AFGHANISTAN

Despite improvements, climate shocks, fragile economy, high food prices push 12.6 million people into acute food insecurity

IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY ANALYSIS

March – October 2025
Issued 4 June 2025

CURRENT MARCH – APRIL 2025

12.6M
27% 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	1,955,000 People in Emergency
Phase 3	10,635,000 People in Crisis
Phase 2	18,747,000 People Stressed
Phase 1	14,687,000 People in food security

PROJECTED MAY – OCTOBER 2025

9.5M
21% 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	1,595,000 People in Emergency
Phase 3	7,926,000 People in Crisis
Phase 2	20,680,000 People Stressed
Phase 1	15,824,000 People in food security

Overview

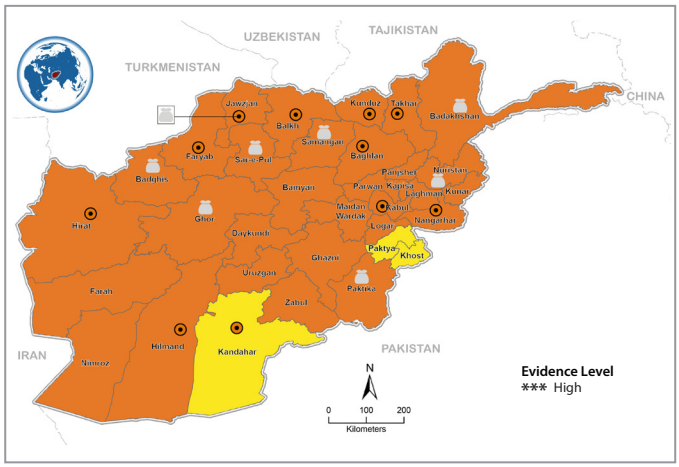
Despite the prospects of a favorable productive season, high levels of acute food insecurity persist in Afghanistan due to the impact of repeated shocks on a fragile socio-economic landscape, marked by deep-rooted economic, social, physical, and environmental vulnerabilities.

In the current period (March to April 2025), an estimated 12.6 million people (27 percent of the total population of 46 million people) faced high levels of acute food insecurity classified in IPC Phase 3 and above (Crisis or worse) and are in urgent need of humanitarian food assistance. Of these, about 1.95 million people (4% of the total population) are classified in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) and around 10.64 million people (23% of the total population) are in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis). Of the 45 analytical domains (34 rural provinces and 11 major urban areas) analysed, 43 are classified in IPC Phase 3, while only three - Kandahar, Khost, and Paktya – are classified in IPC Phase 2 (Stressed).

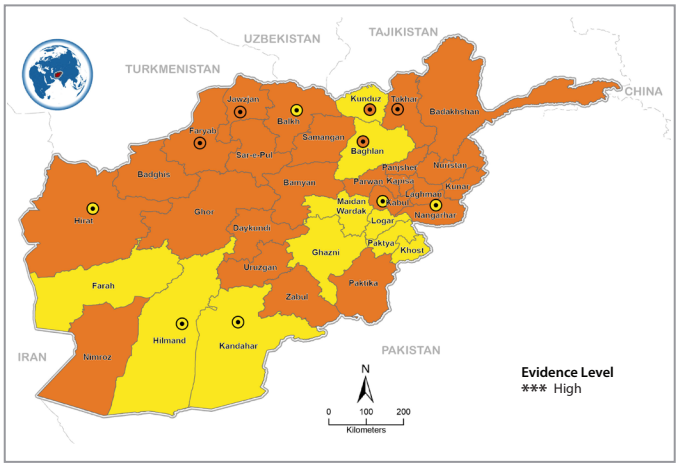
Food insecurity is mainly driven by a fragile economy[1] , a significant cut in humanitarian assistance and environmental disasters, notably flooding and drought. Endemic poverty and the limited job opportunities still leave many people in a highly vulnerable state. The global downward trend in funding for humanitarian food security assistance (HFSA) has impacted Afghanistan especially hard, with an estimated 40 percent cut in funding for the food security sector. This is exacerbated by cuts to all other humanitarian sectors and will have a significant negative impact on the most vulnerable families. Due to funding cuts, in the projection period, only 625,000 people on average, out of the almost 1.6 million expected to experience large food gaps (IPC Phase 4) will receive HFSA. The cuts will severely hinder the planned scale-up of assistance this coming winter—a time when snow will isolate communities and hunger will be at its peak. The impact will be especially devastating for the most vulnerable households and individuals, who rely entirely on

[1] *Afghanistan-Economic-Monitor-January-2025.pdf (World bank 2025)*

Current Situation March – April 2025



Projected Situation May – October 2025



Map Key

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 - Catastrophe/Famine

Map Symbols
Urban settlement 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

assistance as a lifeline. It is pertinent to note that, due to the recent downward trend in food assistance resulting from funding constraints, those who face multiple compounding vulnerabilities, including decades of conflict, natural hazards, and economic meltdown, are solely dependent on food assistance as their last lifeline. The food security situation is worst in Badakhshan with 40 percent of the population classified in IPC Phase 3 and above, followed by Balkh, Bamyan, Daykundi, Ghor, Jawzjan, Nimroz, and Sar-e-Pul all with 35 percent of their populations classified in IPC Phase 3 and above in the current period of analysis.

During the projection period (May to October 2025), which coincides with the harvest season in Afghanistan, an estimated 9.52 million people (21 percent of the population) are classified in IPC Phase 3 or above (Crisis or worse). This includes 1.6 million people (4% of the total population) classified in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) and around 7.93 million (17 percent of the total population) classified in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis).

The year-on-year improvements are mainly due to the compounded benefits of an improved macro-economic situation, reduced conflict and the aggregate humanitarian food assistance and emergency agricultural support provided. Particularly for 2025, despite La Niña conditions that often lead to dryer conditions, precipitation, ground water and soil moisture in February and March were favourable for winter crop growth and spring season cultivation. As a result, wheat production in 2025 is projected to reach the highest levels in the past five years with an estimated 5.36 million metric tons (MT), according to the Food Agriculture Organization (FAO). This is an 11 percent increase compared to 2024 production and 41 percent higher than 2022 levels. Despite the projected significant wheat harvest, a shortfall of 3.3 million MT is expected to persist that will need to be filled by imports, primarily from neighbouring countries like Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan.

Approximately one-third of Afghanistan's population, including 42% of the rural population, has access to agricultural land, leaving many others reliant on non-agricultural income sources and vulnerable to food insecurity due to limited land access, poor household conditions, and the absence of a strong social safety net. Repeated droughts, natural disasters, and the worsening impacts of climate change have further strained livelihoods and food security, especially for those already in need of year-round assistance given the low level of adaptive capacity/resilience among the population. Therefore, while significant progress has been made towards improved food security in recent years, this progress remains fragile. If the most vulnerable families do not continue to receive sustained and large-scale humanitarian support covering food, nutrition and agriculture, the improvements achieved so far could rapidly deteriorate with millions of people sliding back into Emergency (IPC Phase 4) levels of food insecurity. The recent wide-ranging global aid cuts will ostensibly also undermine the gains made.

The most vulnerable populations

The situation remains fragile, with significant levels of food insecurity still present. The analysis concludes that the most vulnerable households continue to face a range of interconnected challenges that increase their risk of food insecurity and poverty, particularly those in IPC Phase 3 and above.

Female-headed households encounter considerable obstacles due to cultural barriers, limited income-generating opportunities, and restricted mobility. These challenges are further compounded by discrimination and lower education levels. Households headed by children, often due to the loss of both parents, experience extreme vulnerability as they lack adult caregivers and have limited resources. Families without formal education struggle to access better job opportunities, which deepens their poverty.

Households with disabled or elderly members are disproportionately affected by inadequate support services, limited access to healthcare, and reduced potential for income generation. Poor living conditions, such as inadequate shelters, further increase their vulnerability. Additionally, internally displaced people (IDPs) and returnees living in informal settlements with poor infrastructure face significant social and economic exclusion. Many households rely on gifts, charity, zakat or food assistance, especially in rural areas where land ownership and income-generating opportunities are scarce. Those dependent on casual labor face low purchasing power and are more sensitive to market fluctuations. Families who do not own land or livestock in rural communities are particularly vulnerable to food insecurity. These households, especially in areas with a high prevalence of populations in IPC Phase 3 and 4, require immediate attention to prevent further deterioration into higher phases.

