

AFGHANISTAN

COVID-19 impacts, high food prices, reduced income and conflict are key drivers of acute food insecurity

IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY ANALYSIS

August 2020 - March 2021

Issued in November 2020

CURRENT AUGUST - OCTOBER 2020



11.15M

36% of the population

People facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above)

IN NEED OF URGENT ACTION

| | |
|---------|--------------------------------------|
| Phase 5 | 0 People in Catastrophe |
| Phase 4 | 3,605,000 People in Emergency |
| Phase 3 | 7,544,000 People in Crisis |
| Phase 2 | 11,336,000 People in Stressed |
| Phase 1 | 8,905,000 People in food security |

PROJECTED NOVEMBER 2020 - MARCH 2021



13.15M

42% of the population

People facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above)

IN NEED OF URGENT ACTION

| | |
|---------|--------------------------------------|
| Phase 5 | 0 People in Catastrophe |
| Phase 4 | 4,303,000 People in Emergency |
| Phase 3 | 8,852,000 People in Crisis |
| Phase 2 | 10,560,000 People in Stressed |
| Phase 1 | 7,675,000 People in food security |

Overview

Between August and October 2020, corresponding to the post-harvest season, it is estimated that a total of 11.15 million people (36% of the analysed population) were facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) and require urgent humanitarian action. This included around 7.54 million people in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and 3.6 million people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). Around 11.34 million people were also in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) and require livelihood support.

Between November 2020 and March 2021, corresponding to the lean season, around 13.15 million people (42% of the total population) are likely to experience high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above), out of which an estimated 8.85 million people will likely be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and nearly 4.3 million people will likely be in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). Furthermore, around 10.6 million people are expected to be in Stressed (IPC Phase 2).

This analysis is subject to an ongoing external Quality Review due to a breakdown in technical consensus among IPC Technical Working Group members. Therefore, these findings are considered preliminary. The outcomes of the review will be communicated once the process has been completed.

Key Drivers



COVID-19

The consequences of restrictions imposed due to COVID-19 have resulted in the significant decrease of daily wage opportunities and small traders' income. On the other hand, decreased remittances remain almost at the same level seen during the initial outbreak of COVID-19, with some improvements.



Conflict

Ongoing conflict in most provinces has led to displacement, caused loss of livelihoods, or affected people's livelihoods. As a result, farmers don't have access to their agricultural lands for cultivation and harvesting at the right time, with a similar effect on livestock and other sectors. Overall, access to contested areas remained limited during the current period and is expected to remain the same during the projection period.



High Food Prices

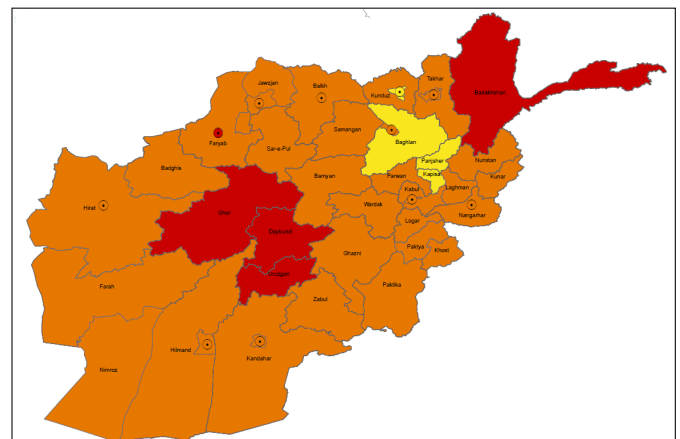
Unseasonably high food prices of commodities already in the post-harvest time have negatively impacted the purchasing power of people and further exacerbated the constrained food access, especially for the households already living below the poverty line.



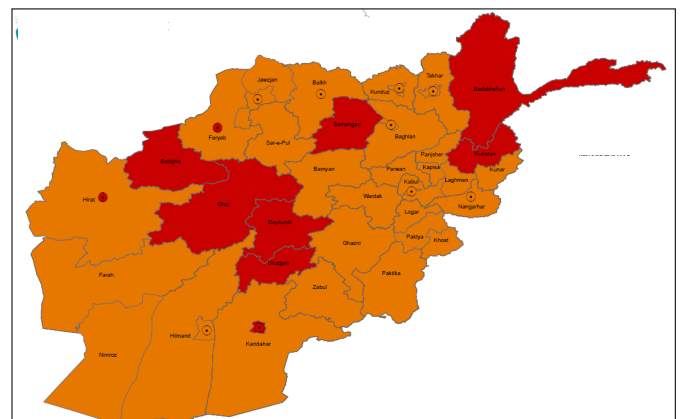
Floods

Floods have resulted in the loss of shelters and productive assets, causing displacement and increasing food insecurity.

Current Acute Food Insecurity August - October 2020



Projected Acute Food Insecurity Nov 2020 - Mar 2021



Key for the Map

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 - Famine

Map Symbols

Urban settlement classification

Evidence Level

*** High

SITUATION OVERVIEW AND KEY DRIVERS

Current Situation Overview (August - October 2020)

As of September 2020, 11.15 million people (36% of population) were estimated to be facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above). This included an estimated 3.6 million people classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and another 7.54 million people classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) nationwide. These people required urgent action to reduce food consumption gaps, to protect/save livelihoods and reduce acute malnutrition. The current IPC Phases 3 and 4 estimates correspond to a 3% increase (from 33% to 36%) compared to the same period last year (2019). When comparing to the same period last year, the number of people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) increased from 2.43 million to 3.7 million, while the number of people in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) decreased slightly, from 7.7 million to 7.54 million. This means that a greater number of people moved into Emergency (IPC Phase 4) during the last year, primarily due to the impacts of COVID-19, including: loss of employment, reduction in income and food prices increases. This is also because of the prolonged conflict and absence of any major support mechanism for populations in IPC Phase 3 or 4.

The IPC analysis has been conducted to capture the food insecurity situation in 34 rural and 11 urban areas of analysis. In the current period, corresponding to the post-harvest season, out of all 34 provinces, four rural areas of analysis (Badakhshan, Daikundi, Ghor and Uruzgan) and one urban analytical domain (Maimana city in Faryab province) were classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4), while four provinces, namely Parwan, Kapisa, Panjshir and Kunduz urban, were classified in Stressed (IPC Phase 2). The remaining 36 areas analysed (27 rural and nine urban) were classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3). The results of the IPC analysis demonstrate that more people than ever are now falling into an Emergency food insecurity situation (IPC Phase 4).

The provinces of Faryab (both rural and urban), Ghor, Helmand urban, Jawzjan (both rural and urban), and Nangarhar urban have the highest percentage of populations facing high levels of acute food insecurity, with half or more of their population in IPC Phase 3 or 4. In terms of population estimates, the areas of analysis of Kabul urban, Nangarhar, Helmand, Faryab, Badakhshan and Herat have the highest number of people classified in IPC Phase 3 or 4 respectively, with more than half a million people in high acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above).

The multiple shocks directly experienced by households between March and August 2020 halted the improvements in the food security situation that began last year after recovery from the severe drought that hit the country in 2018. The Seasonal Food Security Assessment (SFSA 2020) shows the combined effects of multiple and recent shocks. COVID-19 affected all dimensions of food security at the national level, including: reduced employment opportunities, reduced income, huge increases in food prices, loss of employment, death or illness of family members due to COVID-19 or non-COVID-19 related diseases. Conflict, natural disaster linked to drought/dry spell and floods/heavy rains, crop pests and livestock disease outbreaks, as well as low household resilience, have contributed to an overall deterioration of the food security situation. Compared to 2019, there is an increase in the proportion of households with a poor food consumption score (+5%), as well as in the proportion of households consuming less than five different food groups (+15%); mainly bread, oil and sugar. In the meantime, the proportion of households with a moderate to severe level of hunger (Households Hunger Score) has increased (+11%), as well as the proportion of households allocating more than 75% of their monthly expenditure to food (+12%).

The results of the 2020 SFSA show that around seven out of ten households reported experiencing some shocks. The provinces of Nuristan, Wardak, Uruzgan, Kandahar, and Laghman faced the highest level of shocks, with more than 90% of household affected. Loss of employment (36%), reduced income (18%), severe sickness or death of breadwinners due to COVID-19 (12%), huge increases in food prices (11%), severe sickness or natural death of breadwinners not due to COVID-19 (8%) are the major first shocks that households experienced. 81% of the households reported that their income has decreased compared to last year, of which around 54% reported reduced employment opportunities as the main reason for their income reduction, followed by conflict (17%).

Agriculture is one of the major livelihood sources for the people of Afghanistan, especially in the rural areas, where nearly more than half of households engage in subsistence agriculture. As per the SFSA, about 44% of households stated that they had access to land. In a good production year, such as the current year, own agricultural production for 65% of the assessed households that cultivated is expected to last less than six months, forcing families to cover the rest from other sources, such as the expenditure of savings, sale of assets and livestock, borrowing food, working for food, and sending household members out of the country for remittances. The households that do not have access to land and are unable to cultivate will rely on markets for their food needs. There are various factors limiting crop production at the household level. Crop pests and diseases, damaged irrigation systems, problems accessing seed and fertilizer are among the major agriculture challenges that farmers faced in 2020. High price and low quality of fertilizers and chemicals are among the problems reported in many assessments. Around 90% of those with access to agriculture land reported they will not have access to certified wheat seeds and another 66% said that they will not have access to wheat seeds at all for the next cultivation season. Livestock is owned by 45% percent of households, but according to SFSA 2020 data, the overall size of herds owned has decreased by 14% (16% sheep/goat decrease, 14% buffalo decrease and 4% cattle/yak decrease). A deterioration of the livestock productivity for 48% of breeders compared to the same period last year is also reported. Lack of pasture and fodder, high prices of fodder and concentrated animal feed, lack of access to veterinary services, and access to water are the main challenges households are facing.



