



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



Four decades of conflict, recurrent natural disasters (most notably droughts and floods) and limited capacity to cope with climate-related shocks have caused massive population displacements and left millions of people in acute food insecurity. The effects of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) have exacerbated the food insecurity situation as livelihood opportunities and incomes were diminished.

Objectives

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is working with partners in the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster to:

- Ensure access to livelihoods protection assistance for vulnerable people at risk of hunger and malnutrition.
- Strengthen resilience capacity of vulnerable farmers and herders to withstand shocks through emergency preparedness, timely assessments and response.
- Enhance capacity of partners to deliver effective assistance.

Activities



Safeguard crop production

wheat production packages | summer cultivation packages | plant protection kits | climate-smart agriculture and integrated pest management technical training



Protect livestock assets

animal feed | fodder crop seed | deworming treatment | sustainable livestock husbandry technical training



Promote backyard vegetable and poultry production and food processing

poultry packages | vegetable kits | nutrition-sensitive household diet training | micro solar dryers | storage kits



Provide complementary livelihoods assistance

unconditional cash transfers | cash for work | cash+ | input trade fairs and voucher schemes



Provide trainings to protect health and safety

protection from sexual exploitation and abuse | accountability to affected people | gender-based violence | COVID-19 safety measures



Strengthen early warning and anticipatory action

agrometeorological forecasting | early warning advisories | shock-impact analytics | anticipatory action

Afghanistan

Humanitarian Response Plan 2018–2021



to assist

3.5 million people



FAO requires

USD 50 million

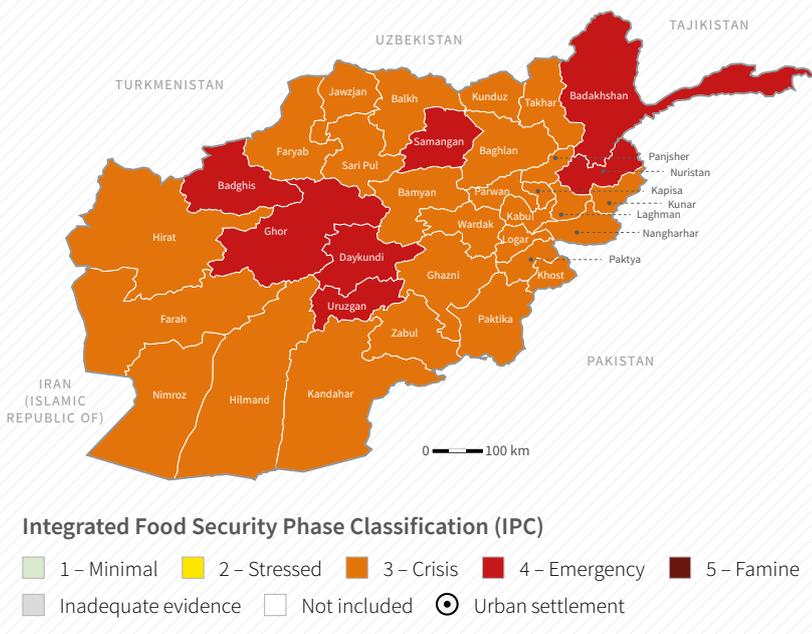


period

January–December 2021

Urgent action is needed to strengthen livelihoods and protect productive assets. This is critical to prevent vulnerable households from resorting to negative coping mechanisms and help them improve their food security.

Projected acute food insecurity situation (November 2020–March 2021)



Situation analysis



16.9 million* people
(42% of the population) projected to be in high acute food insecurity



714 000 cross-border returnees



93% of the population survives on less than USD 2 per day

* As provided in the Flowminder projection data table (November 2020–March 2021) in IPC Afghanistan: Acute food insecurity analysis, November 2020.

Source: IPC. 2020. *Afghanistan: Acute food insecurity analysis, August 2020–March 2021* [online]. Rome, Italy. [Cited 8 February 2021]. http://www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/ipcinfo/docs/IPC_Afghanistan_AcuteFoodInsec_2020Aug2021March_report.pdf

Impact on food security

The food security situation in Afghanistan has dramatically worsened, with 42 percent of population in crisis or emergency levels of food insecurity, representing a five-fold increase over the past five years. This alarmingly high rate of food insecurity has been driven by escalating conflict, displacements, a surge in cross-border movement and natural disasters. Furthermore, COVID-19 and the essential health-related containment measures have led to a reduction in employment opportunities and incomes, as well as to a sharp increase in food prices.

A regional economic slowdown and weak labour markets in neighboring countries have further shrunk the economy in Afghanistan, limiting livelihoods and reducing remittances, which vulnerable families depended upon to meet their basic needs. Consequently, farmers and herders face constraints in accessing the inputs they need to produce or acquire food for their families. In addition, vulnerable households are resorting to negative coping mechanisms, including distressed sale of productive assets, and reducing food consumption, which has led to a surge in acute malnutrition, particularly for women and children.

A current La Niña event has led to reduced precipitation during the 2020/21 winter season, which is anticipated to adversely impact cereal cultivation, especially in rainfed areas, threatening smallholders' ability to produce sufficient crop and earn an income. Pasture and rangeland growth are also being negatively affected, imperiling the livelihoods of pastoralists who rely on it to sustain their herds.

Provision of agricultural and livestock production packages will strengthen livelihoods and protect essential livelihood assets of the most vulnerable farming and herding households. Additionally, improving early warning systems and institutional capacity to carry out anticipatory actions to mitigate the impacts of natural hazards will protect livelihoods from recurring climate-related shocks. An intervention that utilizes a humanitarian-development-peace nexus approach will maximise positive impacts.

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Contact

FAO Representation in Afghanistan
FAO-AF@fao.org | Kabul, Afghanistan

FAO Office of Emergencies and Resilience
OER-Director@fao.org | fao.org/emergencies
Rome, Italy

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