Key Drivers

Weather and Climate

Uncertain rainfall patterns led to below-average precipitation across the country during the wet season from October 2024 to April 2025. Forecasts indicate continued dryness through May and June. Above-average temperatures are forecasted from May to August 2025, with the warmer conditions leading to accelerated snowmelt posing risks such as flash floods and pests. The early snowmelt will also lead to an early decline in water availability, hence moisture stress for crops and rangelands are expected during the latter part of the projection period.

Agricultural production

Despite below-average precipitation, geospatial and field data confirm that rainfall levels are still sufficient, relatively better-distributed and timely for agricultural production, compared to 2024. February to March rainfall supported the winter wheat growth and spring wheat planting. However, the escalating drought in northern provinces of Balkh, Faryab, Jawzjan, Samangan and Sar-e-Pul and the western provinces of Badghis and Hirat resulted in failed wheat production in rain-fed areas.

Pasture and Livestock

Increased rainfall in February and March 2025 helped bring vegetation (including pasture) closer to average. However, above-average temperatures during April and May 2025 will likely result in high water losses for vegetation due to evaporation, leading to a deterioration of pasture. This may weaken livestock conditions for animals that are already vulnerable due to previous droughts and disease outbreaks. However, livestock support programs including the FAO's vaccination of over 9.1 million livestock against animal diseases such Food and Mouth Disease (FMD), Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR), Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) in 2023-24 across all the 34 provinces of Afghanistan, and additional livestock protection package (animal feed, straw and De-wormer) to 272,000 vulnerable households (about 2 million people) will likely boost livestock health, reducing distress sales, and enhancing productivity, meat/dairy output, and related incomes.

Macroeconomic Fragility, Low Income and Unemployment:

The World Bank's Afghanistan Economic Monitor Bulletin for April 2025 indicates that Afghanistan's GDP is estimated to have grown by 2.5 percent in 2024, marking the second consecutive year of economic expansion and gradual recovery. However, the outlook remains uncertain due to fiscal pressures, a widening trade deficit, and persistent poverty and food insecurity. Families across the country are struggling with high unemployment, restrictions on women's economic participation, weak purchasing power and high debt.[2]

Stable Commodity Prices and Low Purchasing Power:

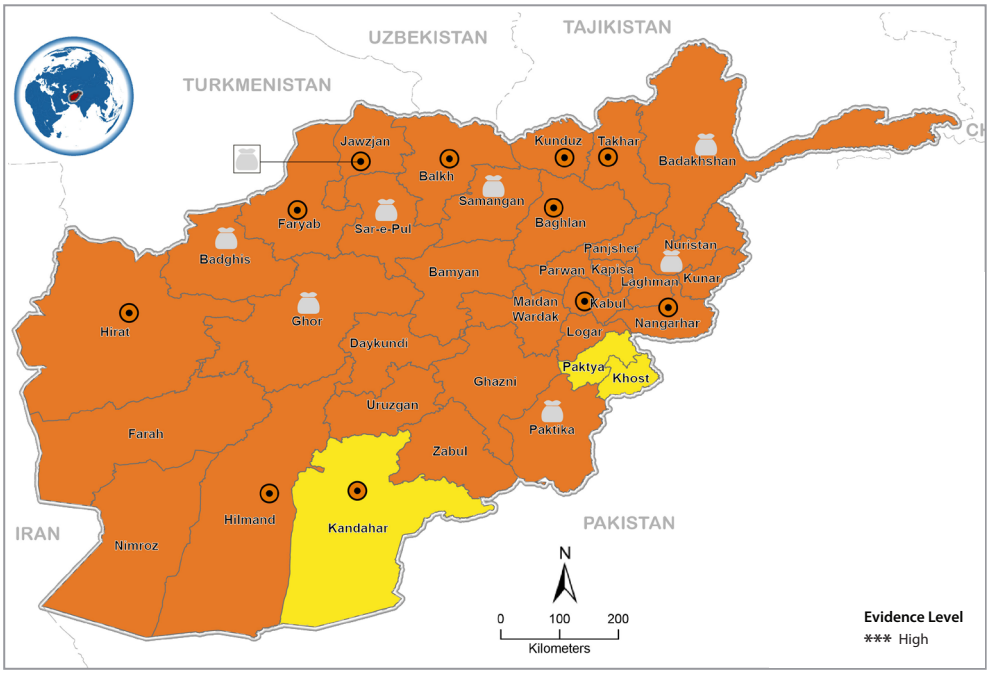
Deflation has eased, and food prices have stabilised close to pre-COVID levels following a year-long decline. Nevertheless, food and energy remain largely unaffordable for some of the most vulnerable families due to their low purchasing power. From April to May 2025, food prices including wheat, rice and cooking oil are expected to increase slightly due to seasonality, a rise in global food prices, cross-border tensions, and increased inflation rates. Food prices are expected to ease again at the start of the harvest period with the availability of local produce in May and October. However, the increase in global fertilizer prices could drive up the cost of agricultural inputs.

Humanitarian Food Security Assistance

Humanitarian food security assistance (HFSA) reached about 6.3 million people (14 percent of the total population) until April 2025, meeting 50 percent of the caloric needs for an average family of seven. The current period coincides with the peak of the lean season when food gaps are the highest, especially for the most vulnerable households. Global funding cuts, including a 40 percent cut to HFSA in Afghanistan, pose a significant risk to the continuity and scale-up of food assistance and emergency agriculture support, especially as underlying vulnerabilities persist.

[2] *High debt rates remain a key challenge as indicated in the September 2024 FSAC's Seasonal Food Security Assessment (SFSA) and FAO's January 2025 Data in Emergencies (DIEM).*

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY CURRENT MAP AND POPULATION TABLE
March - April 2025



Map Key

IPC Acute Food Insecurity Phase Classification

- 1 - Minimal
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Map Symbols

Urban settlement 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

Population table for the current period: March - April 2025

Region	Total population analysed	Phase 1		Phase 2		Phase 3		Phase 4		Phase 5		Area Phase	Phase 3+	
		#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%		#people	%
Badakhshan	1,723,151	430788	25	603103	35	516,945	30	172,315	10	0	0	P3	689,260	40
Badghis	843,192	252,958	30	379,436	45	168,638	20	42,160	5	0	0	P3	210,798	25
Baghlan	1,316,277	460,697	35	526,511	40	263,255	20	65,814	5	0	0	P3	329,069	25
Baghlan Urban	200,670	60,201	30	80,268	40	50,168	25	10,034	5	0	0	P3	60,202	30
Balkh	1,475,899	368,975	25	590,360	40	442,770	30	73,795	5	0	0	P3	516,565	35
Balkh Urban	1,036,996	362,949	35	362,949	35	259,249	25	51,850	5	0	0	P3	311,099	30
Bamyan	533,973	133,493	25	213,589	40	160,192	30	26,699	5	0	0	P3	186,891	35
Daykundi	858,718	214,680	25	343,487	40	257,615	30	42,936	5	0	0	P3	300,551	35
Farah	826,436	247,931	30	371,896	45	165,287	20	41,322	5	0	0	P3	206,609	25
Faryab	1,432,629	429,789	30	573,052	40	358,157	25	71,631	5	0	0	P3	429,788	30
Faryab Urban	153,490	38,373	25	76,745	50	38,373	25	-	0	0	0	P3	38,373	25
Ghazni	1,548,352	619,341	40	619,341	40	309,670	20	-	0	0	0	P3	309,670	20
Ghor	1,095,483	328,645	30	383,419	35	328,645	30	54,774	5	0	0	P3	383,419	35
Hilmand	2,206,564	661,969	30	992,954	45	441,313	20	110,328	5	0	0	P3	551,641	25
Hilmand Urban	272,741	81,822	30	109,096	40	68,185	25	13,637	5	0	0	P3	81,822	30
Hirat	2,197,700	879,080	40	769,195	35	439,540	20	109,885	5	0	0	P3	549,425	25
Hirat Urban	1,297,195	389,159	30	518,878	40	324,299	25	64,860	5	0	0	P3	389,159	30
Jawzjan	667,061	133,412	20	300,177	45	200,118	30	33,353	5	0	0	P3	233,471	35
Jawzjan Urban	170,021	25,503	15	93,512	55	51,006	30	-	0	0	0	P3	51,006	30
Kabul	786,745	196,686	25	393,373	50	157,349	20	39,337	5	0	0	P3	196,686	25
Kabul Urban	5,130,497	1,795,674	35	2,052,199	40	1,282,624	25	-	0	0	0	P3	1,282,624	25
Kandahar	1,232,054	431,219	35	616,027	50	123,205	10	61,603	5	0	0	P2	184,808	15
Kandahar Urban	698,242	209,473	30	279,297	40	174,561	25	34,912	5	0	0	P3	209,473	30
Kapisa	645,836	193,751	30	290,626	45	129,167	20	32,292	5	0	0	P3	161,459	25
Khost	1,357,526	475,134	35	678,763	50	135,753	10	67,876	5	0	0	P2	203,629	15
Kunar	1,252,432	438,351	35	438,351	35	313,108	25	62,622	5	0	0	P3	375,730	30