Projected Situation Overview (November 2020 - March 2021)

During the projection analysis period (November 2020 to March 2021), corresponding to the lean season, the total population facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) is expected to increase to 13.15 million (42% of the analysed population). This shows a 6% increase of people facing high levels of acute food insecurity from the current to the projection period. The number of areas classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) is expected to increase from five to ten, with the addition of Nuristan, Badghis, Samangan, Kandahar urban and Herat urban. The four areas classified in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) in the current analysis (Kapisa, Panjsher, Baghlan and Kunduz urban) will likely move towards Crisis (IPC Phase 3) due to a reduction in agriculture and non-agriculture wage labour opportunities, an increase in food commodity prices, a reduction in livestock productivity due to lack of access to fodder and pasture during the winter time, natural disasters, and conflicts.

Inaccessibility to food markets and road blockages in some areas of the country, such as Daikundi, Bamiyan, Ghor, districts of Badakhshan, Nuristan along with a few districts in the north of the country, will likely limit the physical access of people to food due to snowfall during the winter season. The below-average precipitation level forecasted (October 2020 –January 2021) might have some positive impact on accessibility in some of the mentioned areas, but could negatively affect pasture in early spring, winter and spring cultivation and production at the later stage. Prices of food commodities usually increase during the winter time when transportation costs also normally increase, however, its impact will be larger in areas with access challenges, particularly for the hard-to-reach and high elevation areas that experience cold winters. Food prices over the projected period are anticipated to be the key factor that determines the extent of household access to food and food consumption in the coming months. Around 4% of households reported their cereal stocks from own production would last less than a month, while 13% of households reported stocks to last between one to three months and 34% between three to six months. Meanwhile, about 49% of households reported their food stocks would last for six months or more.

The end of the projection period will coincide with flooding season. Flash floods threaten soil fertility, along with the quality of pastures and fields, and could potentially prevent successful spring planting. Poor pasture conditions during the peak of winter, snowfall in high altitudes and lack of access to crop residual fodder make livestock conditions worse, resulting in poor body condition and low milk productivity. Consequently, income and food from the livestock sector will also be affected. Low livestock productivity is particularly affecting the food security and nutrition of women and children. Lack of employment opportunities due to seasonal factors during the winter season will also affect the vulnerable food insecure people who mainly rely on wage labour as their main income source.

Based on current trends, the COVID-19 pandemic is likely to continue throughout the projection period, with the total number of COVID-19 cases in Afghanistan expected to increase. Lockdown measures are not likely to be reinstated on a large scale during the projection period, given the limited ability of the government to enforce measures. Based on the current levels of supply and the easing of export restrictions by Kazakhstan, overall imports of wheat are expected to be near average and will be enough to fulfil Afghanistan's import needs. As such, food availability will likely not be a major challenge during the projection period, except for the areas with physical access problems during winter. However, access to food will be limited due to reduced income, limited labour wage opportunities and below-average inflows of remittances from overseas.

Conflicts are expected to decrease during the projected period, as the weather gets cold. However, the level and nature of the conflict is largely dependent on the ongoing peace talks in Doha. In addition, the inflow of returnees to their place of origin is expected to continue in the projection period, and these vulnerable groups may need humanitarian food assistance.

Key Assumptions for the projected period

Due to **favorable precipitation** during the 2019/2020 wet season and favorable climatic conditions during the growing season, the second season production is expected to be average overall.

Based on current trends, the **COVID-19 pandemic** is likely to continue throughout the projection period, with the total number of COVID-19 cases in Afghanistan expected to increase during that time.

Global restriction applied to mitigate the spread of a second wave of COVID-19 will likely sustain a macro-economic downturn in Afghanistan, ultimately affecting access to food and other basic needs of the most vulnerable.

Lockdown measures are not likely to be reinstated on a large scale during the scenario period, given limited ability of the government to enforce the measures or effectively provide food assistance to citizens. Despite the lifting of restrictions, the **impact of COVID-19** on labour opportunities and wage income, high food price in local markets and poor inflow of remittances is likely to continue through the end of the lean season in April. In addition, a **reduced volume of response programmes** by the government and international organizations supporting the most vulnerable is foreseen, due to multiple factors linked to COVID restrictions and decreasing funding after the drought emergency resumed.

Conflict is expected to further and progressively exacerbate during the period of peace negotiation, with increases intensity. Based on current levels of supply and the easing of export restrictions by Kazakhstan, overall imports of wheat are expected to be near average and sufficient to fulfill Afghanistan's import needs.

Given expectations for near-average national production and imports, retail **wheat flour prices** are expected to follow seasonal trends, though likely to remain above average throughout the scenario period. **Rice prices** are expected to remain stable during the scenario period due to a stable market supply from Pakistan.

Afghanistan's borders will likely remain open for trade throughout the scenario period, though policy fluctuations remain possible, particularly with Pakistan.

An increase in the number of **Afghans seeking labor in Iran** is expected in the coming months, as people seek to travel and secure labor opportunities abroad before the arrival of winter. However, due to insecurity along travel routes and poor economic conditions in Iran –in addition to significantly above-average numbers of undocumented migrant Afghan workers returning from Iran in March 2020 –the overall number of Afghan migrant workers in Iran is expected to remain below average and lower, relative to the pre-COVID period.

Due to below-average numbers of migrant workers in Iran, **remittances** from Iran are expected to remain below average. Remittances from Gulf countries are expected to gradually improve but will likely remain below normal. Remittances from Pakistan will likely improve but remain below average.

According to projections by the World Bank made in July 2020, the Afghan **economy** is expected to contract by 5.5–7.4 percent in 2020. Slight recovery is expected in 2021 when the economy is expected to grow by up to 1 percent. Based on these projections, current trends, and expectations for no additional lockdown measures, gradual economic recovery is expected throughout the scenario period.

Due to the general economic slowdown, availability of non-agricultural **labor opportunities** –particularly in main urban markets –is expected to be below-average in the near to medium term. Availability of agricultural labor opportunities is expected to be near normal.

FOOD SECURITY SITUATION IN SELECTED URBAN AREAS

For the second consecutive time, 11 major towns of selected provinces were also analysed, to assess the specific vulnerabilities of urban households. Across the urban areas, around 2.53 million people (34%) were facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above), of which 852,000 people (11.3%) were classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). Of these, 11 cities, Maimana (Faryab center) were classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4); nine in Crisis (IPC Phase 3), namely Mazar (in Balkh Province), Pul-e-Khumri (Baghlan), Kabul, Jalalabad (Nangarhar), Sheberghan (Jawzjan), Lashkargah (Hilmand), Kandahar, Hirat and Taluqan (Takhar); and only one town, Kunduz, was classified in Stressed (IPC Phase 2). The number of people in high acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) is expected to increase in the projected period (November 2020 to March 2021) to 2.91 million (39%) people, due to the expected outcomes of the second wave of COVID-19, higher food prices during the winter season and decreased income opportunities. Meanwhile, if the conflict continues as it has in the current period, these urban settings will witness new displaced populations.

Urban population table for the current period: August - October 2020

| Urban centres | 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 | 211,105 | 52,776 | 25 | 84,442 | 40 | 52,776 | 25 | 21,111 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 73,887 | 35 |
| Balkh Urban | 584,886 | 146,222 | 25 | 204,710 | 35 | 146,222 | 25 | 87,733 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 233,955 | 40 |
| Faryab Urban | 139,754 | 20,963 | 15 | 48,914 | 35 | 41,926 | 30 | 27,951 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 69,877 | 50 |
| Helmand Urban | 100,361 | 20,072 | 20 | 30,108 | 30 | 35,126 | 35 | 15,054 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 50,180 | 50 |
| Hirat Urban | 652,114 | 195,634 | 30 | 195,634 | 30 | 163,029 | 25 | 97,817 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 260,846 | 40 |
| Jawzjan Urban | 132,825 | 19,924 | 15 | 46,489 | 35 | 46,489 | 35 | 19,924 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 66,413 | 50 |
| Kabul Urban | 4,459,463 | 1,337,839 | 30 | 1,783,785 | 40 | 891,893 | 20 | 445,946 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1,337,839 | 30 |
| Kandahar Urban | 523,259 | 130,815 | 25 | 183,141 | 35 | 130,815 | 25 | 78,489 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 209,304 | 40 |
| Kunduz Urban | 303,255 | 121,302 | 40 | 136,465 | 45 | 30,326 | 10 | 15,163 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 45,489 | 15 |
| Nangarhar Urban | 277,321 | 55,464 | 20 | 83,196 | 30 | 110,928 | 40 | 27,732 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 138,660 | 50 |
| Takhar Urban | 148,600 | 44,580 | 30 | 59,440 | 40 | 29,720 | 20 | 14,860 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 44,580 | 30 |
| Grand Total | 7,532,943 | 2,145,591 | 28 | 2,856,324 | 38 | 1,679,250 | 22 | 851,780 | 11 | 0 | 0 | | 2,531,030 | 34 |

Urban population table for the projection period: November 2020 - March 2021

| Urban centres | 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 | 211,105 | 42,221 | 20 | 94,997 | 45 | 52,776 | 25 | 21,111 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 73,887 | 35 |
| Balkh Urban | 584,886 | 116,977 | 20 | 204,710 | 35 | 175,466 | 30 | 87,733 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 263,199 | 45 |
| Faryab Urban | 139,754 | 20,963 | 15 | 41,926 | 30 | 48,914 | 35 | 27,951 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 76,865 | 55 |
| Helmand Urban | 100,361 | 10,036 | 10 | 35,126 | 35 | 40,144 | 40 | 15,054 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 55,198 | 55 |
| Hirat Urban | 652,114 | 195,634 | 30 | 195,634 | 30 | 130,423 | 20 | 130,423 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 260,846 | 40 |
| Jawzjan Urban | 132,825 | 19,924 | 15 | 39,848 | 30 | 53,130 | 40 | 19,924 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 73,054 | 55 |
| Kabul Urban | 4,459,463 | 1,337,839 | 30 | 1,560,812 | 35 | 1,114,866 | 25 | 445,946 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1,560,812 | 35 |
| Kandahar Urban | 523,259 | 104,652 | 20 | 156,978 | 30 | 156,978 | 30 | 104,652 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 261,630 | 50 |
| Kunduz Urban | 303,255 | 106,139 | 35 | 121,302 | 40 | 60,651 | 20 | 15,163 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 75,814 | 25 |
| Nangarhar Urban | 277,321 | 41,598 | 15 | 69,330 | 25 | 124,794 | 45 | 41,598 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 166,392 | 60 |
| Takhar Urban | 148,600 | 44,580 | 30 | 52,010 | 35 | 29,720 | 20 | 22,290 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 52,010 | 35 |
| Grand Total | 7,532,943 | 2,040,563 | 27 | 2,572,673 | 34 | 1,987,862 | 26 | 931,845 | 12 | 0 | 0 | | 2,919,707 | 39 |

FOCUS ON INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE (IDPs)

While the IPC analysis could not produce detailed and separate estimations on the food insecurity of displaced populations, this report urges partners to continue supporting new IDPs as the most vulnerable group. This report also urges partners to include prolonged IDPs in response, as their situation is not very different from that of new IDPs. Prolonged IDPs became more vulnerable because of the COVID-19 pandemic, as they were mostly relying on unsustainable sources of income. Government safety nets or livelihoods programmes must be introduced to support IDPs staying over longer periods of time so they can sustain at least basic standards of living.

