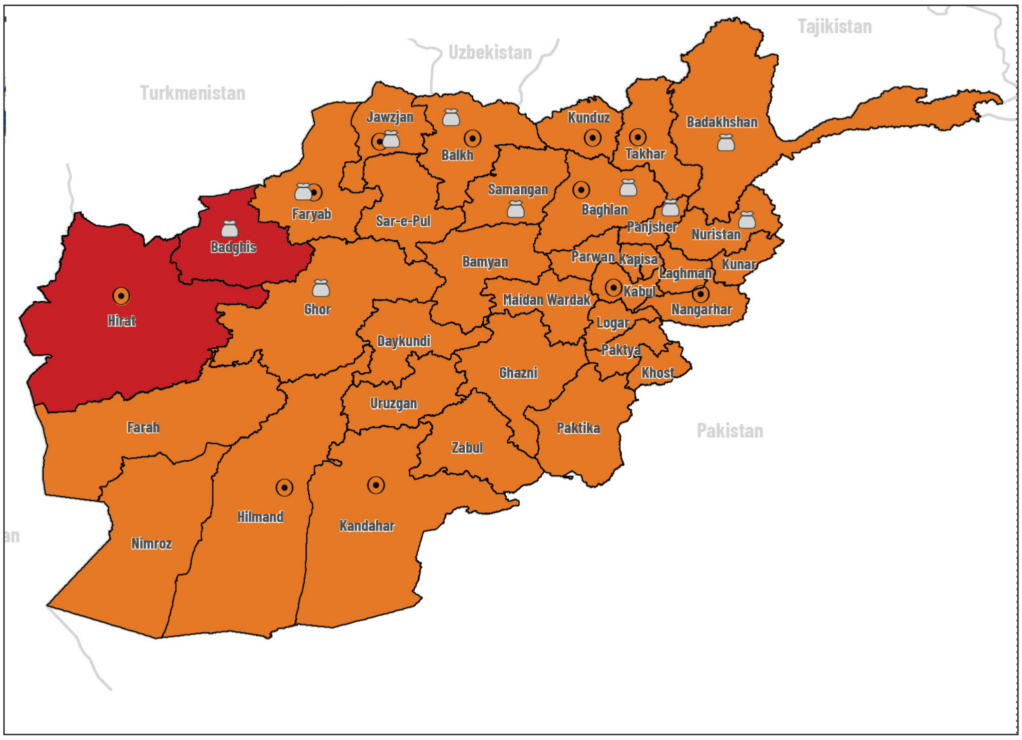
Food security outcomes indicators (SFSA[2] 2023) revealed a population with low average food consumption but also adopting livelihood coping strategies at high levels. 41 percentof the population had poor food consumption per the Food Consumption Score in the SFSA and 26 percent as per the Whole of Afghanistan Assessment (WoAA), and 20 percent of households had high food-based coping strategies (11 percent as per the WoAA[3]). Critically, food-based coping touched the most vulnerable in the country, with 37 percent limiting portions at mealtimes and almost a quarter of all households reducing the number of meals consumed in a day as per the SFSA. The stress on livelihoods continued at high levels even in the post-harvest, pre-winter current period, with both SFSA and WoAA estimated that over 50 percent of the population was employing crisis or emergency livelihood coping strategies.

1 Humanitarian Food Assistance

2 Seasonal Food Security Assessment

3 Whole of Afghanistan Assessment

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY PROJECTION MAP AND POPULATION TABLE (NOVEMBER 2023 - MARCH 2024)



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- Areas not analysed

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Area receives significant humanitarian food assistance
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Evidence Level
*** High

Population table for the projection situation: November 2023 – March 2024

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Badghis	738,918	147,784	20	184,730	25	258,621	35	147,784	20	0	0	4	406,405	55
Baghlan	1,114,424	278,606	25	445,770	40	334,327	30	55,721	5	0	0	3	390,048	35
Baghlan Urban	164,806	49,442	30	65,922	40	41,202	25	8,240	5	0	0	3	49,442	30
Balkh	1,277,317	319,329	25	447,061	35	447,061	35	63,866	5	0	0	3	510,927	40
Balkh Urban	1,065,272	319,582	30	372,845	35	372,845	35	0	0-	0	0	3	372,845	35
Bamyan	409,703	81,941	20	184,366	45	122,911	30	20,485	5	0	0	3	143,396	35
Daykundi	434,874	86,975	20	152,206	35	130,462	30	65,231	15	0	0	3	195,693	45
Farah	800,471	200,118	25	280,165	35	240,141	30	80,047	10	0	0	3	320,188	40
Faryab	1,386,310	346,578	25	554,524	40	346,578	25	138,631	10	0	0	3	485,209	35
Faryab Urban	133,519	33,380	25	60,084	45	33,380	25	6,676	5	0	0	3	40,056	30
Ghazni	2,518,656	755,597	30	1,007,462	40	629,664	25	125,933	5	0	0	3	755,597	30
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Hirat	2,538,570	761,571	30	507,714	20	761,571	30	507,714	20	0	0	4	1,269,285	50
Hirat Urban	1,000,397	350,139	35	300,119	30	250,099	25	100,040	10	0	0	3	350,139	35
Jawzjan	633,276	158,319	25	253,310	40	158,319	25	63,328	10	0	0	3	221,647	35
Jawzjan Urban	230,332	57,583	25	103,649	45	57,583	25	11,517	5	0	0	3	69,100	30