Note: A population in Phase 3+ does not necessarily reflect the total population needing urgent action. This is because some households may be in Phase 2 or even one but only because of receipt of assistance; therefore, they may need 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
March - April 2025

Region	Total population analysed	Phase 1		Phase 2		Phase 3		Phase 4		Phase 5		Area Phase	Phase 3+	
		#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%		#people	%
Kunduz	1,012,772	303,832	30	405,109	40	253,193	25	50,639	5	0	0	P3	303,832	30
Kunduz Urban	179,917	62,971	35	80,963	45	26,988	15	8,996	5	0	0	P3	35,984	20
Laghman	918,160	275,448	30	367,264	40	229,540	25	45,908	5	0	0	P3	275,448	30
Logar	698,261	209,478	30	314,217	45	174,565	25	-	0	0	0	P3	174,565	25
Maidan Wardak	901,219	315,427	35	360,488	40	180,244	20	45,061	5	0	0	P3	225,305	25
Nangarhar	2,513,508	1,005,403	40	754,052	30	628,377	25	125,675	5	0	0	P3	754,052	30
Nangarhar Urban	894,630	223,658	25	402,584	45	223,658	25	44,732	5	0	0	P3	268,390	30
Nimroz	456,128	68,419	15	228,064	50	136,838	30	22,806	5	0	0	P3	159,644	35
Nuristan	349,249	87,312	25	157,162	45	87,312	25	17,462	5	0	0	P3	104,774	30
Paktika	654,909	229,218	35	261,964	40	130,982	20	32,745	5	0	0	P3	163,727	25
Paktya	1,127,668	394,684	35	563,834	50	112,767	10	56,383	5	0	0	P2	169,150	15
Panjsher	298,834	59,767	20	149,417	50	74,709	25	14,942	5	0	0	P3	89,651	30
Parwan	947,698	284,309	30	426,464	45	236,925	25	-	0	0	0	P3	236,925	25
Samangan	591,930	207,176	35	207,176	35	147,983	25	29,597	5	0	0	P3	177,580	30
Sar-e-Pul	774,039	232,212	30	270,914	35	232,212	30	38,702	5	0	0	P3	270,914	35
Takhar	1,476,999	516,950	35	590,800	40	295,400	20	73,850	5	0	0	P3	369,250	25
Takhar Urban	253,913	76,174	30	114,261	45	50,783	20	12,696	5	0	0	P3	63,479	25
Uruzgan	594,082	148,521	25	267,337	45	148,521	25	29,704	5	0	0	P3	178,225	30
Zabul	420,559	126,168	30	168,224	40	105,140	25	21,028	5	0	0	P3	126,168	30
Grand Total	**46,024,355**	**14,687,180**	**32**	**18,746,898**	**41**	**10,635,329**	**23**	**1,954,961**	**4**	**0**	**0**		**12,590,290**	**27**

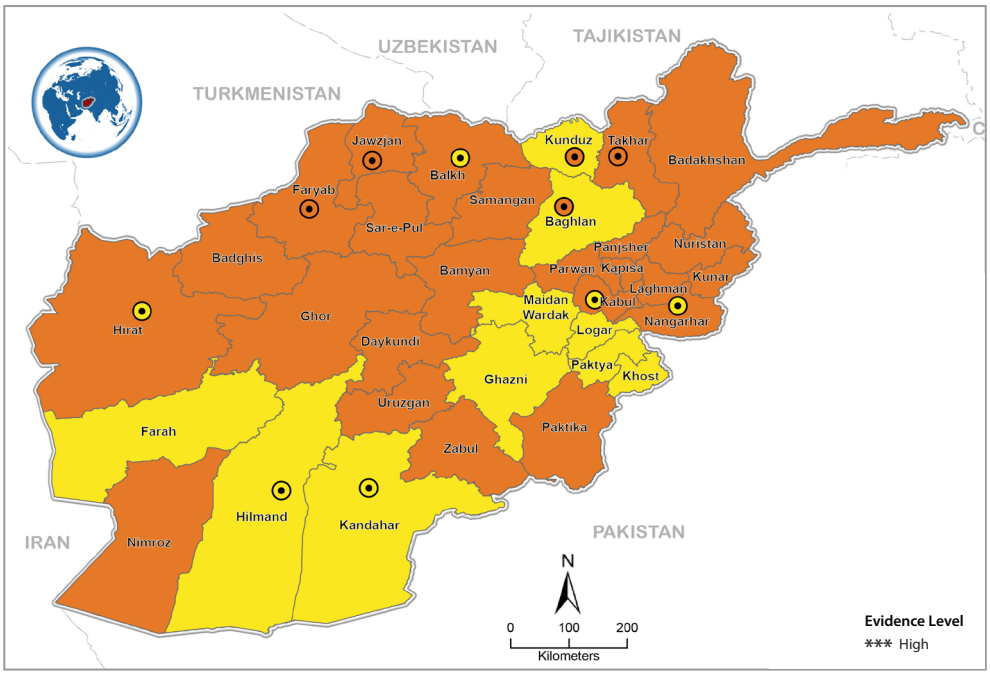
From March to April 2025, an estimated 12.6 million people (27 percent of the total population) faced high levels of acute food insecurity, were classified in IPC Phase 3 or above (Crisis or worse) and in urgent need of humanitarian food assistance. Among them, 1.95 million people (4 percent of the total population) are in IPC Phase 4 and 10.64 million people (23 percent of the total population) are in IPC Phase 3. Compared to the previous post-harvest IPC analysis published in January 2025, when 14.8 million people were projected to be classified in IPC Phase 3 or above between November 2024 to March 2025, the current situation has improved with 2.2 million people fewer in need of assistance.

The improvement is largely due to La Niña-induced dry conditions being less severe than initially anticipated, continued improvement of the macro-economic situation, reduced conflict, and humanitarian food assistance support to the most vulnerable households which reached 14 percent of the population during the current period (which coincides with the peak of the lean season). Above average temperatures also eased winter conditions for people struggling to afford fuel, freeing up more funds for food consumption.

During the current period, out of the total of 45 analytical domains (areas of 34 rural provinces and 11 major urban areas), 42 are classified in IPC Phase 3, and only 3 provinces (Khost, Paktya and Kandahar rural are classified in IPC Phase 2. Notably, no provinces are classified in IPC Phase 4. However, in 39 out of the 45 analysed areas, about 5 percent of the population is classified in IPC Phase 4. Badakhshan has the highest prevalence of people facing IPC Phase 4 conditions at 10 percent.

The 2024/2025 winter season in Afghanistan deviated from typical La Niña patterns, which are generally characterised by below-average precipitation and above-average temperatures. Instead, this winter was characterised by localised higher-than-usual precipitation, particularly in February, leading to significant snow accumulation in certain regions. This increased precipitation, enhanced moisture availability, and contributed positively to surface water and groundwater recharge in various basins. Despite this, the forecast for the spring season (March to May 2025) suggests below-average precipitation due to continuing La Niña patterns, with drier-than-normal conditions expected. However, localised variability could still support essential agricultural activities, such as spring wheat cultivation, especially in northeastern and central regions of the country.