Afghanistan faces one of the world's most acute internal displacement crises as it suffers from protracted conflict, ongoing insecurity, the global COVID-19 pandemic, and natural hazards such as droughts, floods and earthquakes. Displacement has become a familiar survival strategy for many Afghans. Millions of individuals, families and communities migrate within and outside the country. Rural communities mainly migrate to nearby urban or semi-urban settlements, where security is relatively better, and land is still affordable or available free of rental cost for temporary settlement. These settlements may provide safe living from conflict with non-state actors, however, internal communal conflict on the use of land, lack of basic services including electricity, water, access to latrines and education, and poor shelter conditions are major issues.

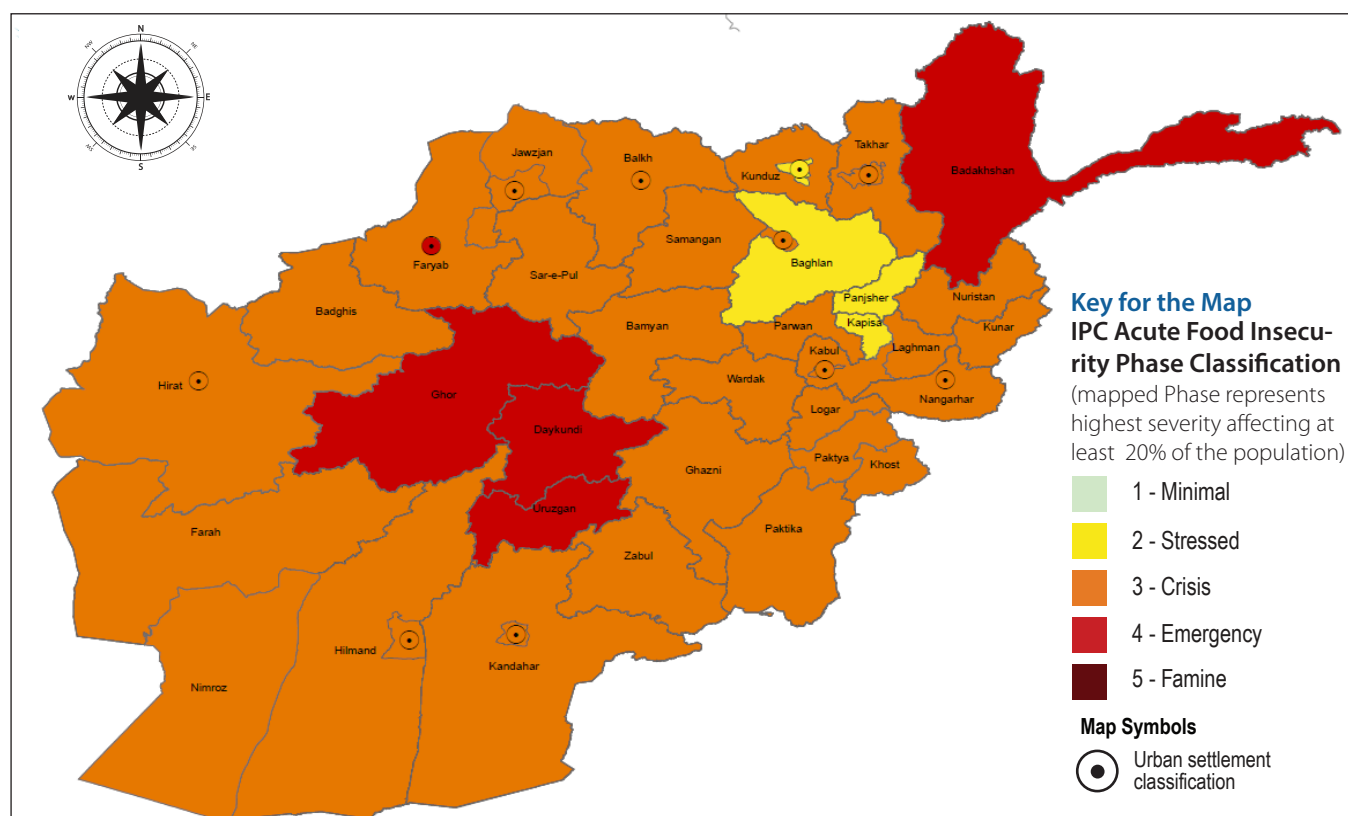
Usually, because of the severity of the conflict and its sudden nature, most of the livelihood assets of these vulnerable IDPs are either looted, killed or sold at very low prices. They often migrate without the necessary legal documents of identity and school certificates of their children, which hinders their access to support services. They also pay very high prices for transportation to move their families to a safer location. Therefore, in the absence of agriculture and livestock-based livelihoods, and with no urban labour skills, they are left with almost zero livelihoods options. Most of the IDPs bring agriculture-based livelihoods skills to these urban areas where there is no market for their skills. Their arrival increases the pressure on the local job market, reducing wages and adding strain on infrastructure, ultimately fuelling tensions and conflict with the local population.

On average, half a million people leave their homes every year because of the conflict. Most of these IDPs (75%) are found in need of urgent humanitarian assistance as per the historical trend data from the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster (FSAC) Afghanistan. Although there are various assessments and definitions of IDPs in Afghanistan, IDPs are mainly categorized under new, prolonged or protracted IDPs. According to the internal displacement monitoring centre (IDMC), there were 2,993,000 IDPs in Afghanistan in December 2019 and this number is expected to further increase by the end of 2020. According to OCHA's IDP tracking data, a total of 202,856 IDPs fled their homes from January to mid-September 2020, which shows an increment of 73% compared to January-December 2019, and by end of the year 2020, the IDP number is likely to further increase.

Food security situation for displaced populations: Various assessments conducted on IDPs by FSAC partners show worse food insecurity scores on indicators compared to any other population category in Afghanistan. In 2020, REACH conducted an assessment with different vulnerable groups on the move that included new and prolonged IDPs, returnees and refugees; they are mostly concentrated in 11 urban areas (Nangarhar, Hirat, Kabul, Faryab, Takhar, Kunduz, Kandahar, Hilmand, Balkh, Baghlan and Jawzjan) where an urban IPC analysis has been conducted. According to the findings of this assessment, 60% of the IDPs have an either poor or borderline food consumption score; very low levels of income, far below the cost of a basic food basket; and a high level of debt (85%). Aligning the response with these numbers, the FSAC of Afghanistan aims to target 90% of the newly displaced IDPs with a multi-sector response.

Conflict-induced IDPs rarely have the chance of returning to their place of origin due to the fragile security situation. The preference is to remain closer to urban and semi-urban areas in order to be safe, to find income opportunities or to receive assistance. Whereas the labour markets are already saturated, income earning opportunities have already shrunk and assistance is limited. Meanwhile, the lack of sustainable solution programmes and government support in allocating specific areas for them to build houses on have put them in a worsening situation.

IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY CURRENT SITUATION (AUG - OCT 2020)