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Kabul Urban	6,321,969	2,212,689	35	2,212,689	35	1,580,492	25	316,098	5	0	0	3	1,896,590	30
Kandahar	2,067,723	516,931	25	723,703	35	620,317	30	206,772	10	0	0	3	827,089	40
Kandahar Urban	1,110,457	277,614	25	444,183	40	333,137	30	55,523	5	0	0	3	388,660	35
Kapisa	514,952	154,486	30	205,981	40	128,738	25	25,748	5	0	0	3	154,486	30
Khost	1,197,547	479,019	40	479,019	40	179,632	15	59,877	5	0	0	3	239,509	20
Kunar	426,371	85,274	20	127,911	30	170,548	40	42,637	10	0	0	3	213,185	50
Kunduz	1,258,256	251,651	20	440,390	35	440,390	35	125,826	10	0	0	3	566,216	45
Kunduz Urban	300,468	60,094	20	105,164	35	90,140	30	45,070	15	0	0	3	135,210	45
Laghman	423,305	126,992	30	126,992	30	148,157	35	21,165	5	0	0	3	169,322	40
Logar	732,082	183,021	25	366,041	50	109,812	15	73,208	10	0	0	3	183,020	25
Nangarhar	1,543,801	463,140	30	463,140	30	463,140	30	154,380	10	0	0	3	617,520	40
Nangarhar Urban	847,752	169,550	20	296,713	35	296,713	35	84,775	10	0	0	3	381,488	45
Nimroz	359,549	71,910	20	143,820	40	107,865	30	35,955	10	0	0	3	143,820	40
Nuristan	67,722	13,544	20	33,861	50	13,544	20	6,772	10	0	0	3	20,316	30
Paktika	852,934	255,880	30	255,880	30	255,880	30	85,293	10	0	0	3	341,173	40
Paktya	719,915	251,970	35	287,966	40	143,983	20	35,996	5	0	0	3	179,979	25
Panjsher	97,622	34,168	35	34,168	35	24,406	25	4,881	5	0	0	3	29,287	30
Parwan	904,413	271,324	30	316,545	35	271,324	30	45,221	5	0	0	3	316,545	35
Samangan	474,030	142,209	30	142,209	30	142,209	30	47,403	10	0	0	3	189,612	40
Sari pul	880,876	264,263	30	264,263	30	308,307	35	44,044	5	0	0	3	352,351	40
Takhar	1,538,553	384,638	25	538,494	35	461,566	30	153,855	10	0	0	3	615,421	40
Takhar Urban	258,394	64,599	25	90,438	35	77,518	30	25,839	10	0	0	3	103,357	40
Uruzgan	675,532	168,883	25	270,213	40	168,883	25	67,553	10	0	0	3	236,436	35
Wardak	802,490	240,747	30	361,121	45	160,498	20	40,125	5	0	0	3	200,623	25
Zabul	484,728	121,182	25	193,891	40	145,418	30	24,236	5	0	0	3	169,654	35
Total	**44,532,600**	**12,319,702**	**28**	**16,389,218**	**37**	**12,253,597**	**28**	**3,570,083**	**8**	**0**	**0**		**15,823,679**	**36**

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. Marginal inconsistencies that may arise in the overall percentages of totals and grand totals are attributable to rounding.

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY PROJECTION OVERVIEW AND KEY ASSUMPTIONS (NOVEMBER 2023 - MARCH 2024)

During the projection analysis period (November 2023 to March 2024), 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 15.8 million (36 percent of the analysed population). This represents a 7 percentage points or 24 percent increase in Phase 3 or above from the current to projection period with two domains classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). Afghanistan's economy was already characterized by high levels of fragility and aid dependence and food security is significantly impacted by the reduced income and employment, climate variability, sustained high food and commodity prices. The worsening food security situation from the current to projection period is mostly related to the seasonally reduced level of employment opportunities due to the weather conditions that reduce the level of income and the purchasing power, affecting the food access of the household negatively. Normally during the winter, the price seasonally increases due to increased transportation costs and the fact that some areas are blocked. Poor road infrastructure, condition of roads and short-term roadblock in many areas of the country further also increase the transportation costs, resulting in high food and non-food items prices. Increased expenditure of fuel for heating during winter – especially in cold winter provinces – exacerbates the already weakened purchasing power of the population.

The continued favourable climatic outlook in the projection period will positively impact the start of the 2024 winter and spring wheat cultivation in many areas. Across wheat producing areas, winter wheat planting is expected at near-average. In southern areas, winter wheat areas planted will most likely be at well above-average levels due to favourable climate conditions and the replacement of poppy areas with wheat, while in the eastern, southeast, central and western parts of the country planting is expected to be average. Due to the improved precipitation forecast and expected support to the wheat sector and the compounded effect of certified seed distribution and previous year seed retention from farmers, the areas cultivated with certified seeds will likely increase with a positive contribution to the total country production.

With the onset of winter in the Hirat province – which was hit by earthquakes in October 2023 – the situation is likely to be critical for both vulnerable rural and urban populations. The children and women are likely to be the most vulnerable to the harsh winter conditions.

In March 2023, the World Food Programme (WFP) was forced to implement a ration cut due to funding constraints, providing a maximum of 50 percent of daily caloric needs per person, across both Phase 4 and Phase 3 areas of the country. This was followed by a reduction in assistance over the spring and summer period, and ultimately to the pausing of assistance to more than 150 districts, to reserve resources for the winter lean season, especially in highly vulnerable areas of the country at risk of being cut-off. While humanitarian food assistance (HFA) from WFP is projected to increase to reach 14 percent of the population (from 7 percent in the current period), if funding materializes, it remains far short of covering Afghanistan's food security needs over the projected period.

Moreover, due to the lack of employment opportunities in Iran and the forced return of Afghans from Pakistan, the remittance inflows from Pakistan and Iran are expected to be below average, and below last year levels. Pakistan has started forcefully deporting undocumented Afghans (an estimated 1.3 million people). This mass deportation is expected to exacerbate the competition for scarce wage work opportunities during the winter and place a higher strain on formal and informal social safety nets. The areas likely to be most affected are the eastern and southern parts of the country. remittances from Gulf countries are expected to be stable or slightly below average while the flow of remittances from westerns countries is expected to remain the same compared to last year, which was higher than average.

Key assumptions for projection period:

Humanitarian Food Assistance (HFA): HFA coverage is expected to increase in the projection period, almost doubling nationally from its rate in the current period (7 percent) to cover 14 percent of the population during the projection. Though this assistance only covers 50 percent of needs for beneficiaries in Phase 3 and Phase 4 areas.

Economic growth: Economic growth is expected to remain stagnant during the outlook period. Although inflation is expected to continue declining due to stable supply of food and non-food commodities, aggregate demand is expected to remain depressed due to low disposable incomes and could continue to keep prices depressed. While the low non-tax revenue base and a widening trade deficit are expected to exert pressure on foreign reserves and could limit the appreciation of the Afghani currency, other factors, including a deficit of Afghani in the market, remittances, and recent DfA policy changes (namely directives to limit the use of foreign currency in transactions in southern provinces), are expected to bolster the Afghani.

Food commodity prices: Food commodity prices, including wheat flour, have leveled off their one-year decline in recent weeks. There is an expectation of a continuing trend of small increases in main food commodities (driven by seasonality and likely through February), though the appreciation of the Afghani and average cereal availability in main import countries will act to temper the price increase.