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY PROJECTION MAP AND POPULATION TABLE
May - October 2025



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Urban settlement classification

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Population table for the projection period: May – October 2025

Region	Total population analysed	Phase 1		Phase 2		Phase 3		Phase 4		Phase 5		Area Phase	Phase 3+	
		#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%		#people	%
Badakhshan	1,723,151	516,945	30	516,945	30	516,945	30	172,315	10	0	0	P3	689,260	40
Badghis	843,192	252,958	30	379,436	45	168,638	20	42,160	5	0	0	P3	210,798	25
Baghlan	1,316,277	460,697	35	658,139	50	131,628	10	65,814	5	0	0	P2	197,442	15
Baghlan Urban	200,670	70,235	35	90,302	45	40,134	20	-	0	0	0	P3	40,134	20
Balkh	1,475,899	442,770	30	664,155	45	295,180	20	73,795	5	0	0	P3	368,975	25
Balkh Urban	1,036,996	414,798	40	466,648	45	155,549	15	-	0	0	0	P2	155,549	15
Bamyan	533,973	160,192	30	266,987	50	80,096	15	26,699	5	0	0	P3	106,795	20
Daykundi	858,718	257,615	30	343,487	40	214,680	25	42,936	5	0	0	P3	257,616	30
Farah	826,436	289,253	35	413,218	50	82,644	10	41,322	5	0	0	P2	123,966	15
Faryab	1,432,629	429,789	30	501,420	35	429,789	30	71,631	5	0	0	P3	501,420	35
Faryab Urban	153,490	53,722	35	69,071	45	23,024	15	7,675	5	0	0	P3	30,699	20
Ghazni	1,548,352	619,341	40	696,758	45	232,253	15	-	0	0	0	P2	232,253	15
Ghor	1,095,483	328,645	30	383,419	35	328,645	30	54,774	5	0	0	P3	383,419	35
Hilmand	2,206,564	772,297	35	1,103,282	50	220,656	10	110,328	5	0	0	P2	330,984	15
Hilmand Urban	272,741	95,459	35	136,371	50	40,911	15	-	0	0	0	P2	40,911	15
Hirat	2,197,700	879,080	40	879,080	40	329,655	15	109,885	5	0	0	P3	439,540	20
Hirat Urban	1,297,195	518,878	40	583,738	45	194,579	15	-	0	0	0	P2	194,579	15
Jawzjan	667,061	133,412	20	366,884	55	133,412	20	33,353	5	0	0	P3	166,765	25
Jawzjan Urban	170,021	42,505	25	93,512	55	25,503	15	8,501	5	0	0	P3	34,004	20
Kabul	786,745	236,024	30	393,373	50	118,012	15	39,337	5	0	0	P3	157,349	20
Kabul Urban	5,130,497	1,539,149	30	2,821,773	55	769,575	15	-	0	0	0	P2	769,575	15
Kandahar	1,232,054	492,822	40	554,424	45	184,808	15	-	0	0	0	P2	184,808	15
Kandahar Urban	698,242	279,297	40	314,209	45	104,736	15	-	0	0	0	P2	104,736	15
Kapisa	645,836	226,043	35	258,334	40	129,167	20	32,292	5	0	0	P3	161,459	25
Khost	1,357,526	475,134	35	678,763	50	135,753	10	67,876	5	0	0	P2	203,629	15
Kunar	1,252,432	500,973	40	438,351	35	250,486	20	62,622	5	0	0	P3	313,108	25
Kunduz	1,012,772	303,832	30	557,025	55	151,916	15	-	0	0	0	P2	151,916	15

Note: A population in Phase 3+ does not necessarily reflect the total population needing urgent action. This is because some households may be in Phase 2 or even one but only because of receipt of assistance; therefore, they may need 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
May - October 2025

Region	Total population analysed	Phase 1		Phase 2		Phase 3		Phase 4		Phase 5		Area Phase	Phase 3+	
		#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%		#people	%
Kunduz Urban	179,917	71,967	40	71,967	40	26,988	15	8,996	5	0	0	P3	35,984	20
Laghman	918,160	275,448	30	413,172	45	183,632	20	45,908	5	0	0	P3	229,540	25
Logar	698,261	244,391	35	349,131	50	104,739	15	-	0	0	0	P2	104,739	15
Maidan Wardak	901,219	315,427	35	450,610	50	90,122	10	45,061	5	0	0	P2	135,183	15
Nangarhar	2,513,508	1,256,754	50	754,052	30	377,026	15	125,675	5	0	0	P3	502,701	20
Nangarhar Urban	894,630	313,121	35	447,315	50	134,195	15	-	0	0	0	P2	134,195	15
Nimroz	456,128	91,226	20	273,677	60	68,419	15	22,806	5	0	0	P3	91,225	20
Nuristan	349,249	87,312	25	157,162	45	87,312	25	17,462	5	0	0	P3	104,774	30
Paktika	654,909	229,218	35	294,709	45	98,236	15	32,745	5	0	0	P3	130,981	20
Paktya	1,127,668	451,067	40	507,451	45	169,150	15	-	0	0	0	P2	169,150	15
Panjsher	298,834	74,709	25	149,417	50	59,767	20	14,942	5	0	0	P3	74,709	25
Parwan	947,698	331,694	35	426,464	45	142,155	15	47,385	5	0	0	P3	189,540	20
Samangan	591,930	177,579	30	207,176	35	147,983	25	59,193	10	0	0	P3	207,176	35
Sar-e-Pul	774,039	193,510	25	270,914	35	232,212	30	77,404	10	0	0	P3	309,616	40
Takhar	1,476,999	516,950	35	664,650	45	295,400	20	-	0	0	0	P3	295,400	20
Takhar Urban	253,913	76,174	30	126,957	50	38,087	15	12,696	5	0	0	P3	50,783	20
Uruzgan	594,082	178,225	30	297,041	50	118,816	20	-	0	0	0	P3	118,816	20
Zabul	420,559	147,196	35	189,252	45	63,084	15	21,028	5	0	0	P3	84,112	20
Grand Total	**46,024,355**	**15,823,833**	**34**	**20,680,221**	**45**	**7,925,697**	**17**	**1,594,616**	**4**	**0**	**0**		**9,520,313**	**21**

During the projection period (May to October 2025), which coincides with the harvest and post-harvest season in Afghanistan, the food security situation is expected to significantly improve compared to the current period. An estimated 9.52 million people (21 percent of the population) are classified in IPC Phase 3 or above (Crisis or worse). This includes 1.6 million people (4% of the total population) in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) and around 7.93 million (17 percent of the total population) IPC Phase 3 (Crisis). The food security situation in the projection period remains worst in Badakhshan and Sar-e-pul with 40 percent of the population classified in IPC Phase 3 and above, followed by Faryab, Ghor, Samangan with 35 percent of both populations classified in IPC Phase 3 and above.

Approximately three quarters of the people classified in IPC Phase 3 and above live in rural areas. Some 88 percent of the overall Afghan population relies on agriculture, with 46 percent of households relying mainly on crop production, 34 percent on both crop and livestock production, and 18 percent on livestock, according to FAO's Data in Emergencies. Comparing the current phase (March to April 2025) with the projection phase (May to October 2025), improvements in seven of the country's 34 provinces are expected, with Farah, Hilmand, Kandahar, Kunduz, Logar, Maidan Wardak, and Paktya moving from IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) to IPC Phase 2 (Stressed). A total of 27 provinces are expected to maintain the same phase classification.

The significant expected improvement in the food security situation from May to October 2025 is due to key factors including the compounded positive effect of humanitarian assistance, including both food assistance and agricultural support to the most vulnerable families. Over the last four years an unprecedented level of agricultural assistance was provided to a cumulative 35 million Afghans.

The FSAC partners' March 2025 field observations suggest that about 90 percent of respondents expect a normal or good harvest. This is due to an unprecedented large-scale wheat support program from 2021 to 2024 that provided people with high quality drought- and pest-resistant seeds which can be planted in the subsequent three to four wheat cultivation seasons. Other factors expected to contribute to a significant harvest in 2025 include replenished ground water and repaired irrigation systems through cash-for-work programs. An estimated 67 percent of total irrigated land under wheat cultivation in the 2024/2025 season is cultivated by smallholder farmers who are themselves food insecure, and received assistance from FSAC partners. However, the heavy reliance on groundwater raises concerns about long-term sustainability.

Overall, irrigated wheat is expected to perform well due to sufficient water availability. However, rainfed wheat production, which accounts for an estimated 13 percent of the overall expected 2025 compounded national wheat production, remains vulnerable to below-average precipitation and soil moisture deficits. Forecasted high temperatures and heavy rains pose risks of pest outbreaks and potential flooding. While below-average precipitation is forecasted, localised variability remains possible, which will be critical for supporting spring wheat development and other agricultural activities.

As per the 2025 production estimates from FAO, some of the provinces projected to experience significant harvests include Baghlan, Farah, Helmand, Kandahar, Kunduz and Takhar. However, other provinces such as Jawzjan, Faryab, Kunar, Laghman and Nangahar may receive below-average harvests mainly due to insufficient rainfall. Despite the expected significant harvest, a wheat deficit of 3.3 million MT will remain and need to be covered through imports.

In the fertilizer sector, global price increases are anticipated in 2025 due to export restrictions and supply constraints from major producing countries. Although domestic fertilizer prices currently follow normal trends, the global price trajectory opens the possibility for higher prices in Afghanistan. This situation underscores the vulnerabilities of Afghanistan's reliance on cross-border trade and imported commodities.

