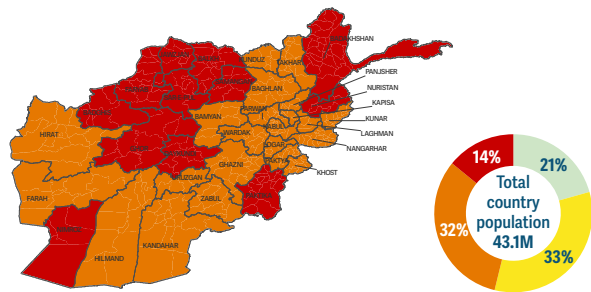


ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY | An improving situation by late 2023 but still among the world's largest and most persistent food crises.

PEAK 2023 (NOVEMBER 2022–MARCH 2023)

19.9M people or **46%** of the total population were estimated to face high levels of acute food insecurity during the 2022/23 winter lean season. Of them around 6.1 million people were in Emergency (IPC Phase 4).

Compared with the same period of the previous year, the number of people facing high levels of acute food insecurity was 13 percent lower.

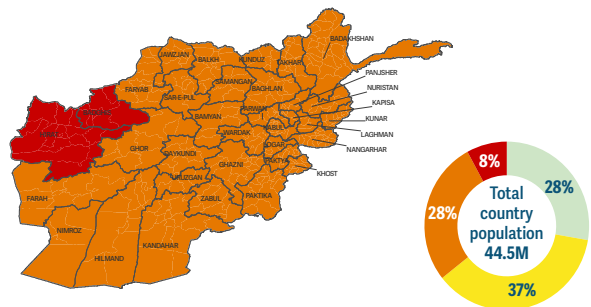


Source: HNO 2023, January 2023.

PROJECTION 2024 (NOVEMBER 2023–MARCH 2024)

15.8M people or **36%** of the total population were projected to face high levels of acute food insecurity during the winter lean season. Of them, 3.6 million people were projected to be in Emergency (IPC Phase 4).

This represents an improvement due to good harvests, reduced inflation and humanitarian food assistance, despite an expectation of extreme assistance cuts. However, the numbers did not factor in the impacts of the severe winter drought on crop production.



Source: Afghanistan IPC TWG, December 2023.

1 - None/Minimal 2 - Stressed 3 - Crisis 4 - Emergency 5 - Catastrophe/Famine Total population

DRIVERS OF THE CRISIS 2023–2024

Economic shocks Domestic food prices fell but households faced stagnant wages, high unemployment, dwindling savings and reduced public spending. Bans on opium cultivation dented farmers' incomes. The economy grappled with a lack of development aid and women being banned from employment (WFP, September 2023). Political instability in neighbouring countries limited labour migration, while repatriations from Pakistan may put pressure on already strained resources (IPC, December 2023; UNHCR, November 2023).

Conflict/insecurity Security continued to improve in 2023 but humanitarians still faced access restrictions, including a suspension of aid to Ghor province in January–July (WFP, September 2023).

Weather extremes Climatic conditions improved but a 30–35 percent wheat deficit was anticipated after a third consecutive drought year (WFP June 2023).

Natural disasters The October 2023 earthquakes in Hirat caused widespread destruction that affected about 275 000 people (IPC, December 2023).

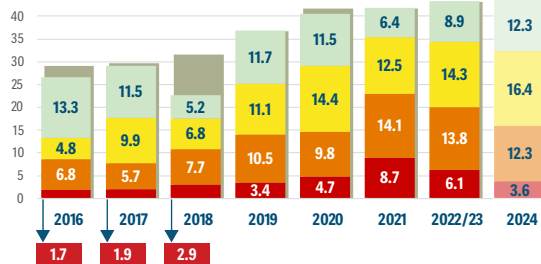
DISPLACEMENT

5.7M forcibly displaced people by 2023

5.7M IDPs **0.05M** refugees and asylum-seekers

Source: IOM, December 2023. UNHCR Nowcasted estimate December 2023.

Peak numbers of people (in millions) by phase of acute food insecurity, 2016–2024



2019–2022 population estimates are based on Flowminder. Previous IPC reports (as well as the GRFC) employed National Statistics and Information Agency of Afghanistan (NSIA) population estimates.

Source: Afghanistan IPC TWG; HNO (2022/23).

A protracted major food crisis A low-income country, Afghanistan has been included in all GRFC editions and always classified as one of the ten worst food crises with conflict/insecurity the main driver until the GRFC 2023 when economic shocks became the principal driver following the Taliban's takeover. Severity of acute food insecurity has been a constant concern with such large numbers in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). In March–May 2022, over 20 000 people were in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5).

ACUTE MALNUTRITION

3.2M children under 5 years old with acute malnutrition, September 2022–April 2023

0.8M pregnant and breastfeeding women with acute malnutrition in 2023

2.3M MAM 0.9M SAM

Source: Afghanistan IPC TWG, January 2023.

Afghanistan's alarming acute malnutrition situation is linked to years of war, low socioeconomic status, social and cultural norms, recurrent natural disasters and limited health and nutrition services.

DRIVERS OF ACUTE MALNUTRITION 2023–2024

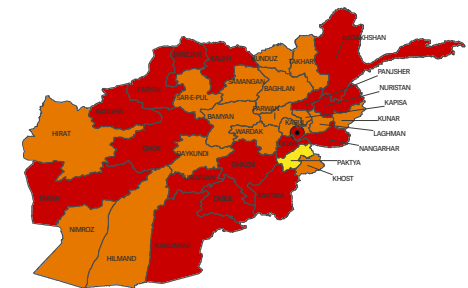
Lack of food Low household income, increasing food prices and the lean winter season limited access to healthy diets, contributing to increased levels of malnutrition.

Inadequate services Nearly 80 percent of households did not have enough water for drinking, cooking, bathing and washing. About half reported using unimproved sanitation facilities (WoAA, 2022). This contributed to disease outbreaks – especially acute watery diarrhoea, cholera and measles – which in turn exacerbated

malnutrition. In 25 of the 34 provinces, more than one third of children under 5 had experienced diarrhoea in the fortnight before the survey. Limited access to basic health and nutrition services, especially among rural communities, was another contributor. About 38 percent of households could not access functional health facilities nearby (REACH, April 2022).

Inadequate practices Only 16 percent of children consumed a Minimum Acceptable Diet. This prevalence is deemed Critical (REACH, April 2022).

PEAK 2023 (NOVEMBER 2022–APRIL 2023)



Source: Afghanistan IPC TWG, January 2023.

1 - Acceptable 2 - Alert 3 - Serious 4 - Critical 5 - Extremely critical MUAC