Weather and climate: The 2023/24 wet season precipitation from October 2023 through March 2024 is most likely to be above 10 years average (2001-2015), with the expectation of an El Niño event. Upper quintile (>80th percentile) precipitation for this period is twice as likely compared to climatology.

Agriculture: Winter wheat planting is expected at near-average levels as households are expected to take out loans and barter to supplement lower-than-normal household seed stocks. In southern areas, winter wheat areas planted will most likely be at well above-average levels due to favorable climate conditions and the replacement of poppy areas with wheat. In other parts such as eastern, southeast, central and western parts of the country, planting is expected to be average.

Due to ongoing political and economic tensions in Iran and Pakistan, a reduction in seasonal labour migration to both neighbouring countries is anticipated. Both income from non-agricultural wage labour and labour demand may decrease due to the general economic slowdown, compounded by high competition due to continued high levels of unemployment, on top of the normal seasonal decrease of work opportunities during winter. The expected high volume of forcible deportations of Afghan migrants from Pakistan and Iran during the winter months in Afghanistan will likely induce an above average supply of labourers to the market, driving average income down among those who access this labour opportunity, thus contributing to increased food insecurity in the country.

Wheat prices are likely to remain elevated compared to long-term averages but lower than the peak prices observed in mid-2022. The price of wheat flour, which has stabilized after a year-long decline, is expected to increase minimally through February due to seasonality. Despite a 4 million metric ton wheat harvest, covering 66 percent of estimated requirements based on NSIA population estimates, Afghanistan will still face a deficit requiring an import of about 3 million metric tons. Rice prices are expected to moderately increase, remaining significantly above average, mainly due to international rice price hikes and low household availability due to below-average production.

Due to higher demand in early winter (November – December 2023), livestock prices are projected to remain near average levels. However, pasture will be scarce during winter, regenerating to average levels in February/ March 2024 in warmer regions and in April/ May 2024 in higher-elevation areas. Livestock body condition will typically be poor during winter due to limited grazing areas and lower fodder availability through February.

FOOD SECURITY SITUATION IN SELECTED URBAN AREAS

Among the 11 major urban areas analysed, in the provinces of Baghlan, Balkh, Faryab, Hilmand, Hirat, Jawzjan, Kabul, Kandahar, Kunduz, Nangarhar and Takhar, all are classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3). Around 3.2 million people, 33 percent of the urban population analysed, are facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above), including nearly 0.5 million people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4), which is about 5 percent of the urban population. This is 9 percentage points below the proportion of the urban population classified as experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) in pre lean season 2023. These estimates consider the Flowminder 2024 population estimate, and the urban boundaries defined by the 2015 State of Afghan cities. The food insecurity key drivers are high food commodity prices, high unemployment rate, forced deportation of Afghans from Iran and Pakistan, climate conditions and economic instability.

During the projection period from November 2023 to March 2024, the number of people in these urban areas in IPC Phase 3 or above is expected to slightly increase, reaching 3.9 million people. This constitutes 35 percent of the analysed urban population, based on the Flowminder 2024 population estimate. The food security situation in these urban areas is likely to slightly deteriorate during the projection analysis period.

Urban population table for the current period (October 2023)

Province	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	164,806	65,922	40	57,682	35	32,961	20	8,240	5	0	0	3	41,201	25
Balkh Urban	1,065,272	319,582	30	426,109	40	319,582	30	0	0	0	0	3	319,582	30
Faryab Urban	133,519	40,056	30	53,408	40	33,380	25	6,676	5	0	0	3	40,056	30
Hilmand Urban	247,545	61,886	25	99,018	40	74,264	30	12,377	5	0	0	3	86,641	35
Hirat Urban	1,000,397	450,179	45	350,139	35	150,060	15	50,020	5	0	0	3	200,080	20
Jawzjan Urban	230,332	57,583	25	80,616	35	80,616	35	11,517	5	0	0	3	92,133	40
Kabul Urban	6,321,969	2,528,788	40	2,212,689	35	1,264,394	20	316,098	5	0	0	3	1,580,492	25
Kandahar Urban	1,110,457	333,137	30	499,706	45	277,614	25	0-	0	0	0	3	277,614	25
Kunduz Urban	300,468	75,117	25	105,164	35	90,140	30	30,047	10	0	0	3	120,187	40
Nangarhar Urban	847,752	211,938	25	254,326	30	296,713	35	84,775	10	0	0	3	381,488	45
Takhar Urban	258,394	77,518	30	77,518	30	90,438	35	12,920	5	0	0	3	103,358	40
Grand Total	**11,680,911**	**4,221,706**	**31**	**4,216,375**	**36**	**2,710,162**	**28**	**532,670**	**5**	**0**	**0**		**3,242,832**	**33**

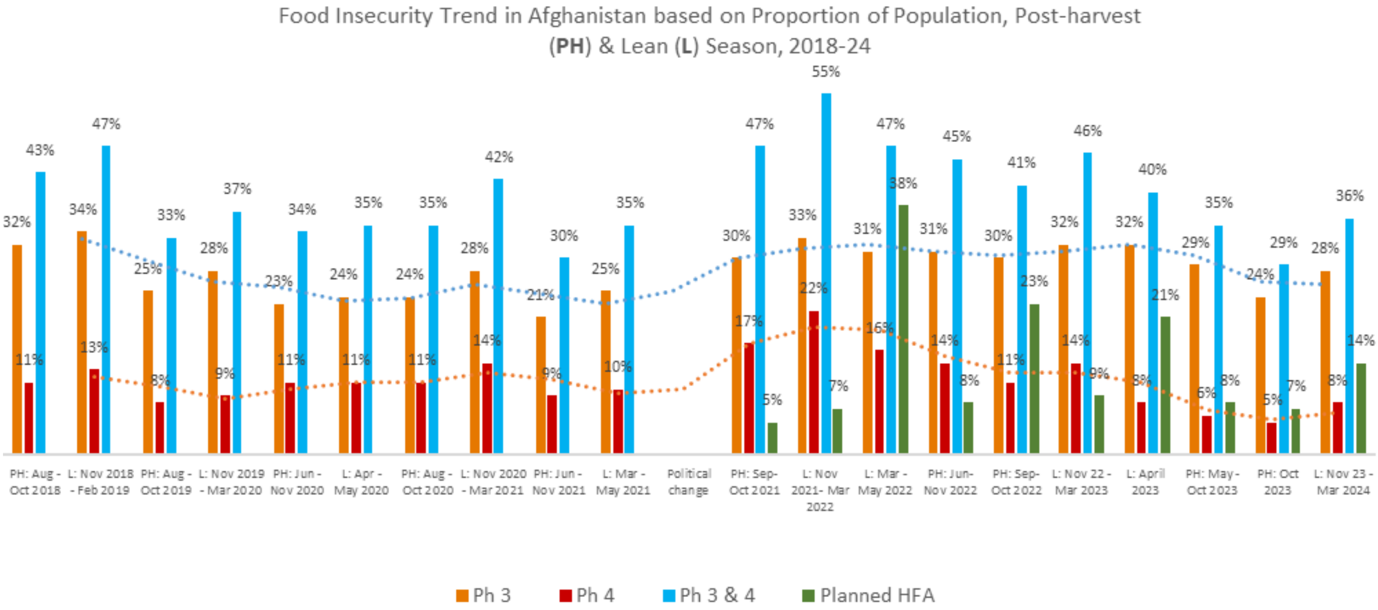
Urban population table for the projected period (November 2023 - March 2024)