Temperatures across most of Afghanistan are expected to remain above average until at least September 2025, when extreme heat events are expected to increase by between 40 to 70 percent. High temperatures, combined with below-average precipitation, will limit snow accumulation in mid- and high-elevation areas, accelerating snowmelt and further reducing water availability for irrigation and crops. Consequently, the snowpack and the snow water equivalent (SWE) are expected to remain below-average, affecting agricultural and pasture water supplies during the projection period.

During the winter period, heavy snowfall in the northeastern and central highlands may cause temporary disruptions to road transport and the movement of goods. As temperatures rise and snowmelt occurs in the spring, major roads are likely to reopen, restoring normal transportation. However, flash floods remain a low to moderate

Key Assumptions for the Projection Period (May - October 2025)

Weather and Climate: La Niña conditions are expected to persist through March/May. Above-average mean temperatures are most likely through May 2025. Beyond June 2025, this period coincides with Afghanistan's dry season. Therefore, no significant additional rainfall is expected; water availability will depend largely on earlier snowmelt and local weather. Overall, above-average daily mean temperatures are most likely, through at least September 2025.

Agriculture Production: In summer, an estimated 5.36 million MT of wheat harvest is expected in Afghanistan. Of this, about 1.15 million MT is incremental or surplus wheat production largely due to the FSAC emergency agriculture partners led by FAO. This expected 5.36 million MT of wheat production is an 11 percent and 41 percent year-on-year increase compared to 2024 and 2022 production respectively. Despite this promising prospect, an expected gap of 3.3 million MT of wheat is expected, which will need to be covered by imports.

Food commodity prices: During April and May food prices including wheat, rice and cooking oil are expected to increase slightly due to seasonality, a rise in global food prices, cross-border tensions, exchange rate uncertainty and a slight rise in inflation rates. Similarly, the increase in global fertilizer prices poses a potential risk to increased agricultural input costs. However, a decrease in prices is expected due to increased cereal availability, primarily driven by the start of the harvest season, which will significantly boost the supply of local produce in June and July. Additionally, an expected appreciation of the local currency, Afghani, will relatively ease the importation of additional cereal from neighboring countries to cover any gaps.

Agricultural Labor Opportunities: Job availability is expected to remain below average to average. However, high unemployment and an increased labor supply—driven by the anticipated return of between 600,000 and 1.6 million Afghans from Pakistan, along with an additional 1.1 million expected returnees from Iran—are likely to decrease wages, particularly in areas with a higher concentration of working-age individuals.

Livestock and Pasture: During the projected period, due to the expected below-average precipitation and above average temperatures, pasture and water availability are expected to remain limited while disease risks remain high, thereby weakening livestock conditions. It is important to note that livestock are still vulnerable due to previous droughts and disease outbreaks.

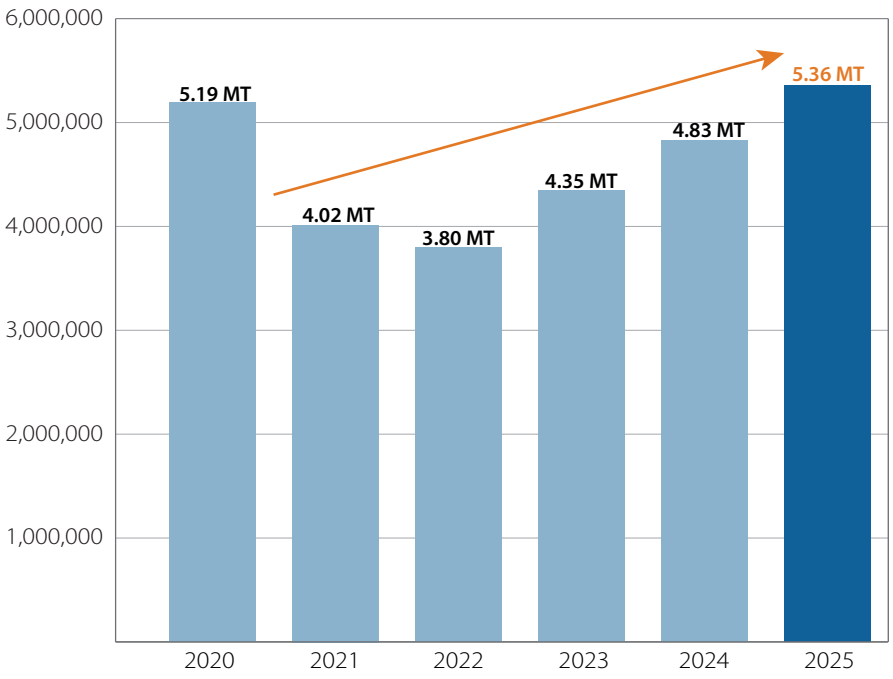
Humanitarian Food Security Assistance: Significant reductions in humanitarian food security assistance (HFSA) from 14 percent of the population during the current period down to 1 percent are expected during the projection (May to October 2025). During this period, the response will focus on the most vulnerable and food insecure families through WFP-led famine prevention activities. A seasonal reduction of food assistance during the summer is common, as food security improves due to increased work opportunities and the harvest. However, the ongoing global funding cuts which significantly affect Afghanistan pose significant risk for continued assistance in the next lean-season and winter, especially as underlying vulnerabilities persist.

Displacement: Pakistan has recently intensified deportation efforts, aiming to expel between 600,000 and 1.6 million Afghans, with the peak in numbers expected around June and July 2025. Another 1.1 million Afghans are also expected to be forced to return from Iran this year. A contingency plan has been developed but remains underfunded. At the border point and in country, WFP and NGO partners will provide emergency food assistance and cash support to the respective returnees on arrival, while the FSAC partners will provide emergency agriculture support as required where returnees can access land and able to engage in productive activities.

risk due to rapid snowmelt or localised intense rainfall, as seen in February 2025 when flash floods affected Farah, Hilmand and Kandahar. Ongoing monitoring and preparedness are essential to mitigate the risk of localised flooding.

The higher temperatures (warmer) of the past winter season have also mitigated the risk of frost damage to orchard crops, particularly stone fruits like almonds, by preventing premature blooming caused by unusually high early-season temperatures. On the other hand, while early-season flash floods have been minimal, localised moisture stress is expected to impact rainfed crops and rangelands, particularly in downstream areas. During the projection period, these dry conditions will likely exacerbate existing water shortages for agriculture and grazing, while warmer and drier conditions may foster pest outbreaks, such as locust and wheat rusts, which could threaten cereal production and rangeland. Vegetable production in eastern, southern, and central Afghanistan is expected to be near average, with harvests anticipated in April and May 2025.

Figure 1: Trend in compounded expected Afghanistan wheat production (MT). Source: FAO Afghanistan, 2025



Agricultural labour opportunities during the spring wheat planting season are expected to remain average. However, high unemployment rates and increased competition for work due to the forced return of Afghans from Pakistan and Iran.

Additionally, the enforcement of the opium production ban will reduce seasonal employment opportunities in the southern and western regions. On the other hand, average summer crop and horticulture production prospects, along with expanded wheat cultivation in some areas, may generate localised labour demand and partially absorb the workforce surplus. Overall, competition for agricultural jobs is expected to remain high, with wage levels likely to be lower than average in many areas.

During the projection period, due to the anticipated below-average precipitation and above average temperatures, pasture and water availability are expected to remain limited, including ground water for agriculture, while disease risks for livestock remain high.

Humanitarian food security assistance during the current period remains comparable to the same period last year, reaching 6.3 million individuals. However, assistance is expected to significantly decrease during the projection period (May to October 2025) due to both seasonality and funding cuts of 40 percent. Due to these cuts, the average number of people targeted for assistance during the projection period from May to October 2025 has been reduced—from a planned 883,036 people to just 624,602, or only 1 percent of the total population. This marks a significant decline in coverage compared to the current period, where support reached approximately 14% of the population. The most significant impact of the funding cuts will be experienced during the lean season scale-up in the last quarter of the year, given the 40 percent national funding cut to food security assistance in Afghanistan. Furthermore, a response targeting hotspot areas of Afghanistan (high-risk sub-districts with the most vulnerable and food-insecure households) was originally planned to target 2 million people in September 2025 alone. However, due to the funding cuts, this will be limited to a maximum of 1.5 million people. Assistance provided in these hotspot areas is crucial in preventing further deterioration among the most vulnerable populations and in mitigating their slide into more severe phases of food insecurity.

FOOD SECURITY SITUATION IN SELECTED URBAN AREAS

Key drivers for food insecurity in urban areas include decreased purchasing power, low incomes[3], and high unemployment rates. Other challenges include depleted household assets to cope with the fallout of years of protracted conflict, multiple environmental disasters and the influx of Afghans forced to return from Pakistan and Iran. The ongoing global funding cuts will also continue to negatively impact the most vulnerable population groups, particularly those who are heavily dependent on humanitarian food assistance in urban areas.