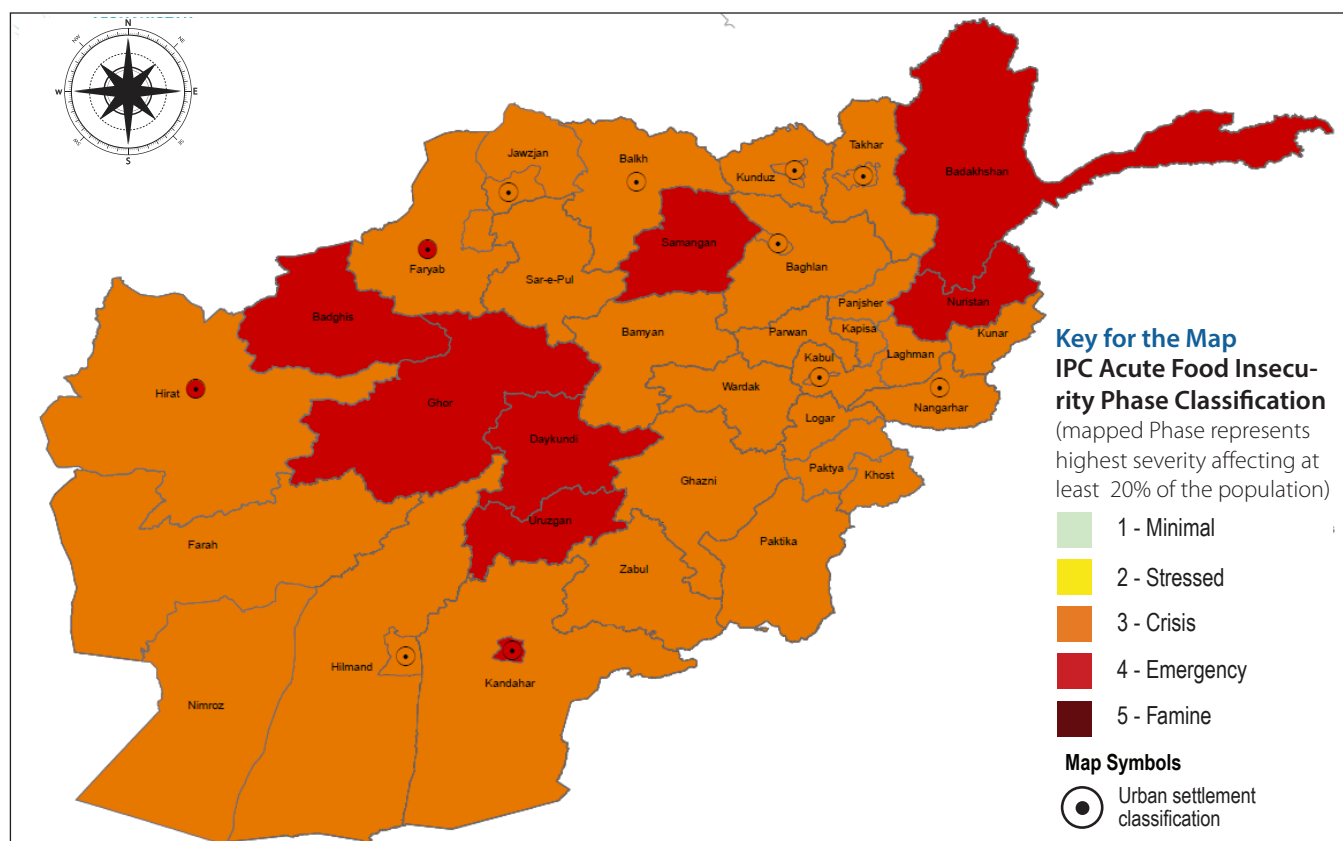
Around 11.5 million people (36% of the analysed population) are estimated to be facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) in the current period (August - October 2020). This includes around 7.5 million people in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and 3.6 million people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). A total of five analysis areas were classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4): Badakhshan, Daykundi, Uruzgan, Ghor, and Faryab Urban. Across all areas the evidence level for the analysis is **High (***)**.

IPC population table for current period: August - October 2020

| SN | Province | Total population analysed | Phase 1 | | Phase 2 | | Phase 3 | | Phase 4 | | Phase 5 | | Area Phase | Phase 3+ | |
|-------------|-----------------|---------------------------|-----------|----|------------|----|-----------|----|-----------|----|---------|---|------------|------------|----|
| | | | #people | % | #people | % | #people | % | #people | % | #people | % | | #people | % |
| 1 | Badakhshan | 1,054,087 | 210,817 | 20 | 368,930 | 35 | 263,522 | 25 | 210,817 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 474,339 | 45 |
| 2 | Badghis | 549,583 | 109,917 | 20 | 192,354 | 35 | 164,875 | 30 | 82,437 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 247,312 | 45 |
| 3 | Baghlan | 803,529 | 321,412 | 40 | 361,588 | 45 | 80,353 | 10 | 40,176 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 120,529 | 15 |
| 4 | Baghlan Urban | 211,105 | 52,776 | 25 | 84,442 | 40 | 52,776 | 25 | 21,111 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 73,887 | 35 |
| 5 | Balkh | 924,297 | 231,074 | 25 | 277,289 | 30 | 277,289 | 30 | 138,645 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 415,934 | 45 |
| 6 | Balkh Urban | 584,886 | 146,222 | 25 | 204,710 | 35 | 146,222 | 25 | 87,733 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 233,955 | 40 |
| 7 | Bamyan | 495,557 | 123,889 | 25 | 148,667 | 30 | 148,667 | 30 | 74,334 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 223,001 | 45 |
| 8 | Daykundi | 516,504 | 154,951 | 30 | 129,126 | 25 | 129,126 | 25 | 103,301 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 232,427 | 45 |
| 9 | Farah | 563,026 | 225,210 | 40 | 197,059 | 35 | 84,454 | 15 | 56,303 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 140,757 | 25 |
| 10 | Faryab | 969,469 | 145,420 | 15 | 290,841 | 30 | 387,788 | 40 | 145,420 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 533,208 | 55 |
| 11 | Faryab Urban | 139,754 | 20,963 | 15 | 48,914 | 35 | 41,926 | 30 | 27,951 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 69,877 | 50 |
| 12 | Ghazni | 1,362,504 | 476,876 | 35 | 476,876 | 35 | 272,501 | 20 | 136,250 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 408,751 | 30 |
| 13 | Ghor | 764,472 | 114,671 | 15 | 267,565 | 35 | 229,342 | 30 | 152,894 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 382,236 | 50 |
| 14 | Helmand Urban | 100,361 | 20,072 | 20 | 30,108 | 30 | 35,126 | 35 | 15,054 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 50,180 | 50 |
| 15 | Hilmand | 1,345,869 | 269,174 | 20 | 538,348 | 40 | 403,761 | 30 | 134,587 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 538,348 | 40 |
| 16 | Hirat | 1,488,548 | 446,564 | 30 | 520,992 | 35 | 372,137 | 25 | 148,855 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 520,992 | 35 |
| 17 | Hirat Urban | 652,114 | 195,634 | 30 | 195,634 | 30 | 163,029 | 25 | 97,817 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 260,846 | 40 |
| 18 | Jawzjan | 469,257 | 93,851 | 20 | 140,777 | 30 | 164,240 | 35 | 70,389 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 234,629 | 50 |
| 19 | Jawzjan Urban | 132,825 | 19,924 | 15 | 46,489 | 35 | 46,489 | 35 | 19,924 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 66,413 | 50 |
| 20 | Kabul | 745,204 | 260,821 | 35 | 298,082 | 40 | 111,781 | 15 | 74,520 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 186,301 | 25 |
| 21 | Kabul Urban | 4,459,463 | 1,337,839 | 30 | 1,783,785 | 40 | 891,893 | 20 | 445,946 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1,337,839 | 30 |
| 22 | Kandahar | 876,335 | 306,717 | 35 | 262,901 | 30 | 175,267 | 20 | 131,450 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 306,717 | 35 |
| 23 | Kandahar Urban | 523,259 | 130,815 | 25 | 183,141 | 35 | 130,815 | 25 | 78,489 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 209,304 | 40 |
| 24 | Kapisa | 488,298 | 219,734 | 45 | 195,319 | 40 | 48,830 | 10 | 24,415 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 73,245 | 15 |
| 25 | Khost | 636,522 | 190,957 | 30 | 254,609 | 40 | 127,304 | 20 | 63,652 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 190,956 | 30 |
| 26 | Kunar | 499,393 | 124,848 | 25 | 149,818 | 30 | 149,818 | 30 | 74,909 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 224,727 | 45 |
| 27 | Kunduz | 833,422 | 250,027 | 30 | 375,040 | 45 | 166,684 | 20 | 41,671 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 208,355 | 25 |
| 28 | Kunduz Urban | 303,255 | 121,302 | 40 | 136,465 | 45 | 30,326 | 10 | 15,163 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 45,489 | 15 |
| 29 | Laghman | 493,488 | 148,046 | 30 | 172,721 | 35 | 123,372 | 25 | 49,349 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 172,721 | 35 |
| 30 | Logar | 434,374 | 130,312 | 30 | 152,031 | 35 | 108,594 | 25 | 43,437 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 152,031 | 35 |
| 31 | Nangarhar | 1,424,377 | 427,313 | 30 | 427,313 | 30 | 427,313 | 30 | 142,438 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 569,751 | 40 |
| 32 | Nangarhar Urban | 277,321 | 55,464 | 20 | 83,196 | 30 | 110,928 | 40 | 27,732 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 138,660 | 50 |
| 33 | Nimroz | 183,554 | 45,889 | 25 | 64,244 | 35 | 45,889 | 25 | 27,533 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 73,422 | 40 |
| 34 | Nuristan | 163,814 | 40,954 | 25 | 57,335 | 35 | 40,954 | 25 | 24,572 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 65,526 | 40 |
| 35 | Paktika | 775,498 | 310,199 | 40 | 271,424 | 35 | 155,100 | 20 | 38,775 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 193,875 | 25 |
| 36 | Paktya | 611,952 | 244,781 | 40 | 214,183 | 35 | 122,390 | 20 | 30,598 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 152,988 | 25 |
| 37 | Panjsher | 169,926 | 67,970 | 40 | 76,467 | 45 | 16,993 | 10 | 8,496 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 25,489 | 15 |
| 38 | Parwan | 737,700 | 258,195 | 35 | 295,080 | 40 | 147,540 | 20 | 36,885 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 184,425 | 25 |
| 39 | Samangan | 430,489 | 86,098 | 20 | 172,196 | 40 | 107,622 | 25 | 64,573 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 172,195 | 40 |
| 40 | Sari pul | 621,002 | 124,200 | 20 | 248,401 | 40 | 186,301 | 30 | 62,100 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 248,401 | 40 |
| 41 | Takhar | 944,492 | 236,123 | 25 | 377,797 | 40 | 236,123 | 25 | 94,449 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 330,572 | 35 |
| 42 | Takhar Urban | 148,600 | 44,580 | 30 | 59,440 | 40 | 29,720 | 20 | 14,860 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 44,580 | 30 |
| 43 | Uruzgan | 436,079 | 87,216 | 20 | 152,628 | 35 | 109,020 | 25 | 87,216 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 196,236 | 45 |
| 44 | Wardak | 660,258 | 198,077 | 30 | 198,077 | 30 | 165,065 | 25 | 99,039 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 264,104 | 40 |
| 45 | Zabul | 384,349 | 76,870 | 20 | 153,740 | 40 | 115,305 | 30 | 38,435 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 153,740 | 40 |
| Grand Total | | 31,390,171 | 8,904,766 | 28 | 11,336,140 | 36 | 7,544,564 | 24 | 3,604,700 | 11 | 0 | 0 | | 11,149,264 | 36 |

Note: A population in Phase 3+ does not necessarily reflect the full population in need of urgent action. This is because some households may be in Phase 2 or even 1 but only because of receipt of assistance, and thus, they may be in need of continued action.

IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY PROJECTION (NOV 2020 - MAR 2021)



Note: Around 13.15 million people (42% of the analysed population) are estimated to be facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) in the current period (November 2020 - March 2021). This includes around 8.8 million people in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and 4.3 million people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). A total of ten analysis areas were classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4): Badakhshan, Daykundi, Uruzgan, Ghor, Badghis, Samangan, Nuristan, Hirat Urban, Kandahar Urban and Faryab Urban. Across all areas, the evidence level for the analysis is **High (***)**.

IPC population table for projection period: November 2020 - March 2021

| SN | Province | Total population analysed | Phase 1 | | Phase 2 | | Phase 3 | | Phase 4 | | Phase 5 | | Area Phase | Phase 3+ | |
|-------------|-----------------|---------------------------|-----------|----|------------|----|-----------|----|-----------|----|---------|---|------------|------------|----|
| | | | #people | % | #people | % | #people | % | #people | % | #people | % | | #people | % |
| 1 | Badakhshan | 1,054,087 | 210,817 | 20 | 263,522 | 25 | 263,522 | 25 | 316,226 | 30 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 579,748 | 55 |
| 2 | Badghis | 549,583 | 54,958 | 10 | 192,354 | 35 | 164,875 | 30 | 137,396 | 25 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 302,271 | 55 |
| 3 | Baghlan | 803,529 | 281,235 | 35 | 321,412 | 40 | 120,529 | 15 | 80,353 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 200,882 | 25 |
| 4 | Baghlan Urban | 211,105 | 42,221 | 20 | 94,997 | 45 | 52,776 | 25 | 21,111 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 73,887 | 35 |
| 5 | Balkh | 924,297 | 138,645 | 15 | 323,504 | 35 | 323,504 | 35 | 138,645 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 462,149 | 50 |
| 6 | Balkh Urban | 584,886 | 116,977 | 20 | 204,710 | 35 | 175,466 | 30 | 87,733 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 263,199 | 45 |
| 7 | Bamyan | 495,557 | 123,889 | 25 | 123,889 | 25 | 173,445 | 35 | 74,334 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 247,779 | 50 |
| 8 | Daykundi | 516,504 | 103,301 | 20 | 129,126 | 25 | 154,951 | 30 | 129,126 | 25 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 284,077 | 55 |
| 9 | Farah | 563,026 | 140,757 | 25 | 197,059 | 35 | 140,757 | 25 | 84,454 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 225,211 | 40 |
| 10 | Faryab | 969,469 | 145,420 | 15 | 242,367 | 25 | 436,261 | 45 | 145,420 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 581,681 | 60 |
| 11 | Faryab Urban | 139,754 | 20,963 | 15 | 41,926 | 30 | 48,914 | 35 | 27,951 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 76,865 | 55 |
| 12 | Ghazni | 1,362,504 | 408,751 | 30 | 476,876 | 35 | 340,626 | 25 | 136,250 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 476,876 | 35 |
| 13 | Ghor | 764,472 | 76,447 | 10 | 229,342 | 30 | 267,565 | 35 | 191,118 | 25 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 458,683 | 60 |
| 14 | Helmand Urban | 100,361 | 10,036 | 10 | 35,126 | 35 | 40,144 | 40 | 15,054 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 55,198 | 55 |
| 15 | Hilmand | 1,345,869 | 134,587 | 10 | 471,054 | 35 | 538,348 | 40 | 201,880 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 740,228 | 55 |
| 16 | Hirat | 1,488,548 | 372,137 | 25 | 520,992 | 35 | 372,137 | 25 | 223,282 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 595,419 | 40 |
| 17 | Hirat Urban | 652,114 | 195,634 | 30 | 195,634 | 30 | 130,423 | 20 | 130,423 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 260,846 | 40 |
| 18 | Jawzjan | 469,257 | 70,389 | 15 | 117,314 | 25 | 211,166 | 45 | 70,389 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 281,555 | 60 |
| 19 | Jawzjan Urban | 132,825 | 19,924 | 15 | 39,848 | 30 | 53,130 | 40 | 19,924 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 73,054 | 55 |
| 20 | Kabul | 745,204 | 223,561 | 30 | 298,082 | 40 | 149,041 | 20 | 74,520 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 223,561 | 30 |
| 21 | Kabul Urban | 4,459,463 | 1,337,839 | 30 | 1,560,812 | 35 | 1,114,866 | 25 | 445,946 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1,560,812 | 35 |
| 22 | Kandahar | 876,335 | 306,717 | 35 | 262,901 | 30 | 175,267 | 20 | 131,450 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 306,717 | 35 |
| 23 | Kandahar Urban | 523,259 | 104,652 | 20 | 156,978 | 30 | 156,978 | 30 | 104,652 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 261,630 | 50 |
| 24 | Kapisa | 488,298 | 170,904 | 35 | 195,319 | 40 | 73,245 | 15 | 48,830 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 122,075 | 25 |
| 25 | Khost | 636,522 | 127,304 | 20 | 286,435 | 45 | 159,131 | 25 | 63,652 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 222,783 | 35 |
| 26 | Kunar | 499,393 | 99,879 | 20 | 149,818 | 30 | 174,788 | 35 | 74,909 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 249,697 | 50 |
| 27 | Kunduz | 833,422 | 250,027 | 30 | 333,369 | 40 | 208,356 | 25 | 41,671 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 250,027 | 30 |
| 28 | Kunduz Urban | 303,255 | 106,139 | 35 | 121,302 | 40 | 60,651 | 20 | 15,163 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 75,814 | 25 |
| 29 | Laghman | 493,488 | 123,372 | 25 | 148,046 | 30 | 148,046 | 30 | 74,023 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 222,069 | 45 |
| 30 | Logar | 434,374 | 108,594 | 25 | 152,031 | 35 | 108,594 | 25 | 65,156 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 173,750 | 40 |
| 31 | Nangarhar | 1,424,377 | 356,094 | 25 | 427,313 | 30 | 427,313 | 30 | 213,657 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 640,970 | 45 |
| 32 | Nangarhar Urban | 277,321 | 41,598 | 15 | 69,330 | 25 | 124,794 | 45 | 41,598 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 166,392 | 60 |
| 33 | Nimroz | 183,554 | 45,889 | 25 | 55,066 | 30 | 55,066 | 30 | 27,533 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 82,599 | 45 |
| 34 | Nuristan | 163,814 | 32,763 | 20 | 57,335 | 35 | 40,954 | 25 | 32,763 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 73,717 | 45 |
| 35 | Paktika | 775,498 | 271,424 | 35 | 271,424 | 35 | 193,875 | 25 | 38,775 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 232,650 | 30 |
| 36 | Paktya | 611,952 | 214,183 | 35 | 214,183 | 35 | 152,988 | 25 | 30,598 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 183,586 | 30 |
| 37 | Panjsher | 169,926 | 50,978 | 30 | 76,467 | 45 | 33,985 | 20 | 8,496 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 42,481 | 25 |
| 38 | Parwan | 737,700 | 184,425 | 25 | 295,080 | 40 | 184,425 | 25 | 73,770 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 258,195 | 35 |
| 39 | Samangan | 430,489 | 64,573 | 15 | 150,671 | 35 | 129,147 | 30 | 86,098 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 215,245 | 50 |
| 40 | Sari pul | 621,002 | 124,200 | 20 | 217,351 | 35 | 217,351 | 35 | 62,100 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 279,451 | 45 |
| 41 | Takhar | 944,492 | 330,572 | 35 | 283,348 | 30 | 283,348 | 30 | 47,225 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 330,573 | 35 |
| 42 | Takhar Urban | 148,600 | 44,580 | 30 | 52,010 | 35 | 29,720 | 20 | 22,290 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 52,010 | 35 |
| 43 | Uruzgan | 436,079 | 65,412 | 15 | 152,628 | 35 | 109,020 | 25 | 109,020 | 25 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 218,040 | 50 |
| 44 | Wardak | 660,258 | 165,065 | 25 | 198,077 | 30 | 198,077 | 30 | 99,039 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 297,116 | 45 |
| 45 | Zabul | 384,349 | 57,652 | 15 | 153,740 | 40 | 134,522 | 35 | 38,435 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 172,957 | 45 |
| Grand Total | | 31,390,171 | 7,675,485 | 24 | 10,560,167 | 34 | 8,852,083 | 28 | 4,302,436 | 14 | 0 | 0 | | 13,154,519 | 42 |

Note: A population in Phase 3+ does not necessarily reflect the full population in need of urgent action. This is because some households may be in Phase 2 or even 1 but only because of receipt of assistance, and thus, they may be in need of continued action.

COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY ANALYSES

Comparison of April current analysis (April-May 2020, lean-season/green harvest 2020) and October analysis projection (November 2020 – March 2021, lean season 2021).

Although the two periods of analysis do not exactly coincide, as the April-May 2020 includes the green harvest in lowland areas, a rough comparison between the 2020 lean season and the 2021 lean season could be attempted.

The 2020 lean season, analysed in April 2020, shows an estimated population of **10.9 million people (10,857,000)** that was facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above). Meanwhile, the analysis conducted in October 2020 over the 2021 lean season (November 2020 and March 2021) shows **13.1 million people (13,155,000)** will likely be facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above), **corresponding to an increase of 2.3 million people (2,298,000) from the 2019 to 2020 lean season.**

This expected deterioration in the food insecurity situation is due to several factors. Firstly, despite the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions, labour opportunities and wage income, high food prices in local markets and poor inflow of remittances have not improved, as was projected to happen in the April 2020 analysis. Secondly, it is expected that a second wave of COVID-19 infections will further exacerbate the situation. Even if restrictions will not be put in place in Afghanistan, there will still be impacts from global restrictions and economic downturn. Thirdly, the conflict is expected to progressively worsen during the period of peace negotiations, with increasing intensity. Lastly, reduced support for the most vulnerable populations by government and international organizations is expected, due to multiple factors linked to COVID-19 restrictions imposed on organizations and the government, and decrease funding after the drought emergency resumed.