Province	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	164,806	49,442	30	65,922	40	41,202	25	8,240	5	0	0	3	49,442	30
Balkh Urban	1,065,272	319,582	30	372,845	35	372,845	35	0	0	0	0	3	372,845	35
Faryab Urban	133,519	33,380	25	60,084	45	33,380	25	6,676	5	0	0	3	40,056	30
Hilmand Urban	247,545	61,886	25	99,018	40	74,264	30	12,377	5	0	0	3	86,641	35
Hirat Urban	1,000,397	350,139	35	300,119	30	250,099	25	100,040	10	0	0	3	350,139	35
Jawzjan Urban	230,332	57,583	25	103,649	45	57,583	25	11,517	5	0	0	3	69,100	30
Kabul Urban	6,321,969	2,212,689	35	2,212,689	35	1,580,492	25	316,098	5	0	0	3	1,896,590	30
Kandahar Urban	1,110,457	277,614	25	444,183	40	333,137	30	55,523	5	0	0	3	388,660	35
Kunduz Urban	300,468	60,094	20	105,164	35	90,140	30	45,070	15	0	0	3	135,210	45
Nangarhar Urban	847,752	169,550	20	296,713	35	296,713	35	84,775	10	0	0	3	381,488	45
Takhar Urban	258,394	64,599	25	90,438	35	77,518	30	25,839	10	0	0	3	103,357	40
Grand Total	**11,680,911**	**3,656,558**	**27**	**4,150,824**	**38**	**3,207,373**	**28**	**666,155**	**7**	**0**	**0**		**3,873,528**	**35**

TREND ANALYSIS

The graph below provides a trend analysis between 2018 to 2023/24 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 needs to be compared. The below graph shows that this year, the proportion of population classified in Phase 3 and 4 during the projection period is 36 percent (28 percent in Crisis and 8 percent in Emergency) which remains higher compared to the long-term trend especially before the occurrence of the political change. It should be noted that 2018 and 2021 were exceptional years that were driven by severe droughts and economic instability.

Acute food insecurity in the October 2023 period is at the lowest level recorded in Afghanistan since 2017. The improvement from previous years is the result of multiple factors: widespread humanitarian food security assistance (HFSA), including emergency livelihood assistance; a projected improvement in the cereal harvest and strengthening of the Afghan currency against the USD. The percentage of people classified in Phase 3 or above decreased from 41 percent in September 2022 to 29 percent in October 2023 (post-harvest season). Similarly, during the lean season (November 2023 - March 2024), the proportion of acute food insecurity is projected to decrease from 46 percent to 36 percent compared to the same period in 2022. The prevalence of people in Phase 4 also decreased from 14 percent to 8 percent in October 2023 compared to the same period in 2022 post-harvest.



DISTRICT (CLUSTER) LEVEL IPC AFI ANALYSIS

The IPC TWG identified six provinces (Nangahar, Bamyan, Badakhshan, Ghor, Balk and Nimroz) for district level IPC AFI analysis however due to data limitations only four provinces with at least with one district of concern (Badakshan, Bamyan, Ghor and Nangarhar) were analysed. Within these provinces, districts which were similar in terms of livelihood zone, food security situation, and were in proximity as well as previously being identified to be more food insecure and recorded during the previous IPC AFI analysis were clustered. The clustered districts were considered as one area of analysis and were analysed separately from the main analysis of the 45 analytical domains. The cluster composition is as follow:

Province	District Cluster
Nangarhar	Muhmand Dara
	Lal Pur
	Dur Baba
Bamyan	Sayghan
	Shibar
	Kahmard
Badakhshan	Zebak
	Wakhan
Ghor	Chahar Sadra
	Du Lina
	Pasaband

In the current period while in the main provincial analysis, Nangahar, is in Phase 3, the cluster of districts were classified in Phase 4. For Ghor, both the cluster of districts and the provincial domains were classified in Phase 3. For Badakhshan and Bamyan, the provinces were classified in Phase 3, however, the clustered districts were classified in Phase 2. During the projection analysis period (November 2023 to March 2024), corresponding to the winter and lean season, Nangarhar cluster was classified in Phase 4 while the remaining 3 clusters were classified in Phase 3.

Current cluster level population table (October 2023)

Province	Cluster	Total population	Phase 1		Phase 2		Phase 3		Phase 4		Phase 5		Area Phase	Phase 3+	
			#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%		#people	%
Badakhshan	Badakhshan District Cluster	25,221	8,827	35	12,611	50	3,783	15	0	0	0	0	2	3,783	15
Bamyan	Bamyan District Cluster	91,652	27,496	30	50,409	55	13,748	15	0	0	0	0	2	13,748	15
Ghor	Ghor District Cluster	184,391	46,098	25	55,317	30	55,317	30	27,659	15	0	0	3	82,976	45
Nangarhar	Nangarhar District Cluster	161,686	40,422	25	40,422	25	48,506	30	32,337	20	0	0	4	80,843	50
	Grand Total	**462,950**	**122,842**	**27**	**4,216,375**	**34**	**121,354**	**26**	**59,996**	**13**	**0**	**0**		**181,350**	**39**

Projection cluster level population table (November 2023 - March 2024)