About 22 percent of the Afghan population (10.29 million people) live in 11 major provincial capitals, namely the capital Kabul and Hirat, Jalalabad (Nangarhar), Kandahar, Kunduz, Lashkargah (Hilmand), Maymana (Faryab), Mazar-e-Sharif (Balkh), Pul-e-Khumri (Baghlan), Shiberghan (Jawzjan) and Taloqan Takhar.

During the current period from March to April 2025, all urban areas were classified IPC Phase 3, while during the projection period, five urban areas (Baghlan Urban, Faryab Urban, Jawzjan Urban, Kunduz Urban and Takhar Urban) were classified in IPC Phase 3 and six of the 11 major urban areas were classified in IPC Phase 2.

Among the urban population, 2.79 million people (27 percent of the total urban population) are food insecure and classified in IPC Phase 3 and above during the current period from March to April 2025. Among them, 242,000 people (2 percent of the total urban population) are classified in IPC Phase 4. During the current period, the highest levels of populations in acute food insecurity were identified in the urban areas of Balkh, Baghlan, Hilmand, Hirat, Jawzjan, Kandahar and Nangarhar, while the lowest levels were reported in the urban areas of Faryab, Kabul, Kunduz and Takhar.

However, during the projection period from May to October 2025, the number of people facing high levels of acute food insecurity is 1.59 million (17 percent of the total urban population). During the projection period, an improvement of 10 to 15 percent is anticipated for most urban settlements; except for Faryab and Takhar where only a slight improvement of 5 percent is expected. These improvements are largely attributed to the expected significant harvests which will increase food availability, lower food prices and increase agricultural labour opportunities for urban residents[4]. Given that the Afghans forced to return from Pakistan and Iran usually settle first in urban areas upon their return, the anticipated influx of returnees from Pakistan and Iran will likely increase labour supply, leading to increased competition between locals and returnees, and lowering labour wages in the urban areas.

Overall, comparing the rural and urban populations analysed, both indicate a 27 percent prevalence of food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) in the current period. However, during the projection period, rural areas indicate 21 percent of the population classified in IPC Phase 3 or above including 4 percent in IPC Phase 4, whereas for urban populations 17 percent of the population is in IPC Phase 3 or above, with 2 percent in IPC Phase 4.

[3] About 49 percent of the urban population reported a significant reduction in income, while 30 percent mentioned a slight reduction compared to the previous year's assessment. Key factors contributing to income reduction include job loss, decreased economic activity, natural disaster, family members' illness or death, and bans on women's employment.

[4] The SFSA 2024 findings reveal that 19 percent of the urban population relies on agriculture wage labor as their primary source of income, while the majority depend on service wage labor (16.9 percent), wheelbarrow (8.5 percent), construction labor (10.6 percent), and skilled labor (3.4 percent).

URBAN AREA COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY ANALYSES

During the 2025 pre-harvest projection period analysis, the food security situation in the same 11 urban areas analysed improved significantly, both in terms prevalence (population in IPC 3+) and severity (population IPC 4+) compared to the same period in 2024.

The proportion of IPC 3+ population during the projection phase in 2025 has reduced by 9 percent compared to the same period in 2024, moving from 26 percent down to 17 percent.

In terms of severity for the 11 urban areas analysed, the population categorized in IPC Phase 4 during the projection period of 2025, is 2 percent compared to 5 percent during the same period in 2024, indicating a 3 percent improvement in severity. In the 2025 projection period, only 4 urban areas had populations categorized in IPC Phase 4, another clear improvement compared to 10 urban areas one year earlier.

Urban population table for the current period: March - April 2025

Region	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	200,670	60,201	30	80,268	40	50,168	25	10,034	5	0	0	P3	60,202	30
Balkh Urban	1,036,996	362,949	35	362,949	35	259,249	25	51,850	5	0	0	P3	311,099	30
Faryab Urban	153,490	38,373	25	76,745	50	38,373	25	-	0	0	0	P3	38,373	25
Hilmand Urban	272,741	81,822	30	109,096	40	68,185	25	13,637	5	0	0	P3	81,822	30
Hirat Urban	1,297,195	389,159	30	518,878	40	324,299	25	64,860	5	0	0	P3	389,159	30
Jawzjan Urban	170,021	25,503	15	93,512	55	51,006	30	-	0	0	0	P3	51,006	30
Kabul Urban	5,130,497	1,795,674	35	2,052,199	40	1,282,624	25	-	0	0	0	P3	1,282,624	25
Kandahar Urban	698,242	209,473	30	279,297	40	174,561	25	34,912	5	0	0	P3	209,473	30
Kunduz Urban	179,917	62,971	35	80,963	45	26,988	15	8,996	5	0	0	P3	35,984	20
Nangarhar Urban	894,630	223,658	25	402,584	45	223,658	25	44,732	5	0	0	P3	268,390	30
Takhar Urban	253,913	76,174	30	114,261	45	50,783	20	12,696	5	0	0	P3	63,479	25
Grand Total	**10,288,312**	**3,325,957**	**29**	**4,170,752**	**43%**	**2,549,894**	**24**	**241,717**	**3%**	**0**	**0**		**2,791,611**	**27**

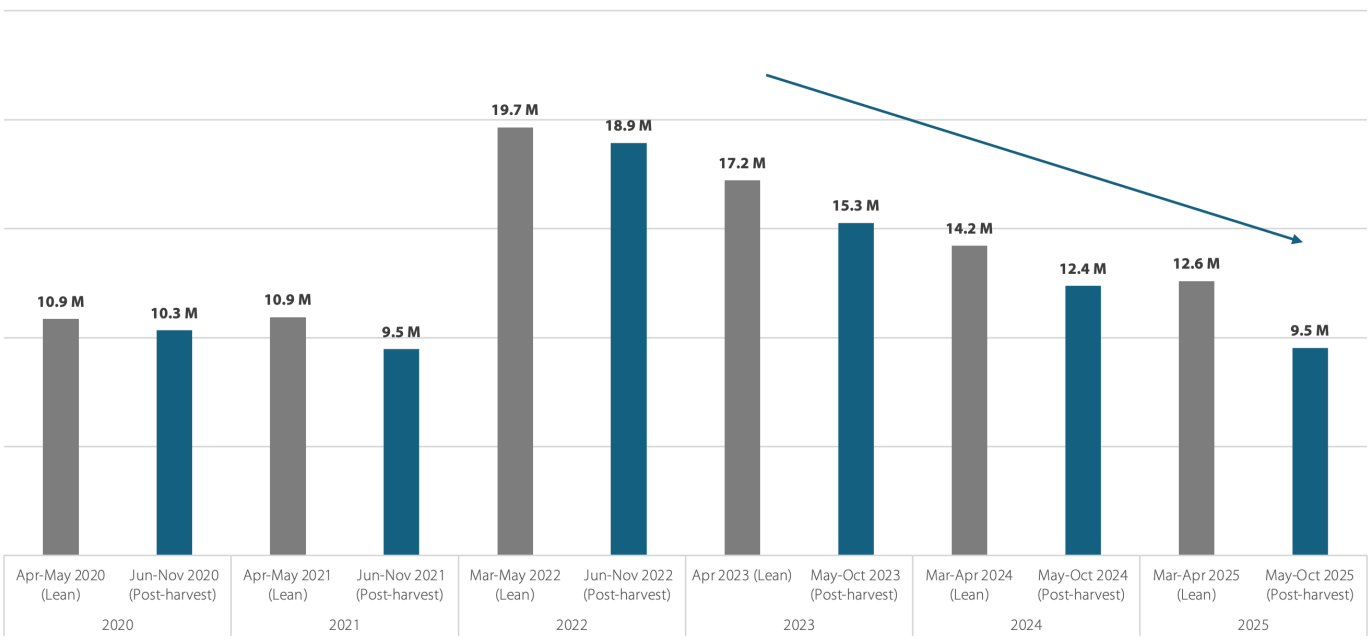
Urban population table for the projection period: May - October 2025