The analysis conducted in April 2020 has factored in the impacts of COVID-19 through inference on data collected prior to the COVID-19 outbreak. This shock was unprecedented and, since the onset of when the analysis was conducted, it has been difficult to estimate the impact of in-country restrictions and neighbouring countries' restrictions would have on food security. During the time the analysis was conducted, the data on the impacts of COVID-19 were not yet available. On the contrary, the data collected in August-September 2020 used to conduct the October 2020 analysis already included the impacts of COVID-19 on food security. From this data it emerged that even in the current period (August-October 2020), corresponding to the post-harvest season, the situation is far worse than what was expected.

The food insecurity situation is particularly pronounced in the areas with fragile livelihoods and remote access issues, such as the central highlands, the highlands of the northeast and a remote province in the eastern region. The upcoming winter/lean season is expected to further exacerbate the situation in these provinces as food stocks and household savings are further depleted over time.

Comparison of Current Analysis conducted in October 2019 (covering August and October 2019, post-harvest) and current analysis conducted in October 2020 (covering August and October 2020, post-harvest).

Between August and October 2019, it is estimated that a total of **10.23 million people** (33% of the total analysed population) were facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) and required urgent humanitarian action. This included around 7.79 million people in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and 2.44 million people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). Around 10.37 million people were also in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) and required livelihood support. Between August and October 2020, corresponding to the post-harvest season, it is estimated that a total of **11.15 million people** (36% of the total population) were facing high levels of acute food insecurity and required urgent humanitarian action. This includes around 7.54 million people in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and 3.6 million people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). Around 11.34 million people were also in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) and required livelihood support.

When comparing to the same period last year, **the number of people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) increased from 2.43 million to 3.7 million, while the number of people in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) decreased slightly from 7.7 million to 7.54 million.** This means that, despite prospects of similar average-to-above-average harvests, a greater number of people moved into Emergency (IPC Phase 4) during the last year due primarily to COVID-19 impacts, including: loss of employment, reduction in income and food price increases. This is also because of the prolonged conflict and absence of any major support mechanism for populations in high acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above).

In 2019, the Afghan population was still recovering from the lingering impacts of the devastating 2018 drought and, while food availability increased in 2019, food access continued to be a significant factor. In 2019, 33% of the population was classified in IPC Phases 3 & 4, compared to 2020, when 36% of the population is classified in IPC Phases 3 and 4. The major change from 2019 to 2020 is in the severity of food insecurity. Common key drivers of food insecurity across both analytical periods continue to be ongoing insecurity, displacements and natural disasters, although loss of employment and price shocks have featured more prominently in 2020 due to the COVID-19 shock. This shock also caused a sharp spike in the lack of access to food and interruptions to food availability, as international borders closed and logistical hubs experienced significant bottlenecks over a short period of time.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

Response Priorities

Recent assessments by food security partners show a worsened food insecurity situation in most parts of the country even during the post-harvest period. Prolonged exposure to conflict, the impact of COVID-19 on economic activities, not only within the country, but also on remittances from abroad, and exposure to natural hazards, continue to affect the food security situation in Afghanistan. Poor livelihoods infrastructure, insecurity and a lack of investment in diverse livelihood opportunities keep people food insecure even in the absence of major natural shocks. Situation monitoring and further analysis is required to understand the causes of food insecurity in hotspot areas. To address the acute food insecurity needs of the affected families, the following actions are required to save lives and livelihoods;

- Integrated and coordinated actions are required to contain high rates of asset depletion and food consumption gaps through food and livelihoods assistance for the populations classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and Crisis (IPC Phase 3). The modality (cash or in-kind) of the humanitarian assistance should be considered based on proper market analysis as prices of food commodities are significantly high in hotspot areas.
- Livelihood assets creation programmes should be considered where possible while providing cash or in-kind assistance to construct, protect and rehabilitate livelihoods infrastructure for agriculture and livestock, such as tube-wells, water channels and reservoirs for better conservation and management.
- Food assistance should be prioritised in urban areas, especially for those relying on daily wage labour and unsustainable sources of income. Humanitarian agencies should follow government guidelines and international practices during distribution in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Rural farmers will not be able to get labour opportunities, especially small and medium farmers, therefore, they may consume all of their harvest during this challenging lockdown period. Timely provision of quality seeds will help farmers not only cultivate, but also increase production for household consumption.
- Crop pests & disease monitoring and control should continue, to avoid losses.
- Introduce livelihood diversification programmes for the people facing Crisis and Emergency levels of acute food insecurity, especially women-headed households and people with disabilities. Livestock support, poultry and kitchen gardening are potential activities to enhance the food security, nutrition and income of vulnerable communities.
- Considering the regular occurrence of environmental shocks, stakeholders should also focus their attention and funding on programs to build resilience to disasters and reduce disaster risks. Floods in Afghanistan are causing more and more damage to the lives and livelihoods of the populations living in vulnerable areas.
- To break the continued cycle of food insecurity and high rates of populations in IPC Phases 3 and 4, joint integrated programmes with nutrition, health and WASH clusters need to be designed and implemented. The complex context of Afghanistan, including ethnically diverse people, rugged terrain and unrelenting civil unrest, needs to be considered when developing strategies for food and livelihood security programming.
- Considering the low resilience of people, high levels of vulnerability to shocks and the chronic nature of food insecurity, close collaboration between development programmes and those of the humanitarian community is needed to tackle the root cause of food insecurity and enhance population resilience and livelihood means.

Situation Monitoring and Update of Activities

Recent peace negotiations opened opportunities to assess and understand the food insecurity situation in hard-to-reach areas, especially those where humanitarian partners had limited access. A thorough analysis of the needs in different livelihood dimensions and expert missions are required to understand the situation better. Equally important is the understanding of issues and concerns relating to food security and livelihoods in urban areas in the context of COVID-19. The following situations should be monitored:

- Prolonged lockdowns in countries like the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Iran significantly impacted the flow of remittances into Afghanistan. In many cases, economic migrants lost their jobs and returned to their home stations. Proper monitoring is required to understand the impact and support required to avoid food gaps and asset depletion.
- Restricted movement and fear in major urban centres of the country, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, significantly damaged the urban wage sector. Afghan urban communities are highly dependent on these opportunities, therefore, measures should be taken to monitor the performance of the urban wage sector and its impact on the food security situation of the urban poor.
- The second wave of COVID-19 can potentially restrict internal movement and prompt border closures with neighbouring countries, affecting food and other necessary inputs supply markets in Afghanistan, especially since Afghanistan is highly dependent on the imports of staple food items.

- Food price monitoring should also continue in the major markets of the country and measures should be taken to expand food price monitoring as most of the Afghan communities are relying on the purchase of food from local markets.
- Crop pests and disease outbreaks have been reported in some parts of the country, although this issue remained more serious in neighbouring countries. However, there could still be a potential impact on the productivity of crops and fruits in Afghanistan. Afghanistan has a history of crop pests and diseases in 12 to 14 provinces of the country. Food security and agriculture partners need to work together to monitor the situation in vulnerable provinces.
- Livestock disease monitoring, access to vet services and access to fodder should continue to provide recommendations on livestock protection.
- Abnormal rainfall patterns, which would increase the probability of natural hazards such as localised droughts and floods in some areas, can potentially impact livelihoods and cause migration. Situation monitoring is required to project and forecast the situation for early action.
- The deterioration of the security situation in provinces, which could trigger the displacement of rural populations to cities. During the current and projected periods of analysis, spring offensives can increase the probability of conflict. On average, around 500,000 people migrate to secure areas every year because of conflict..
- The flow of returns remained highest during March and April 2020 compared with previous trends because of the COVID-19 pandemic, especially from Iran. High rates of returns and a decrease in remittances should be monitored, as it will affect food access and further saturate the already stressed urban labour market.

PROCESS, METHODOLOGY AND LIMITATIONS

Process and Methodology

The IPC Acute Food Insecurity analysis was conducted for two time periods: The current period (August - October 2020) was mainly based on Seasonal Food Security Assessment (SFSA) data conducted in August 2020, along with other secondary data sources. The projection period (November - March 2020) was based on SFSA, other secondary data sources and forward-looking assumptions on rainfall, food prices, trade and economic outlook, and crop harvests. The analysis covered all 34 provinces of the country; 23 provinces at the provincial level and 11 provinces. Both rural and major urban centers were analyzed separately, bringing the total analysis units to 45.

A national analysis workshop, preceded by a one-day sensitization session, was held on 22–30 September, 2020 in Kabul, Afghanistan. Considering the current situation and minor travel restrictions by some organizations, the workshop adopted a hybrid approach where the majority of workshop participants had a physical presence and a few others were connected virtually. The workshop was attended by over 60 experts across Afghanistan, representing provincial and central governments, UN organizations, international and national NGOs, technical agencies, and academia. The active participation and support of officials/staff from the above ministries, departments, and organizations is highly acknowledged.

The data used in the analysis was organized according to the IPC analytical framework and entails food insecurity contributing factors and outcome indicators. The data was collected from multiple sources, including: reports from the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, other government institutions at national and provincial levels, and international organizations.