Province	Cluster	Total population	Phase 1		Phase 2		Phase 3		Phase 4		Phase 5		Area Phase	Phase 3+	
			#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%		#people	%
Badakhshan	Badakhshan District Cluster	25,221	5,044	20	11,349	45	8,827	35	0	0	0	0	3	8,827	35
Bamyan	Bamyan District Cluster	91,652	18,330	20	45,826	50	22,913	25	4,583	5	0	0	3	27,496	30
Ghor	Ghor District Cluster	184,391	36,878	20	64,537	35	55,317	30	27,659	15	0	0	3	82,976	45
Nangarhar	Nangarhar District Cluster	161,686	32,337	20	40,422	25	56,590	35	32,337	20	0	0	4	88,927	55
	Grand Total	**462,950**	**92,590**	**20**	**162,134**	**35**	**143,648**	**31**	**64,578**	**14**	**0**	**0**		**208,226**	**45**

Current period map (October 2023)

IPC Map Key: Acute Food Insecurity

1 - Minimal | 2 - Stressed | 3 - Crisis | 4 - Emergency | 5 - Famine | Famine Likely | Areas with inadequate evidence | Areas not analyzed

Disclaimer: The information shown on this map does not imply that the IPC and CH officially recognizes or endorses physical and political boundaries.
Source: Integrated Food Security Phase Classification

Projected period map (November 2023 - March 2024)

IPC Map Key: Acute Food Insecurity

1 - Minimal | 2 - Stressed | 3 - Crisis | 4 - Emergency | 5 - Famine | Famine Likely | Areas with inadequate evidence | Areas not analyzed

Disclaimer: The information shown on this map does not imply that the IPC and CH officially recognizes or endorses physical and political boundaries.
Source: Integrated Food Security Phase Classification

FOCUS ON THE IMPACT OF HUMANITARIAN FOOD ASSISTANCE

Assessing the levels and the broader mitigating effect of humanitarian food assistance is a key component of an IPC analysis, as IPC is a snapshot analysis and integrates all aggravating and mitigating factors relevant to the current and projected situation. Humanitarian food assistance has played a major role in mitigating the effects of the ongoing crisis in Afghanistan. IPC protocols are not designed – nor should they be used – to assess or evaluate the impact of humanitarian food assistance or to monitor achievements towards programme-level goals. Humanitarian food assistance in IPC includes direct resource transfers in response to acute events that aim to reduce food gaps and protect and save lives and livelihoods. Only transfers that have an immediate positive effect on access to food are considered. Humanitarian food assistance may include different modalities, such as transfers of food, cash, livestock, and other productive tools if they immediately improve households' access to food during the analysis period.

For projections, only humanitarian food assistance planned, funded and likely to be delivered is considered, as per IPC technical manual 3.1 and IPC Guidance Resource 6, "Humanitarian Food Assistance in IPC Acute Food Insecurity Analyses". Planned humanitarian food assistance here refers to the most recent operational plan available prior to conducting the present IPC analysis. Funded humanitarian food assistance includes transfers of funds that have already occurred or funding that is highly likely to be transferred as of the time of the analysis workshop, including that meets the standard IPC definition of committed funding. This analysis considers likelihood when assessing whether humanitarian food assistance is funded for the projection period, rather than only a dichotomous categorization of funded or not funded.

A cut-off date of 1 October 2023 was used for the WFP operational plan and funding forecast, about two weeks before the start of the IPC workshop. Funding was included only if it would become available for use in programming as of 1 November 2023, with funds received after that date unlikely to lead to increased delivery of humanitarian food assistance within the remainder of the projection period. While IPC Guidance Resource 6 also allows consideration of historical trends when analysing humanitarian food assistance, this generally applies to contexts where 3-5 years of humanitarian food assistance delivery during a period comparable to a given analysis is available for reference. The IPC TWG did not identify a suitable comparison period for this form of humanitarian food assistance analysis given the relatively short period of time since August 2021.

Acute Food Insecurity and HFA 2023					
		IPC Analysis April 2023		IPC Analysis October 2023	
		Pre-lean season	Lean season	Post-harvest season	Pre-lean season
		Nov 2022 - Mar 2023	April 2023	Oct 2023	Nov 2023 - Mar 2024
Beneficiary considered for IPC based on confirmed funding/pineline	Number of people assisted	3.6 million	9.1 million	3.3 million	6.3 million
	% of total population covered	9%	21%	7%	14%
Population in IPC Phase 3 or above		17.2M (IPC Phase 3 +)	17.2 M (IPC Phase 3+)	13.1M (IPC Phase 3+)	15.8M (IPC Phase 3 +)
		HFA decreased by 0.4 million beneficiaries compared with post-harvest season last year, however the population who are food insecure are 19.9 million.	HFA decreased by more than 0.5 million beneficiaries compared to last year's post-harvest season.	HFA decreased by 2% which is 0.3 million compared to pre lean season.	HFA decreased by 7% which is 2.8 million beneficiaries compared to pre-lean season.

Within the current IPC analysis period (October 2023), the World Food Programme (WFP) planned to assist roughly 3.3 million people, or about 7 percent of the 2023 Flowminder estimated national population. While there are other providers of humanitarian food assistance in Afghanistan, WFP and its partners account for around 95 percent.

For the projection period of November 2023 to March 2024, estimated coverage of the national population, according to the Flowminder 2024 population estimate, will increase from 7 percent to 14 percent. The ultimate likelihood of delivery and effective household utilization of even planned and funded humanitarian food assistance depends on multiple factors and may be more locally determined.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

Response Priorities

1. **Urgent advocacy and resource mobilization:** High-level advocacy and resource mobilization efforts should be undertaken to address the immediate food security needs of populations in IPC Phase 3 and above. It is crucial to ensure the sustained delivery of humanitarian assistance and active participation of female humanitarian staff in aid delivery.
2. **Humanitarian food assistance:** Continuation of food assistance, including increasing levels to cover all populations classified in Phase 3 and Phase 4 is imperative. This will help prevent them from slipping into higher levels of food insecurity, including Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) for the most vulnerable.
3. **Scale-up of emergency agricultural and livelihood support:** For populations in Phase 3 and Phase 4, scaling up emergency agricultural and livelihood assistance is essential. This support is necessary to safeguard livelihoods, aid spring season crop cultivation, prepare for the next winter wheat season, and ensure the well-being of livestock. Special attention should be given to women farmers to prevent asset depletion and further deterioration of household food production capacity in rural areas.
4. **Gender-sensitive and responsive interventions:** Implement gender-sensitive food assistance initiatives and interventions specifically designed to support female-headed households, women, and children who face challenges in accessing their basic needs. These groups are often socially marginalized and require targeted support.
5. **Crop pests and disease monitoring:** Maintain monitoring and control measures for crop pests and diseases to prevent losses in agricultural production. By leveraging technology, fostering collaboration, and adopting sustainable practices, risks posed by pests and diseases can be mitigated and a stable and secure food supply can be ensured.
6. **Integrated programmes:** Develop and implement joint integrated programmes in collaboration with nutrition, health, and WASH clusters. These programmes should aim to break the cycle of food insecurity, particularly for populations in Phases 3 and 4.
7. **Collaboration between development and humanitarian programmes:** Given the low resilience of the population and their vulnerability to shocks, it is crucial to foster close collaboration between development programmes and humanitarian initiatives. This collaboration will address the root causes of food insecurity and enhance the resilience and livelihoods of the affected population.

