Afghanistan

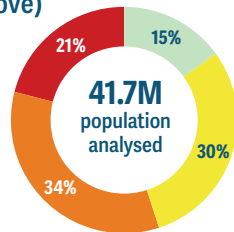## Acute food insecurity overview 2021

22.81M people

were in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) in November 2021–March 2022

14.07M people
in Crisis
(IPC Phase 3)

8.74M people
in Emergency
(IPC Phase 4)

55% of the population analysed was in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above)

- 1 - None
- 2 - Stressed
- 3 - Crisis
- 4 - Emergency
- 5 - Catastrophe

41.7M population analysed

15%
30%
34%
21%

12.47M people were in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) in the same period

The analysis covers **100%** of the population of **41.7 million** people.[1]

Source: IPC, October 2021.

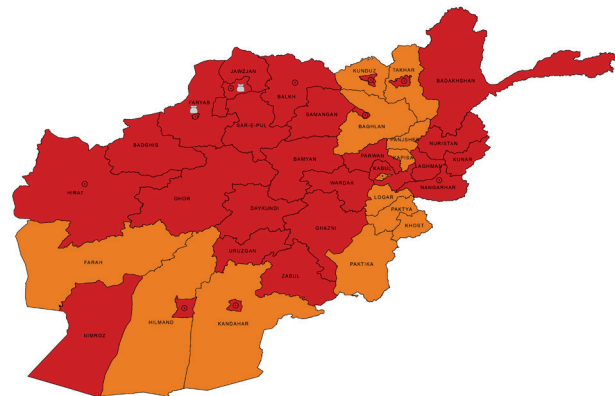**National population**

74% Rural   26% Urban

Source: WB 2020.

[1] At the request of the humanitarian community in Afghanistan, the October 2021 IPC report used Flowminder population estimates, which are used for the annual HRP. Previous IPC reports (as well as the GRFC) employed National Statistics and Information Agency of Afghanistan (NSIA) population estimates. This change ensures complete alignment with future HRPs.

MAP 3.1

IPC acute food insecurity situation, November 2021–March 2022

Of the 34 rural areas analysed, 22 were classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and 12 in Crisis (IPC Phase 3). Of the 11 urban areas analysed, ten were classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) with Kabul the only urban area classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3).

- 1 - Minimal
- 2 - Stressed
- 3 - Crisis
- 4 - Emergency
- 5 - Famine
- Inadequate evidence
- Not analysed
- ⊙ Urban settlement classification
- At least 25% of households meet 25–50% of caloric needs from humanitarian food assistance

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Source: Afghanistan IPC Technical Working Group, October 2021.
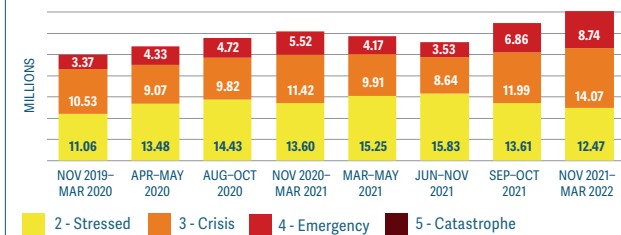

Acute food insecurity trends

⚠ **Numbers have risen since 2020.** The number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) increased from 16.9 million in the November 2020–March 2021 lean season to 22.8 million a year later, reflecting worsening food insecurity as well as the use of higher population estimates for the October 2021 analysis.

The number of people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) increased by 58 percent to 8.7 million (IPC, November 2020 and October 2021). The 55 percent share of the population in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) in November 2021–March 2022 is the highest estimated by an IPC analysis in the country. The next highest was during the November 2018–February 2019 lean season (47 percent) largely due to the consequences of drought and conflict (IPC, November 2019).

Urban acute food insecurity also worsened due to growing unemployment, falling incomes and rising food prices. From November 2021–March 2022, around 5 million people in 11 cities, including 3 million in Kabul, were expected to face Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) (IPC, November 2020 and October 2021).

FIG 3.1

Numbers of people in IPC Phase 2 or above, 2019–2022

	NOV 2019–MAR 2020	APR–MAY 2020	AUG–OCT 2020	NOV 2020–MAR 2021	MAR–MAY 2021	JUN–NOV 2021	SEP–OCT 2021	NOV 2021–MAR 2022
4 - Emergency	3.37	4.33	4.72	5.52	4.17	3.53	6.86	8.74
3 - Crisis	10.53	9.07	9.82	11.42	9.91	8.64	11.99	14.07
2 - Stressed	11.06	13.48	14.43	13.60	15.25	15.83	13.61	12.47

- 2 - Stressed
- 3 - Crisis
- 4 - Emergency
- 5 - Catastrophe

Bars refer to selected analyses that are comparable (see Technical Notes). The base population used in 2019 was 36.66 million according to Flowminder estimates and rose to 41.7 million by the October 2021 IPC. Datasets from all analysis rounds between 2019 and 2022 are provided (*see Appendix 1, table A1,* **page 243**).