Sources

Data sources used for the analysis included: (1) Seasonal Food Security assessment (SFSA) 2020 conducted by the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster (FSAC). (2) The Food Security Monitoring System (FSMS) 2019-2020 conducted by the World Food Program (WFP). (3) Food prices, Agricultural Prospect Report and wheat balance sheet data – MAIL. (4) The SMART surveys 2018, 2019 and 2020 from AAH, MoPH & UNICEF. (5) Population estimation from the National Statistics Information Authority (NSIA) of Afghanistan. (6) ALCS 2016-2017- NSIA. (7) Food prices from WFP. (8) Climate, precipitation, NDVI, food security outlooks – FEWSNET. (9) Refugee & IDP data from UNHCR, OCHA, FSAC and IOM. (10) Precipitation, temperature, snow, landside, earthquake, avalanche and flood – iMMAP. (11) The whole of Afghanistan assessment, HTR, and Joint Market Monitoring Initiative from REACH International. (12) Humanitarian Food Assistance (HFA) – FSAC. (13) Natural disaster impacted provinces data – ANDMA. (14) Afghanistan COVID-19 cases – MoPH. (15) Data on humanitarian assistance delivered and planned from WFP. (16) Assessment of socio-economic impact of COVID-19 on the most vulnerable population of West region from World Vision International. (17) Land Cover Atlas 2016 – FAO. (18) Other localized assessment conducted by I/NGOs FSAC partners.

Limitations of the analysis

The current and projection analysis could have been more robust if production data (other than wheat, that was available in previous years) from the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation had been available.

Afghanistan population estimations based on NSIA estimates do not include the population of Kuchis/Nomads (1.5 million people) at the provincial level, therefore, this group of people has not been considered in the phase classification of any certain area.

Due to recent COVID-19 preventive measures and time constraints, a rapid one-day sensitization session was held. It is recommended to deliver a Level 1 IPC training based on the Version 3.0 Technical Manual prior to the upcoming analysis.

This time, the IPC workshop was conducted with a hybrid approach due to COVID-19 travel restrictions by some organizations. This resulted in some minor problems, such as a weak internet connection and unstable power sources for participants joining virtually.

Following the completion of the IPC analysis, FEWS NET respectfully disagreed with some of the IPC Phase classifications, dissenting from the majority view. As some of the areas under dispute were determined by the majority view to be in Emergency (IPC Phase 4), a Real Time Quality Review (RTQR) is currently underway. Until the conclusion of the RTQR, the results of this analysis are considered preliminary. A summary of FEWS NET's minority view report can be found in the below link:

https://fews.net/sites/default/files/documents/reports/FEWS%20NET%20Afghanistan%20IPC%20Minority%20Report%202020_10.20.pdf

IPC Acute Food Insecurity Phase Classification

Since 2011, the National Statistics and Information Authority (NSIA) has been conducting a form of rolling census, the Socio-Demographic and Economic Survey (SDES), which includes enumeration for 50% of households (the survey has covered around 12 of the 34 provinces). The main challenge of this process was the lack of reliable current disaggregated population data at provincial and district level. For some of the provinces, including Helmand, Zabul, Daykundi and Paktika, the population is solely based on the 1979 census projections because no household listing data was available at the time of the population rebasing in 2004. As such, Afghanistan's official population estimates are significantly underestimated, and it is recommended that alternate estimates based upon household listing projections be used for programmatic purposes. Therefore, the Government requested the United Nations to assist the NSIA in estimating spatially disaggregated population data through a collaborative partnership of Government/ UNFPA/Flowminder/World Pop to generate population counts disaggregated by age and sex at district level for the entire country.

Survey data (SDES and micro census), GIS data and Satellite imagery were among key sources of Flowminder population estimations. Statistical modelling was used to estimate population counts for areas with no population data. Flowminder population estimates have been submitted to the cabinet, endorsement is pending due to the current political situation. The IPC, being housed by MAIL, has been using NSIA population figures. However, development partners have been using Flowminder population in HNO/HRP etc. and requested the IPC to provide tables based on Flowminder population so that they can be used readily and to avoid confusion. See Annex 1.

IPC Analysis Partners

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.

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Classification of food insecurity and malnutrition conducted using the IPC protocols, which are developed and implemented worldwide by the IPC Global Partnership - Action Against Hunger, CARE, CILSS, EC-JRC, FAO, FEWSNET, Global Food Security Cluster, Global Nutrition Cluster, IGAD, Oxfam, PROGRESAN-SICA, SADC, Save the Children, UNICEF and WFP.



Annex 1

Current Flowminder population table (August - October 2020)

| SN | Province | Total population analysed | Phase 1 | | Phase 2 | | Phase 3 | | Phase 4 | | Phase 5 | | Area Phase | Phase 3+ | |
|-------------|-----------------|---------------------------|------------|----|------------|----|-----------|----|-----------|----|---------|---|------------|------------|----|
| | | | #people | % | #people | % | #people | % | #people | % | #people | % | | #people | % |
| 1 | Badakhshan | 1,357,037 | 271,407 | 20 | 474,963 | 35 | 339,259 | 25 | 271,407 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 610,666 | 45 |
| 2 | Badghis | 707,535 | 141,507 | 20 | 247,637 | 35 | 212,260 | 30 | 106,130 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 318,391 | 45 |
| 3 | Baghlan | 1,046,775 | 418,710 | 40 | 471,049 | 45 | 104,677 | 10 | 52,339 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 157,016 | 15 |
| 4 | Baghlan Urban | 259,469 | 64,867 | 25 | 103,787 | 40 | 64,867 | 25 | 25,947 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 90,814 | 35 |
| 5 | Balkh | 1,325,091 | 331,273 | 25 | 397,527 | 30 | 397,527 | 30 | 198,764 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 596,291 | 45 |
| 6 | Balkh Urban | 617,840 | 154,460 | 25 | 216,244 | 35 | 154,460 | 25 | 92,676 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 247,136 | 40 |
| 7 | Bamyan | 637,983 | 159,496 | 25 | 191,395 | 30 | 191,395 | 30 | 95,698 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 287,093 | 45 |
| 8 | Daykundi | 664,948 | 199,484 | 30 | 166,237 | 25 | 166,237 | 25 | 132,990 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 299,227 | 45 |
| 9 | Farah | 724,841 | 289,936 | 40 | 253,694 | 35 | 108,726 | 15 | 72,484 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 181,210 | 25 |
| 10 | Faryab | 1,256,728 | 188,509 | 15 | 377,018 | 30 | 502,691 | 40 | 188,509 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 691,200 | 55 |
| 11 | Faryab Urban | 171,291 | 25,694 | 15 | 59,952 | 35 | 51,387 | 30 | 34,258 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 85,646 | 50 |
| 12 | Ghazni | 1,754,092 | 613,932 | 35 | 613,932 | 35 | 350,818 | 20 | 175,409 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 526,228 | 30 |
| 13 | Ghor | 984,184 | 147,628 | 15 | 344,464 | 35 | 295,255 | 30 | 196,837 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 492,092 | 50 |
| 14 | Helmand Urban | 1,748,033 | 349,607 | 20 | 524,410 | 30 | 611,812 | 35 | 262,205 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 874,017 | 50 |
| 15 | Hilmand | 113,852 | 22,770 | 20 | 45,541 | 40 | 34,156 | 30 | 11,385 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 45,541 | 40 |
| 16 | Hirat | 2,024,278 | 607,284 | 30 | 708,497 | 35 | 506,070 | 25 | 202,428 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 708,497 | 35 |
| 17 | Hirat Urban | 731,630 | 219,489 | 30 | 219,489 | 30 | 182,907 | 25 | 109,744 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 292,652 | 40 |
| 18 | Jawzjan | 619,726 | 123,945 | 20 | 185,918 | 30 | 216,904 | 35 | 92,959 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 309,863 | 50 |
| 19 | Jawzjan Urban | 155,399 | 23,310 | 15 | 54,390 | 35 | 54,390 | 35 | 23,310 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 77,699 | 50 |
| 20 | Kabul | 1,008,030 | 352,811 | 35 | 403,212 | 40 | 151,205 | 15 | 100,803 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 252,008 | 25 |
| 21 | Kabul Urban | 5,692,486 | 1,707,746 | 30 | 2,276,994 | 40 | 1,138,497 | 20 | 569,249 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1,707,746 | 30 |
| 22 | Kandahar | 1,136,056 | 397,620 | 35 | 340,817 | 30 | 227,211 | 20 | 170,408 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 397,620 | 35 |
| 23 | Kandahar Urban | 665,787 | 166,447 | 25 | 233,026 | 35 | 166,447 | 25 | 99,868 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 266,315 | 40 |
| 24 | Kapisa | 628,639 | 282,888 | 45 | 251,456 | 40 | 62,864 | 10 | 31,432 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 94,296 | 15 |
| 25 | Khost | 819,460 | 245,838 | 30 | 327,784 | 40 | 163,892 | 20 | 81,946 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 245,838 | 30 |
| 26 | Kunar | 642,920 | 160,730 | 25 | 192,876 | 30 | 192,876 | 30 | 96,438 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 289,314 | 45 |
| 27 | Kunduz | 1,224,164 | 367,249 | 30 | 550,874 | 45 | 244,833 | 20 | 61,208 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 306,041 | 25 |
| 28 | Kunduz Urban | 239,202 | 95,681 | 40 | 107,641 | 45 | 23,920 | 10 | 11,960 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 35,880 | 15 |
| 29 | Laghman | 635,317 | 190,595 | 30 | 222,361 | 35 | 158,829 | 25 | 63,532 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 222,361 | 35 |
| 30 | Logar | 559,215 | 167,765 | 30 | 195,725 | 35 | 139,804 | 25 | 55,922 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 195,725 | 35 |
| 31 | Nangarhar | 1,845,035 | 553,510 | 30 | 553,510 | 30 | 553,510 | 30 | 184,503 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 738,014 | 40 |
| 32 | Nangarhar Urban | 345,738 | 69,148 | 20 | 103,721 | 30 | 138,295 | 40 | 34,574 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 172,869 | 50 |
| 33 | Nimroz | 236,308 | 59,077 | 25 | 82,708 | 35 | 59,077 | 25 | 35,446 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 94,523 | 40 |
| 34 | Nuristan | 210,895 | 52,724 | 25 | 73,813 | 35 | 52,724 | 25 | 31,634 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 84,358 | 40 |
| 35 | Paktika | 998,379 | 399,352 | 40 | 349,433 | 35 | 199,676 | 20 | 49,919 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 249,595 | 25 |
| 36 | Paktya | 787,829 | 315,132 | 40 | 275,740 | 35 | 157,566 | 20 | 39,391 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 196,957 | 25 |
| 37 | Panjsher | 218,763 | 87,505 | 40 | 98,443 | 45 | 21,876 | 10 | 10,938 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 32,814 | 15 |
| 38 | Parwan | 949,721 | 332,402 | 35 | 379,888 | 40 | 189,944 | 20 | 47,486 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 237,430 | 25 |
| 39 | Samangan | 554,213 | 110,843 | 20 | 221,685 | 40 | 138,553 | 25 | 83,132 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 221,685 | 40 |
| 40 | Sari pul | 799,480 | 159,896 | 20 | 319,792 | 40 | 239,844 | 30 | 79,948 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 319,792 | 40 |
| 41 | Takhar | 1,300,339 | 325,085 | 25 | 520,136 | 40 | 325,085 | 25 | 130,034 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 455,119 | 35 |
| 42 | Takhar Urban | 106,913 | 32,074 | 30 | 42,765 | 40 | 21,383 | 20 | 10,691 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 32,074 | 30 |
| 43 | Uruzgan | 561,409 | 112,282 | 20 | 196,493 | 35 | 140,352 | 25 | 112,282 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 252,634 | 45 |
| 44 | Wardak | 850,019 | 255,006 | 30 | 255,006 | 30 | 212,505 | 25 | 127,503 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 340,007 | 40 |
| 45 | Zabul | 494,813 | 98,963 | 20 | 197,925 | 40 | 148,444 | 30 | 49,481 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 197,925 | 40 |
| Grand Total | | 40,411,860 | 11,451,672 | 28 | 14,429,969 | 36 | 9,815,011 | 24 | 4,715,207 | 12 | 0 | 0 | | 14,530,218 | 36 |