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 post monitoring systems and field surveys.

The FSAC team with the support of TWG will collect primary and secondary data from the FSAC partners and FSAC regional focal points including climate outlook (early warning key messages) on monthly basis to monitor and identify analytical domains in which the food security situation is deteriorating to identify triggers that would necessitate a review of IPC AFI current and projection analysis.

The TWG may decide to undertake a review of the analysis and its estimates of the acutely food insecure population, based on new information. If the situation is worsening beyond projections, an analysis update may be undertaken. The areas where elevated levels of acute food insecurity are observed require urgent technical staff missions to better understand the food security situation.

Risk factors to monitor

Key risk factors to monitor will include the performance of the winter rains, the policy environment, macroeconomic indicators including inflation and the exchange rate, trends in food imports, access to livelihood opportunities and assistance.

- **Humanitarian assistance:** Analysis of humanitarian food assistance likelihood, including related to the progress of pre-positioning in highly vulnerable areas before loss of physical access, must be closely monitored.
- **Access to services:** The health sector remains volatile – with the likely disruption of mobile health services. Should disruptions continue, they could restrict people's access to care during the winter lean season, a time of high vulnerability.
- **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.

- Food imports and food markets: Afghanistan's reliance on imported wheat flour is very high and the domestic price of wheat flour is very high and the domestic price of wheat flour is strongly affected by the global wheat market as well as other global commodity prices like oil. Assumptions regarding food imports and domestic food prices could be invalidated by a diverse range of factors.
- Economic growth: Economic growth is expected to remain stagnant during the outlook period. Although inflation is expected to continue declining due to stable supply of food and non-food commodities, aggregate demand is expected to remain depressed due to low disposable incomes and could be contributing to keeping prices depressed. While the low non-tax revenue base and a widening trade deficit are expected to exert pressure on foreign reserves and could limit the appreciation of the Afghani currency, other factors, including a deficit of Afghani in the market, remittances, and recent DfA policy changes (namely directives to limit the use of foreign currency in transactions in southern provinces), are expected to bolster the Afghani.
- Food commodity prices including wheat flour have leveled off their one-year decline in recent weeks. There is an expectation of a continuing trend of small increases in main food commodities (driven by seasonality and likely through February), though the appreciation of the Afghani and average cereal availability in main import countries will act to temper the price increase.
- Despite recent tension on cross-border issues with the neighbouring countries, looking at historical trends and trade flow, Afghanistan's borders are likely to remain open for trade and transit purposes throughout the scenario period, though policy fluctuations remain possible, particularly with Pakistan, Iran, and Kazakhstan through Uzbekistan.
- Weather and climate: The 2023/24 wet season precipitation from October 2023 through March 2024 is most likely to be above 10 years average but will be needed to monitor. Above-average temperatures are also anticipated throughout the country through May 2024.
- Availability of agricultural labour: Agricultural labour opportunities are expected to be minimally available during winter months. Due to the higher unemployment rate, competition over agricultural labour will be at above-average level, which will induce an above-average supply of agricultural laborers to the market, driving average income down among those who access this labour opportunity.
- Forced displacement: Forced displacement of the estimated 1.3 million undocumented Afghans residing in Pakistan is likely to create a significant crisis for returnees into the country.

PROCESS AND METHODOLOGY

The IPC Acute Food Insecurity analysis was conducted for two time periods. The current period was October 2023 and the projection period was November 2023 – March 2024. Data used in the analysis included the FSAC's Seasonal Food Security Assessment (SFSA 2023) conducted from 21– 29 October 2023 and the Whole of Afghanistan Assessment. Other available secondary data sources and forward-looking assumptions regarding Afghanistan's economic outlook, weather and climate, humanitarian food assistance, global and domestic price trends for key commodities, staple food production, household income, pasture conditions, nutrition, livelihoods and other factors were also used.

The analysis covered all 34 provinces divided into 45 analytical domains of which 34 domains were rural and 11 were urban. The IPC AFI analysis workshop started from 21 October 2023 until 29 October 2023 in person. The IPC workshop was led by FSAC with the support of the IPC Technical Working Group and IPC Global Support Unit facilitators. The workshop was attended by 93 participants from 40 different humanitarian organizations, including 4 UN organizations, 17 international and 18 national NGOs. Of the 93 analysts, 18 females (19 percent) and 75 males (81 percent) participated in person in this round of the IPC AFI analysis workshop.

The data used in the analysis was analysed according to the IPC analytical framework including data for first and second-level outcome indicators – food consumption, livelihood change, prevalence of acute malnutrition, and mortality – as well as contributing factors to food insecurity.

Sources

Data sources used for the analysis included: 1) Seasonal Food Security Assessment (SFSA 2023) conducted by Food Security Agriculture Cluster (FSAC). 2) Whole of Afghanistan (REACH). 3) FAO Data In Emergencies (DIEM) - Monitoring of Shocks, Agricultural Livelihoods, Food Security and Value Chains in Afghanistan. 4) Flowminder population estimation from UNFPA. 5) Population estimation from NSIA. 6) Situation of Afghan Women (IOM – UN Women). 7) Climate, precipitation, NDVI, provincial seasonal calendars and food security outlook – FEWSNET. 8) Refugee & IDP data from UNHCR, OCHA, FSAC and IOM. 9) Precipitation, temperature, snow, and estimated risk of natural disasters – iMMAP. 10) Humanitarian Situation Monitoring (HSM) and Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI) from REACH Initiative. 11) Humanitarian Food Assistance (HFA) – FSAC. 12) Data on humanitarian assistance delivered and planned from WFP. 13) Countrywide Market Prices from WFP. 14) Agro-ecological zoning – FAO. 15) Nutrition data from SMART 2022 (Nutrition Cluster). 16) Other localized assessment conducted by INGOs/NGOs FSAC partners. 17) Wheat Balance sheet (MAIL). This analysis did not include information available after the 30 October 2023.