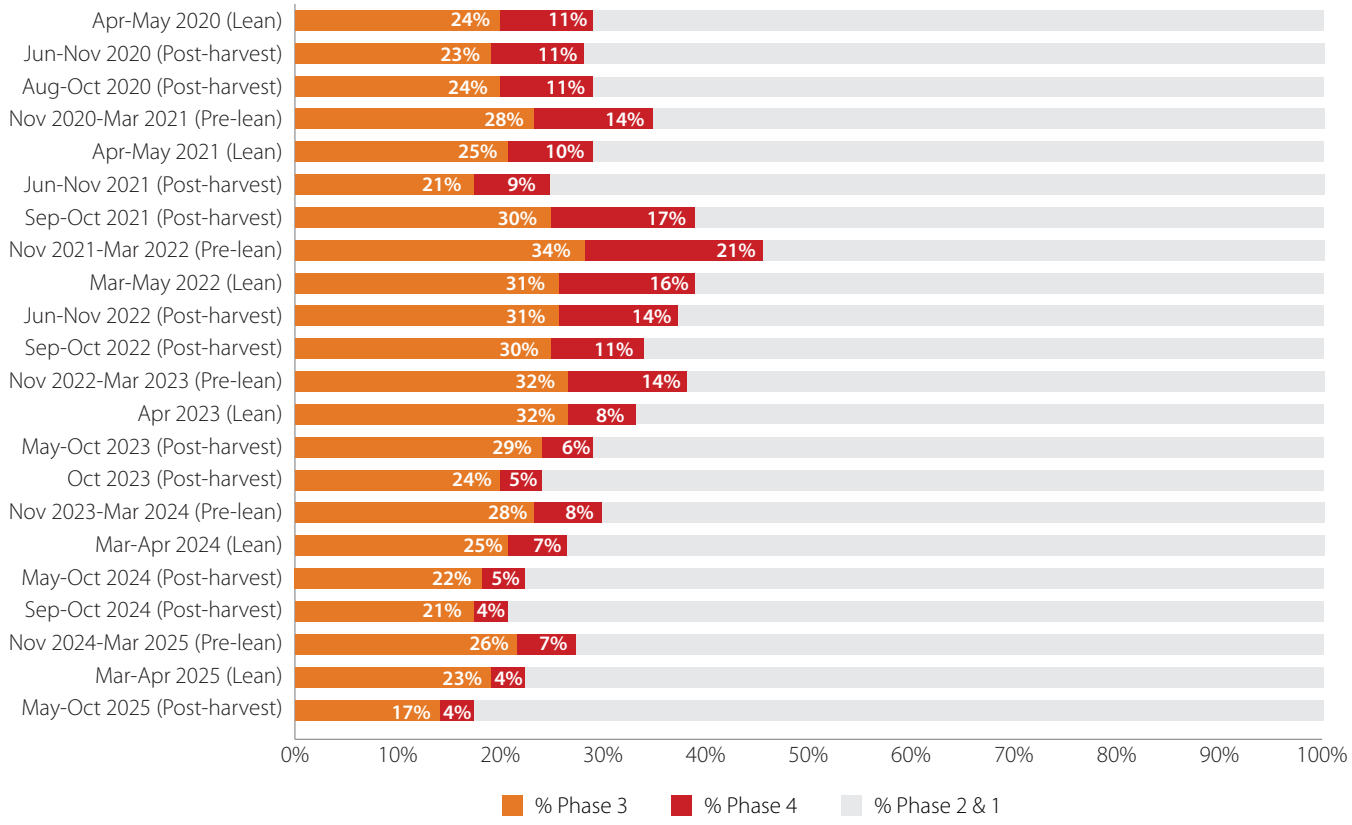
Region	Total population analysed	Phase 1		Phase 2		Phase 3		Phase 4		Phase 5		Area Phase	Phase 3+	
		#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%		#people	%
Baghlan Urban	200,670	70,235	35	90,302	45	40,134	20	-	0	0	0	P3	40,134	20
Balkh Urban	1,036,996	414,798	40	466,648	45	155,549	15	-	0	0	0	P2	155,549	15
Faryab Urban	153,490	53,722	35	69,071	45	23,024	15	7,675	5	0	0	P3	30,699	20
Hilmand Urban	272,741	95,459	35	136,371	50	40,911	15	-	0	0	0	P2	40,911	15
Hirat Urban	1,297,195	518,878	40	583,738	45	194,579	15	-	0	0	0	P2	194,579	15
Jawzjan Urban	170,021	42,505	25	93,512	55	25,503	15	8,501	5	0	0	P3	34,004	20
Kabul Urban	5,130,497	1,539,149	30	2,821,773	55	769,575	15	-	0	0	0	P2	769,575	15
Kandahar Urban	698,242	279,297	40	314,209	45	104,736	15	-	0	0	0	P2	104,736	15
Kunduz Urban	179,917	71,967	40	71,967	40	26,988	15	8,996	5	0	0	P3	35,984	20
Nangarhar Urban	894,630	313,121	35	447,315	50	134,195	15	-	0	0	0	P2	134,195	15
Takhar Urban	253,913	76,174	30	126,957	50	38,087	15	12,696	5	0	0	P3	50,783	20
Grand Total	**10,288,312**	**3,475,305**	**35**	**5,221,863**	**48%**	**1,553,281**	**15**	**37,868**	**2%**	**0**	**0**		**1,591,149**	**17**

COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY ANALYSES

Acute food insecurity in Afghanistan continues to decline due to improved conditions and assistance provided in recent years. While the situation has steadily improved since 2022, the gains remain fragile, and the needs remain high. The most food insecure people remain vulnerable to various risks including broader climatic events; political and social issues; and economic factors, including low purchasing power. Sustained support remains critical to prevent the situation in Afghanistan from deteriorating and the improvements to be reversed.

Figure 2: Trend in number of food insecure people from 2020 to 2025





The food security situation, both in terms of prevalence (Population in IPC 3 and above) and severity (IPC Phase 4 - Emergency) have significantly improved compared to the peak of the food insecurity following the political transition in 2021.

Considering only IPC Lean Season from the past six years, the 2025 (March-April 2025) current period analysis indicates a 20 percent reduction of food insecure people compared to the same period (March-May) in 2022 and a reduction of severity of food insecurity by 12 percent of people categorized in (IPC Phase 4), from 16 percent in 2022, down to 4 percent in 2025. Compared to the pre-transition period analysis (April -May 2021), this year's current period analysis indicates an 8 percent reduction of the overall number of food insecure people, with a 6 percent reduction in population in emergency phase.

Over the past four years, various factors including significant humanitarian food assistance and emergency agriculture support, recent economic growth (up by 2.5 percent in 2024) and significantly reduced conflict have contributed to an improved food security situation. The cumulative impact of emergency agriculture support over the past four years has been impactful, particularly the FSAC partners' wheat assistance which currently reaches over 2.3 million farming households and continues to help close the wheat production gap. However, the situation remains fragile with high exposure to various shocks including climate-related, social and economic risks which continue to threaten food security and nutrition outcomes. The recent funding cuts for the food security humanitarian response for Afghanistan by 40 percent could roll back the gains and pose a significant risk to the most vulnerable households. This will lead to a reduction in assistance that will be provided in the projection period. Furthermore, this will pose a significant risk to the regular scale up (November 2025-March 2026) to the most vulnerable during the lean season when the food gaps are highest.

Without adequate food assistance, vulnerable and food-insecure families risk falling further into urgent need and poverty. Already, the nutritional status of pregnant and breastfeeding women mothers and children under five years of age, has shown a deterioration in the most recent latest IPC Acute Malnutrition analysis from October 2024. Contributing factors include the recent reduction in humanitarian food assistance both in numbers of people assisted and ration size.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

1. Scale up food assistance efforts to address significant food consumption gaps. Despite recent improvements, needs remain high, particularly during the lean season and in areas facing year-round shortfalls.
2. Expand emergency agriculture interventions targeting the most vulnerable households and link them with Basic Human Needs (BHN) programming to improve food availability and access.
3. Link food assistance and agricultural support to nutrition, while targeting the most vulnerable populations, to enhance dietary diversity and mitigate chronic food insecurity, ultimately improving nutrition outcomes for at-risk populations.
4. Prioritise support to women-headed households who face barriers to free movement and employment, both for food assistance and agricultural activities.
5. Strengthen monitoring and preparedness for the ongoing influx of returnees from Pakistan and Iran to ensure timely and appropriate response.
6. Scale up livestock protection through targeted animal feed and health assistance in areas facing severe fodder shortages. Packages combining animal feed, supplements, and basic veterinary care supplies are essential to prevent livestock losses, protect livelihoods, and sustain household food and nutrition security.
7. Promote climate-resilient agriculture through drought-tolerant crops, water-saving technologies, rainwater harvesting, and climate-smart practices. Strengthen access to climate advisories for the agriculture stakeholders and reinforce livestock health systems, including disease surveillance and vaccination.
8. There is a need to conduct Seasonal Food Security Assessment – SFSA household survey to assess the impact of positive and negative factors on food security outcomes.