Projection Flowminder population table (November 2020 – March 2021)

| SN | Province | Total population analysed | Phase 1 | | Phase 2 | | Phase 3 | | Phase 4 | | Phase 5 | | Area Phase | Phase 3+ | |
|-------------|-----------------|---------------------------|-----------|----|------------|----|------------|----|-----------|----|---------|---|------------|------------|----|
| | | | #people | % | #people | % | #people | % | #people | % | #people | % | | #people | % |
| 1 | Badakhshan | 1,357,037 | 271,407 | 20 | 339,259 | 25 | 339,259 | 25 | 407,111 | 30 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 746,370 | 55 |
| 2 | Badghis | 707,535 | 70,753 | 10 | 247,637 | 35 | 212,260 | 30 | 176,884 | 25 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 389,144 | 55 |
| 3 | Baghlan | 1,046,775 | 366,371 | 35 | 418,710 | 40 | 157,016 | 15 | 104,677 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 261,694 | 25 |
| 4 | Baghlan Urban | 259,469 | 51,894 | 20 | 116,761 | 45 | 64,867 | 25 | 25,947 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 90,814 | 35 |
| 5 | Balkh | 1,325,091 | 198,764 | 15 | 463,782 | 35 | 463,782 | 35 | 198,764 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 662,546 | 50 |
| 6 | Balkh Urban | 617,840 | 123,568 | 20 | 216,244 | 35 | 185,352 | 30 | 92,676 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 278,028 | 45 |
| 7 | Bamyan | 637,983 | 159,496 | 25 | 159,496 | 25 | 223,294 | 35 | 95,698 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 318,992 | 50 |
| 8 | Daykundi | 664,948 | 132,990 | 20 | 166,237 | 25 | 199,484 | 30 | 166,237 | 25 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 365,721 | 55 |
| 9 | Farah | 724,841 | 181,210 | 25 | 253,694 | 35 | 181,210 | 25 | 108,726 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 289,936 | 40 |
| 10 | Faryab | 1,256,728 | 188,509 | 15 | 314,182 | 25 | 565,528 | 45 | 188,509 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 754,037 | 60 |
| 11 | Faryab Urban | 171,291 | 25,694 | 15 | 51,387 | 30 | 59,952 | 35 | 34,258 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 94,210 | 55 |
| 12 | Ghazni | 1,754,092 | 526,228 | 30 | 613,932 | 35 | 438,523 | 25 | 175,409 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 613,932 | 35 |
| 13 | Ghor | 984,184 | 98,418 | 10 | 295,255 | 30 | 344,464 | 35 | 246,046 | 25 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 590,510 | 60 |
| 14 | Helmand Urban | 1,748,033 | 174,803 | 10 | 611,812 | 35 | 699,213 | 40 | 262,205 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 961,418 | 55 |
| 15 | Hilmand | 113,852 | 11,385 | 10 | 39,848 | 35 | 45,541 | 40 | 17,078 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 62,619 | 55 |
| 16 | Hirat | 2,024,278 | 506,070 | 25 | 708,497 | 35 | 506,070 | 25 | 303,642 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 809,711 | 40 |
| 17 | Hirat Urban | 731,630 | 219,489 | 30 | 219,489 | 30 | 146,326 | 20 | 146,326 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 292,652 | 40 |
| 18 | Jawzjan | 619,726 | 92,959 | 15 | 154,931 | 25 | 278,877 | 45 | 92,959 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 371,835 | 60 |
| 19 | Jawzjan Urban | 155,399 | 23,310 | 15 | 46,620 | 30 | 62,159 | 40 | 23,310 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 85,469 | 55 |
| 20 | Kabul | 1,008,030 | 302,409 | 30 | 403,212 | 40 | 201,606 | 20 | 100,803 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 302,409 | 30 |
| 21 | Kabul Urban | 5,692,486 | 1,707,746 | 30 | 1,992,370 | 35 | 1,423,121 | 25 | 569,249 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1,992,370 | 35 |
| 22 | Kandahar | 1,136,056 | 397,620 | 35 | 340,817 | 30 | 227,211 | 20 | 170,408 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 397,620 | 35 |
| 23 | Kandahar Urban | 665,787 | 133,157 | 20 | 199,736 | 30 | 199,736 | 30 | 133,157 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 332,894 | 50 |
| 24 | Kapisa | 628,639 | 220,024 | 35 | 251,456 | 40 | 94,296 | 15 | 62,864 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 157,160 | 25 |
| 25 | Khost | 819,460 | 163,892 | 20 | 368,757 | 45 | 204,865 | 25 | 81,946 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 286,811 | 35 |
| 26 | Kunar | 642,920 | 128,584 | 20 | 192,876 | 30 | 225,022 | 35 | 96,438 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 321,460 | 50 |
| 27 | Kunduz | 1,224,164 | 367,249 | 30 | 489,666 | 40 | 306,041 | 25 | 61,208 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 367,249 | 30 |
| 28 | Kunduz Urban | 239,202 | 83,721 | 35 | 95,681 | 40 | 47,840 | 20 | 11,960 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 59,800 | 25 |
| 29 | Laghman | 635,317 | 158,829 | 25 | 190,595 | 30 | 190,595 | 30 | 95,298 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 285,893 | 45 |
| 30 | Logar | 559,215 | 139,804 | 25 | 195,725 | 35 | 139,804 | 25 | 83,882 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 223,686 | 40 |
| 31 | Nangarhar | 1,845,035 | 461,259 | 25 | 553,510 | 30 | 553,510 | 30 | 276,755 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 830,266 | 45 |
| 32 | Nangarhar Urban | 345,738 | 51,861 | 15 | 86,434 | 25 | 155,582 | 45 | 51,861 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 207,443 | 60 |
| 33 | Nimroz | 236,308 | 59,077 | 25 | 70,892 | 30 | 70,892 | 30 | 35,446 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 106,339 | 45 |
| 34 | Nuristan | 210,895 | 42,179 | 20 | 73,813 | 35 | 52,724 | 25 | 42,179 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 94,903 | 45 |
| 35 | Paktika | 998,379 | 349,433 | 35 | 349,433 | 35 | 249,595 | 25 | 49,919 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 299,514 | 30 |
| 36 | Paktya | 787,829 | 275,740 | 35 | 275,740 | 35 | 196,957 | 25 | 39,391 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 236,349 | 30 |
| 37 | Panjsher | 218,763 | 65,629 | 30 | 98,443 | 45 | 43,753 | 20 | 10,938 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 54,691 | 25 |
| 38 | Parwan | 949,721 | 237,430 | 25 | 379,888 | 40 | 237,430 | 25 | 94,972 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 332,402 | 35 |
| 39 | Samangan | 554,213 | 83,132 | 15 | 193,974 | 35 | 166,264 | 30 | 110,843 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 277,106 | 50 |
| 40 | Sari pul | 799,480 | 159,896 | 20 | 279,818 | 35 | 279,818 | 35 | 79,948 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 359,766 | 45 |
| 41 | Takhar | 1,300,339 | 455,119 | 35 | 390,102 | 30 | 390,102 | 30 | 65,017 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 455,119 | 35 |
| 42 | Takhar Urban | 106,913 | 32,074 | 30 | 37,420 | 35 | 21,383 | 20 | 16,037 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 37,420 | 35 |
| 43 | Uruzgan | 561,409 | 84,211 | 15 | 196,493 | 35 | 140,352 | 25 | 140,352 | 25 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 280,705 | 50 |
| 44 | Wardak | 850,019 | 212,505 | 25 | 255,006 | 30 | 255,006 | 30 | 127,503 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 382,508 | 45 |
| 45 | Zabul | 494,813 | 74,222 | 15 | 197,925 | 40 | 173,184 | 35 | 49,481 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 222,666 | 45 |
| Grand Total | | 40,411,860 | 9,870,118 | 24 | 13,597,557 | 34 | 11,419,868 | 28 | 5,524,317 | 14 | 0 | 0 | | 16,944,185 | 42 |