Background on the use of Flowminder and NSIA population estimates

From 2011 to mid-2021, the NSIA conducted a form of rolling census, the Socio-Demographic and Economic Survey (SDES), which included enumeration of 50 percent of households across 12 of the 34 provinces. This process's main challenge was a lack of reliable current disaggregated population data at provincial and district level. For some of the provinces, including Helmand, Zabul, Daikundi, and Paktika, the NSIA estimated population is based on projections using the 1979 census. Afghanistan's official population estimate is likely a significant underestimate and it is recommended that alternate estimates based upon household listing projections be used for programmatic purposes. In 2017, the government requested the United Nations to assist the NSIA in establishing a spatially disaggregated population estimate through a collaborative partnership of government, the UN Population Fund, Flowminder, and World Pop to generate province and district-level population estimates disaggregated by age and sex for the entire country. Survey data (SDES and micro census), remote-sensing inputs and satellite imagery were key inputs for this process. 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

IPC Global Support Unit
www.ipcinfo.org

ipc@fao.org

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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, FEWS NET, Global Food Security Cluster, Global Nutrition Cluster, IFPRI, IGAD, Oxfam, PROGRESAN-SICA, SADC, Save the Children, UNDP, UNICEF, WFP, WHO and World Bank..

IPC Analysis Partners:

ANNEX 1: NSIA POPULATION TABLE FOR THE CURRENT PERIOD: OCTOBER 2023

Province	Total population analysed*	Phase 1		Phase 2		Phase 3		Phase 4		Phase 5		Area Phase	Phase 3+	
		#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%		#people	%
Badakhshan	1,091,760	272,940	25	382,116	35	327,528	30	109,176	10	0	0	3	436,704	50
Badghis	569,150	113,830	20	170,745	30	227,660	40	56,915	10	0	0	3	284,575	50
Baghlan	831,800	207,950	25	374,310	45	207,950	25	41,590	5	0	0	3	249,540	35
Baghlan Urban	221,390	88,556	40	77,487	35	44,278	20	11,070	5	0	0	3	55,348	35
Balkh	956,820	239,205	25	430,569	45	287,046	30	0	0	0	0	3	287,046	40
Balkh Urban	621,690	186,507	30	248,676	40	186,507	30	0	0	0	0	3	186,507	45
Bamyan	513,190	128,298	25	256,595	50	128,298	25	0	0	0	0	3	128,298	40
Daykundi	534,680	106,936	20	213,872	40	160,404	30	53,468	10	0	0	3	213,872	40
Farah	583,420	175,026	30	204,197	35	175,026	30	29,171	5	0	0	3	204,197	35
Faryab	1,003,580	250,895	25	401,432	40	250,895	25	100,358	10	0	0	3	351,253	45
Faryab Urban	146,570	43,971	30	58,628	40	36,643	25	7,329	5	0	0	3	43,971	45
Ghazni	1,411,380	493,983	35	705,690	50	211,707	15	0	0	0	0	2	211,707	25
Ghor	791,480	118,722	15	316,592	40	277,018	35	79,148	10	0	0	3	356,166	55
Hilmand Urban	105,250	26,313	25	42,100	40	31,575	30	5,263	5	0	0	3	36,838	40
Hilmand	1,393,230	278,646	20	835,938	60	208,985	15	69,662	5	0	0	3	278,646	35
Hirat	1,540,930	539,326	35	462,279	30	385,233	25	154,093	10	0	0	3	539,326	45
Hirat Urban	693,730	312,179	45	242,806	35	104,060	15	34,687	5	0	0	3	138,746	35
Jawzjan	485,770	121,443	25	170,020	35	145,731	30	48,577	10	0	0	3	194,308	40
Jawzjan Urban	139,300	34,825	25	48,755	35	48,755	35	6,965	5	0	0	3	55,720	35
Kabul	771,430	231,429	30	308,572	40	231,429	30	0	0	0	0	3	231,429	40
Kabul Urban	4,801,200	1,920,480	40	1,680,420	35	960,240	20	240,060	5	0	0	3	1,200,300	45
Kandahar	907,170	272,151	30	362,868	40	226,793	25	45,359	5	0	0	3	272,151	40
Kandahar Urban	557,720	167,316	30	250,974	45	139,430	25	0	0	0	0	3	139,430	35
Kapisa	505,500	176,925	35	176,925	35	126,375	25	25,275	5	0	0	3	151,650	35
Khost	659,100	263,640	40	296,595	45	65,910	10	32,955	5	0	0	2	98,865	25
Kunar	517,180	129,295	25	181,013	35	181,013	35	25,859	5	0	0	3	206,872	35
Kunduz	862,750	258,825	30	301,963	35	215,688	25	86,275	10	0	0	3	301,963	35
Kunduz Urban	321,280	80,320	25	112,448	35	96,384	30	32,128	10	0	0	3	128,512	30
Laghman	510,930	153,279	30	178,826	35	153,279	30	25,547	5	0	0	3	178,826	45
Logar	449,810	134,943	30	224,905	50	67,472	15	22,491	5	0	0	3	89,962	45
Nangarhar	1,474,500	442,350	30	663,525	45	294,900	20	73,725	5	0	0	3	368,625	45
Nangarhar Urban	295,490	73,873	25	88,647	30	103,422	35	29,549	10	0	0	3	132,971	45
Nimroz	190,430	38,086	20	76,172	40	66,651	35	9,522	5	0	0	3	76,172	50
Nuristan	169,580	33,916	20	67,832	40	50,874	30	16,958	10	0	0	3	67,832	50
Paktika	802,860	281,001	35	281,001	35	200,715	25	40,143	5	0	0	3	240,858	45
Paktya	633,870	221,855	35	285,242	45	95,081	15	31,694	5	0	0	3	126,774	40
Panjsher	175,910	61,569	35	70,364	40	35,182	20	8,796	5	0	0	3	43,978	35
Parwan	764,580	267,603	35	305,832	40	152,916	20	38,229	5	0	0	3	191,145	35
Samangan	446,100	133,830	30	156,135	35	111,525	25	44,610	10	0	0	3	156,135	40
Sari pul	643,530	193,059	30	225,236	35	193,059	30	32,177	5	0	0	3	225,236	45
Takhar	977,730	293,319	30	293,319	30	293,319	30	97,773	10	0	0	3	391,092	35
Takhar Urban	155,840	46,752	30	46,752	30	54,544	35	7,792	5	0	0	3	62,336	40
Uruzgan	451,640	135,492	30	180,656	40	112,910	25	22,582	5	0	0	3	135,492	45
Wardak	683,540	205,062	30	307,593	45	136,708	20	34,177	5	0	0	3	170,885	40
Zabul	398,050	119,415	30	179,123	45	99,513	25	0	0	0	0	3	99,513	45
Grand Total	**32,762,840**	**10,075,332**	**31**	**12,945,741**	**40**	**7,910,625**	**24**	**1,831,142**	**5**	**0**	**0**		**9,741,767**	**29**