Source: Afghanistan IPC Technical Working Group.

Acute food insecurity forecast, 2022

22.81M people

were forecast to be in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) in **November 2021–March 2022**

14.07M people
in Crisis
(IPC Phase 3)

8.74M people
in Emergency
(IPC Phase 4)

▶ The analysis for late 2021 is valid for early 2022. Very high numbers of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3) will persist.

55% of the population analysed was in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above)

1 - None
2 - Stressed
3 - Crisis
4 - Emergency
5 - Catastrophe

15%
30%
34%
21%

41.7M
population
analysed
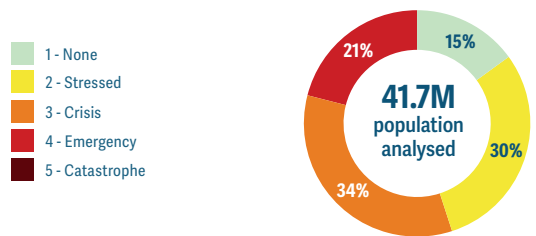
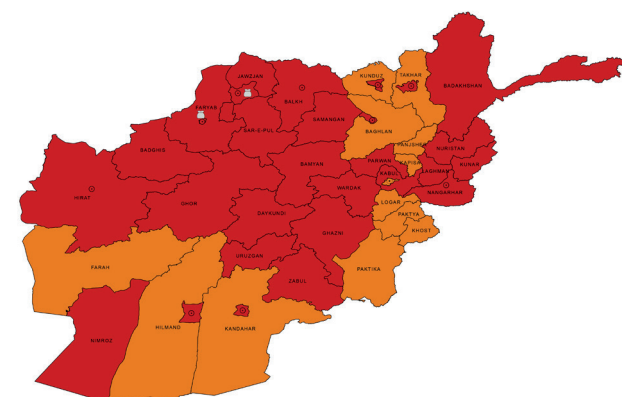**12.5M people** were forecast to be in Stressed (IPC Phase 2)

The analysis covers **100%** of the population of **41.7 million** people.

Source: IPC, October 2021.

MAP 3.2

IPC acute food insecurity situation, November 2021–March 2022

Of the 34 rural areas analysed, 22 were classified in Emergency and 12 in Crisis (IPC Phase 3). Of the 11 urban areas analysed, ten were classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) with Kabul the only urban area classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3).

1 - Minimal
2 - Stressed
3 - Crisis
4 - Emergency
5 - Famine
Inadequate evidence
Not analysed

⊙ Urban settlement classification

At least 25% of households meet 25–50% of caloric needs from humanitarian food assistance

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
Source: Afghanistan IPC Technical Working Group, October 2021.

Conflict-related displacement, drought and economic instability will continue to fuel widespread Emergency (IPC Phase 4) outcomes in Afghanistan in 2022.

✳ Conflict/insecurity

In 2022, conflict and violence are expected to subside relative to previous years (IPC, October 2021). Although some conflict by armed groups could occur, these episodes are not expected to significantly affect food security. Increasing numbers of conflict-displaced populations returning to their place of origin are likely to face a dearth of basic services, loss of livelihood opportunities and lack of family support networks (HNO, January 2022).

✳ Weather extremes

The continuing La Niña climatic episode, bringing below-average winter precipitation for the second consecutive year (FAO, November 2021), is likely to constrain agricultural production, resulting in a 20–30 percent decline in wheat crop production relative to the five-year average (IPC, October 2021). Due to poor pasture conditions and high fodder prices, over three million livestock were estimated to be at critical risk during the winter, resulting in an increase in distress livestock sales (FAO-GIEWS, December 2021).

📈 Economic shocks, including COVID-19

The IPC analyses assumed that sanctions on the de facto government will continue to adversely impact the economy and constrain cash availability, challenging markets, trade, and the payment of salaries. The resumption of foreign aid flows is uncertain, while trade sanctions will continue to hinder food imports. Annual average per capita income is expected to drop precipitously from USD 508 in 2020 to USD 350 in 2022. Male unemployment may almost double from 15.2 percent in 2019 to 29 percent in 2022 (UNDP, December 2021).

Given severe constraints on markets, food imports, salaries and food production, the average food basket cost is likely to increase even further in 2022 (HNO, January 2022).