Eurasia forecast 2021

Continued conflict, displacement and deep economic crises across the three worst food crises in South Asia and the Middle East will keep driving alarming numbers of acutely food-insecure people in 2021.

In Yemen, the number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) is expected to exceed 16 million in January–June 2021 – 54 percent of the population analysed – as the conflict enters its seventh year. See figure 2.42. Rising food prices are expected to outpace wage increases in many areas, further diminishing purchasing power for poor households (IPC, December 2020).

In Afghanistan, the IPC anticipated that despite peace negotiations, conflict would intensify in early 2021 and rising COVID-19 cases would limit job creation, revenues and remittances through the end of the lean season in April. Households were expected to face high food prices in local markets with transportation costs increasing during the winter. Support from the government and international organizations was also expected to decline. Over 13 million people – or 42 percent of the analysed population – will remain in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) until March 2021 (IPC, November 2020). See figure 2.42. In January 2021, OCHA recorded the highest monthly number of humanitarian access impediments on record, three times higher than that of January 2020 (OCHA, February 2021).

In early 2021, dryness prevailed in Iraq, northern Pakistan and Afghanistan, underpinned by the La Niña meteorological

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**Map 2.10**

Eurasia, acute food insecurity estimates and drivers in 2021

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

Source: FSIN, GRFC 2021.