ANNEX 2: NSIA POPULATION TABLE FOR THE PROJECTION PERIOD: NOVEMBER 2023 – MARCH 2024

Province	Total population analysed*	Phase 1		Phase 2		Phase 3		Phase 4		Phase 5		Area Phase	Phase 3+	
		#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%		#people	%
Badakhshan	1,091,760	218,352	20	436,704	40	327,528	30	109,176	10	0	0	3	436,704	40
Badghis	569,150	113,830	20	142,288	25	199,203	35	113,830	20	0	0	4	313,033	55
Baghlan	831,800	207,950	25	332,720	40	249,540	30	41,590	5	0	0	3	291,130	35
Baghlan Urban	221,390	66,417	30	88,556	40	55,348	25	11,070	5	0	0	3	66,417	30
Balkh	956,820	239,205	25	334,887	35	334,887	35	47841	5	0	0	3	382,728	40
Balkh Urban	621,690	186,507	30	217,592	35	217,592	35	0	0	0	0	3	217,592	35
Bamyan	513,190	102,638	20	230,936	45	153,957	30	25659.5	5	0	0	3	179,617	35
Daykundi	534,680	106,936	20	187,138	35	160,404	30	80,202	15	0	0	3	240,606	45
Farah	583,420	145,855	25	204,197	35	175,026	30	58,342	10	0	0	3	233,368	40
Faryab	1,003,580	250,895	25	401,432	40	250,895	25	100,358	10	0	0	3	351,253	35
Faryab Urban	146,570	36,643	25	65,957	45	36,643	25	7,329	5	0	0	3	43,971	30
Ghazni	1,411,380	423,414	30	564,552	40	352,845	25	70569	5	0	0	3	423,414	30
Ghor	791,480	79,148	10	316,592	40	237,444	30	118,722	15	0	0	3	356,166	45
Hilmand Urban	105,250	26,313	25	42,100	40	31,575	30	5,263	5	0	0	3	36,838	35
Hilmand	1,393,230	278,646	20	835,938	60	208,985	15	69,662	5	0	0	3	278,646	20
Hirat	1,540,930	462,279	30	308,186	20	462,279	30	308,186	20	0	0	4	770,465	50
Hirat Urban	693,730	242,806	35	208,119	30	173,433	25	69,373	10	0	0	3	242,806	35
Jawzjan	485,770	121,443	25	194,308	40	121,443	25	48,577	10	0	0	3	170,020	35
Jawzjan Urban	139,300	34,825	25	62,685	45	34,825	25	6,965	5	0	0	3	41,790	30
Kabul	771,430	231,429	30	308,572	40	231,429	30	0	0	0	0	3	231,429	30
Kabul Urban	4,801,200	1,680,420	35	1,680,420	35	1,200,300	25	240,060	5	0	0	3	1,440,360	30
Kandahar	907,170	226,793	25	317,510	35	272,151	30	90,717	10	0	0	3	362,868	40
Kandahar Urban	557,720	139,430	25	223,088	40	167,316	30	27886	5	0	0	3	195,202	35
Kapisa	505,500	151,650	30	202,200	40	126,375	25	25,275	5	0	0	3	151,650	30
Khost	659,100	263,640	40	263,640	40	98,865	15	32,955	5	0	0	3	131,820	20
Kunar	517,180	103,436	20	155,154	30	206,872	40	51,718	10	0	0	3	258,590	50
Kunduz	862,750	172,550	20	301,963	35	301,963	35	86,275	10	0	0	3	388,238	45
Kunduz Urban	321,280	64,256	20	112,448	35	96,384	30	48,192	15	0	0	3	144,576	45
Laghman	510,930	153,279	30	153,279	30	178,826	35	25,547	5	0	0	3	204,372	40
Logar	449,810	112,453	25	224,905	50	67,472	15	44,981	10	0	0	3	112,453	25
Nangarhar	1,474,500	442,350	30	442,350	30	442,350	30	147,450	10	0	0	3	589,800	40
Nangarhar Urban	295,490	59,098	20	103,422	35	103,422	35	29,549	10	0	0	3	132,971	45
Nimroz	190,430	38,086	20	76,172	40	57,129	30	19,043	10	0	0	3	76,172	40
Nuristan	169,580	33,916	20	84,790	50	33,916	20	16,958	10	0	0	3	50,874	30
Paktika	802,860	240,858	30	240,858	30	240,858	30	80,286	10	0	0	3	321,144	40
Paktya	633,870	221,855	35	253,548	40	126,774	20	31,694	5	0	0	3	158,468	25
Panjsher	175,910	61,569	35	61,569	35	43,978	25	8,796	5	0	0	3	52,773	30
Parwan	764,580	229,374	30	267,603	35	229,374	30	38,229	5	0	0	3	267,603	35
Samangan	446,100	133,830	30	133,830	30	133,830	30	44,610	10	0	0	3	178,440	40
Sari pul	643,530	193,059	30	193,059	30	225,236	35	32,177	5	0	0	3	257,412	40
Takhar	977,730	244,433	25	342,206	35	293,319	30	97,773	10	0	0	3	391,092	40
Takhar Urban	155,840	38,960	25	54,544	35	46,752	30	15,584	10	0	0	3	62,336	40
Uruzgan	451,640	112,910	25	180,656	40	112,910	25	45,164	10	0	0	3	158,074	35
Wardak	683,540	205,062	30	307,593	45	136,708	20	34,177	5	0	0	3	170,885	25
Zabul	398,050	99,513	25	159,220	40	119,415	30	19902.5	5	0	0	3	139,318	35
Grand Total	**32,762,840**	**8,998,306**	**28**	**12,019,482**	**37**	**9,077,770**	**28**	**2,627,709**	**8**	**0**	**0**		**11,705,479**	**36**