SITUATION MONITORING AND UPDATE OF ACTIVITIES

While the food security situation has steadily improved in Afghanistan since 2021 the gains are fragile and the needs of people, especially the most vulnerable groups, remain high. Considering the volatile nature the key drivers of food insecurity, the Technical Working Group (TWG) will continue monitoring evidence from established systems.

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

The TWG may decide to review the analysis and its estimates of the acute food insecure population, based on new information. If the situation worsens beyond projections, an update may be done. 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 levels of 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: Projections for humanitarian food assistance to be provided, including in highly vulnerable and hot spot areas, must be closely monitored.

Access to services: Disruptions of health services, including mobile health services, could restrict people's access to care during the winter lean season, a highly vulnerable period, which in turn could increase malnutrition.

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. Meanwhile 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. However, other factors, including a deficit of the Afghani in the market, remittances, and recent policy changes such as directives to limit the use of foreign currency in transactions in southern provinces are expected to bolster the Afghani.

Food imports and food markets: Afghanistan's reliance on imported wheat flour is very high and the domestic price is strongly affected by the global wheat market and 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: Any economic growth is expected to remain insufficient to generate meaningful improvements in social indicators. Although inflation is expected to continue declining due to a stable supply, aggregate demand is expected to remain depressed due to low disposable income and could further contribute to depressed prices.

Prices: Food commodity prices, including wheat flour, have levelled off after a one-year decline. A minimal increase in main food commodities driven by seasonality is expected compared to February 2025, though the appreciation of the Afghani, average cereal availability in main import countries, and the upcoming harvest will temper this price increase.

Trade: Despite recent tensions on cross-border issues with the neighbouring countries, looking at historical trends and trade flows, Afghanistan's borders are likely to remain open for trade and transit throughout the projected period, though policy fluctuations remain possible, particularly with Pakistan, Iran, and for goods coming from Kazakhstan imported through Uzbekistan.

Weather and climate: Above average temperatures and below-average precipitation is expected in the projection period which will likely affect agricultural yields and livestock productivity.

Forced returns: Forced returns of an estimated 600,000 to 1.6 million undocumented Afghans residing in Pakistan, and about 1.1 million Afghans from Iran is likely to create a significant crisis for returnees and host communities.

Expected Increase in job losses: Given the significant funding cuts to Afghanistan for humanitarian response, various organisations have been forced to let go staff, already. In addition, there are reports on an expected reduction in staff from the De Facto Authority (DfA). Data on such cuts should be documented in preparation for the October round of the IPC analysis (Post Harvest).

PROCESS AND METHODOLOGY

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Acute Food Insecurity analysis was conducted across two distinct periods: the current period (March and April 2025) and the projection period (May to October 2025). The comprehensive analysis spans all 34 provinces, divided into 45 analytical domains, 34 of them rural and 11 urban.

The analysis utilized key datasets, including Data in Emergencies (DIEM) round-10, WFP's Mobile Vulnerability Assessment and Mapping (mVAM), FSAC's Seasonal Food Security Assessment (SFSA 2024) conducted from September 12 to 29 2024, with data segregated between rural and urban areas. Various recent key sources of data included the latest wheat harvest projections at provincial level from FAO, and Humanitarian Situation Monitoring (HSM) data, among others.

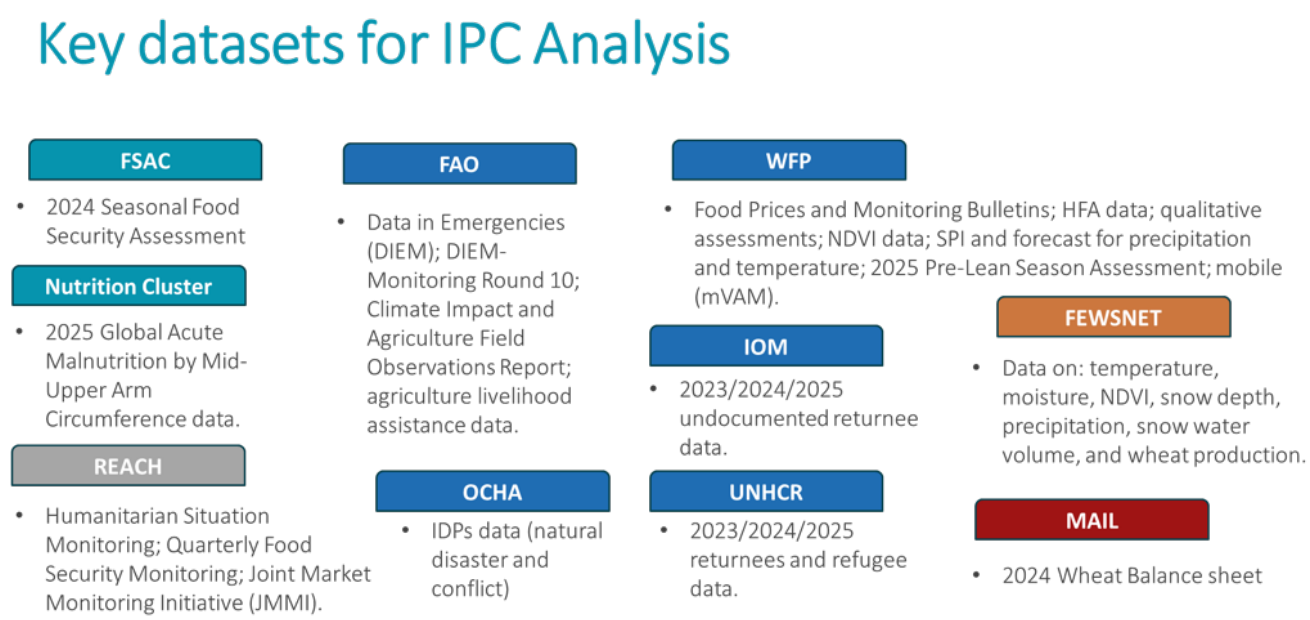
Forward-looking assumptions were based on a range of factors like Afghanistan's economic outlook, weather and climate conditions, humanitarian food assistance planning updated data following the funding cuts, global and domestic commodity price trends, staple food production as well as data on household income, displacement and forced returnees, nutrition and livelihoods contributed to the analysis.

The IPC Acute Food Insecurity (AFI) analysis workshop was held in-person on Saturday, March 15, 2025. Led by the Food Security Agriculture Cluster (FSAC) and supported by the IPC Technical Working Group and IPC Global Support Unit facilitators, the workshop was attended by 86 participants from 30 different humanitarian organizations, which included two UN organizations, 12 international NGOs, and 16 national NGOs. Of the 86 analysts present, 23 were female and 63 were male, with a gender participation rate of 27 percent female and 73 percent male in this analysis round. Due to various reasons, some key partners were not able to fully participate in this round of analysis. For instance, FEWS NET's participation in this IPC included limited contributions around agroclimatology data and expertise. Full engagement on the analysis of current and projected food insecurity was not possible.

The data was organized and analysed according to the IPC analytical framework. This included primary and secondary outcome indicators such as food consumption, changes in livelihoods, the prevalence of acute malnutrition (GAM by MUAC) and contributing factors to food insecurity.

A lesson learned workshop to improve next rounds IPC AFI analyses will be organized.

Sources



Limitation of the analysis

There is limited data availability on the areas of remittances, mining and unemployment, particularly with the latest reports of loss of jobs both on the humanitarian and non-humanitarian.

As much as sufficient agricultural data is available on staple crops such as wheat production and livestock, there is limited availability of data on cash crops such as fruits and vegetables.

Due to time constraints and limited resources, it was not feasible to conduct the Pre Lean Season (PLSA) 2025 across all 34 provinces. As a result, the Technical Working Group (TWG) agreed to utilize data from the SFSA 2024 for the analysis, with the requirement that it be disaggregated between the 11 urban centres and the 34 rural provinces. It was recommended that WFP (mVAM) carry out the PLSA in 18 provinces covering the 11 urban cities and 7 of the most vulnerable provinces using a sample of 90 households per domain. Lack of forecasted returnees' data from Pakistan and Iran by province limited the analysis, as was the understanding of the impact of the recent US funding cuts to humanitarian assistance Afghanistan. Finally, impact on the losses of job and employment, including massive job cuts announced by the DFA, were not considered due to lack of 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

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This analysis has been conducted through the technical and coordination support of the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster (FSAC) Afghanistan.

Classification of food insecurity and malnutrition was 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, SICA, SADC, Save the Children, UNDP, UNICEF, WFP, WHO and the World Bank.

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