# AFGHANISTAN

## High food prices, reduced income, conflict, COVID-19 impacts and expected impacts of La Niña condition are key drivers of food insecurity.

**IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY ANALYSIS**
**March - November 2021**
**Issued in April 2021**

### CURRENT MARCH - MAY 2021

**10.9M**
**35% 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 | 3,172,000 People in Emergency |
| Phase 3 | 7,766,000 People in Crisis |
| Phase 2 | 11,781,000 People in Stressed |
| Phase 1 | 8,670,000 People in food security |

### PROJECTED JUNE - NOVEMBER 2021

**9.5M**
**30% 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 | 2,743,000 People in Emergency |
| Phase 3 | 6,720,000 People in Crisis |
| Phase 2 | 12,233,000 People in Stressed |
| Phase 1 | 9,694,000 People in food security |

## Overview

Nearly 11 million people in Afghanistan are experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) due to conflict, COVID-19, high food prices and rampant unemployment, between March and May 2021 (the lean season in most parts of the country.) This includes around 7.8 million people in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and 3.2 million people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and require urgent action to save lives, reduce food gaps and save and protect livelihoods.

Between June and November 2021 (harvest and post-harvest seasons), a slight improvement in food security is expected, with the number of people in IPC Phase 3 or above decreasing to 9.5 million, with 6.7 million in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and 2.7 million in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency). The areas that were in Phase 4 in the current analysis period are expected to remain in Phase 4 in the projection period, despite slight seasonal improvements. It is likely that household's food access will improve slightly with the onset of the harvest, better job opportunities, as well as seasonal decreases in prices; however, rainfall forecasts suggest that the harvest will be below average, which will likely affect food availability during the following lean season.

The food security situation has relatively improved compared to the last three years, aside from the impacts of drought in 2018 and the COVID-19 outbreak in 2020. However, the food security situation is still concerning and expected to deteriorate further during the 2021-2022 lean season.

## Key Drivers

### Conflict

Ongoing conflict has resulted in population displacements and damage to livelihoods. In January - March 2021, an estimated 62,200 new people were displaced internally due to conflict.

### COVID-19 Impact

The COVID-19 crisis imposed a burden on the economy & private sector in 2020. This results in a reduction in daily wage opportunities and small trader income, limiting households' financial access.

### Reduced Income and Unemployment

Households face increased stress on their financial access due to reduced income and persistent unemployment, causing increasing food insecurity.

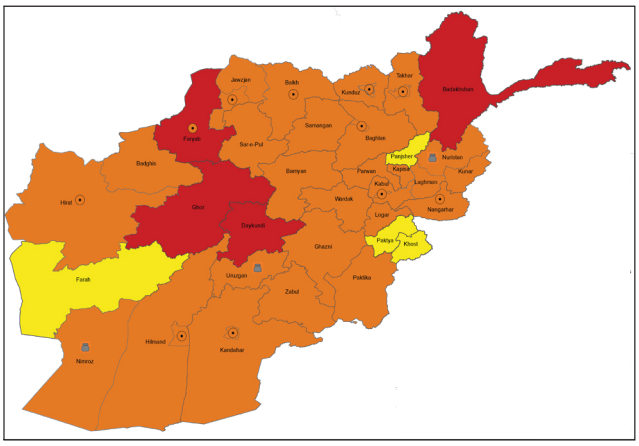
### High Food Prices

High food prices further exacerbate households' food access and their purchasing power, especially those already living below the poverty line. An estimated 10-20 percent price increase has been observed compared with the five year average in the context of COVID-19 and economic downturn, whereas, a 5–10 percent reduction in food prices has been observed compared to the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

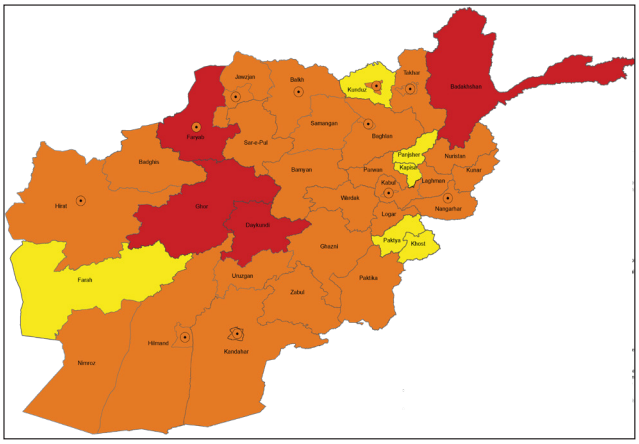
### Dry Spells

Cumulative precipitation has been below average during the wet season. As a result, snowpack development is also below average. This is likely to impact water available for irrigation of first and second crops in 2021, limiting food availability compared to average years.

## Current Acute Food Insecurity March - May 2021



## Projected Acute Food Insecurity June - November 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
- Urban settlement classification

**Area receives significant humanitarian food assistance**
(accounted for in Phase classification)

- > 25% of households meet 25-50% of caloric needs through assistance
- > 25% of households meet > 50% of caloric needs through assistance

**Evidence Level**

*** High

# CURRENT SITUATION OVERVIEW AND KEY DRIVERS (MARCH - MAY 2021)

In the current period, corresponding to the end of the lean season and pre-harvest, 10.9 million (35% of the analysed population) were estimated to be in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) and IPC Phase 4 (Emergency). This includes 3.2 million people (10%) classified in IPC Phase 4 and 7.8 million (25%) in IPC Phase 3. Of the 45 areas analysed (34 rural and 11 urban), four rural areas were classified in IPC Phase 4, Badakshan, Daykundi, Ghor, and Faryab, 37 areas in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis), and 4 areas in Phase 2 (Stressed). Except for Faryab, the remaining three areas Badakshan, Daykundi, and Ghor were also classified in IPC Phase 4 in both current and projected periods during the post-harvest analysis of August 2020.

In the current period, most households have already depleted their food stocks from previous harvest and are more reliant on food markets. According to the Pre-Lean Season Assessment (PLSA), on average, cereal stocks of the prior harvest lasted only five months for the entire households interviewed. Across all areas, only a small proportion (10%) of households reported having cereal stocks from their production that would last till the next harvest. In the rural areas, 47% of households reported having access to agricultural land, while in the urban areas, only 3% of households have access to agricultural land. Access to wheat seeds remained a significant challenge. According to PLSA, 81% of farmers did not have access to certified wheat seeds to cultivate their lands during the last season. PLSA findings show that in rural areas, 53% of people generate income from agriculture, while in the urban areas, only 9% of people do. In January, the average price of a one-year-old female sheep (alive) was 12% higher at the national level than at the same time last year and 27% above the four-year average. At the area level, prices were also near average or above average in most urban areas. Though higher livestock prices have generally benefited rural communities, urban communities have been adversely affected by higher meat prices.

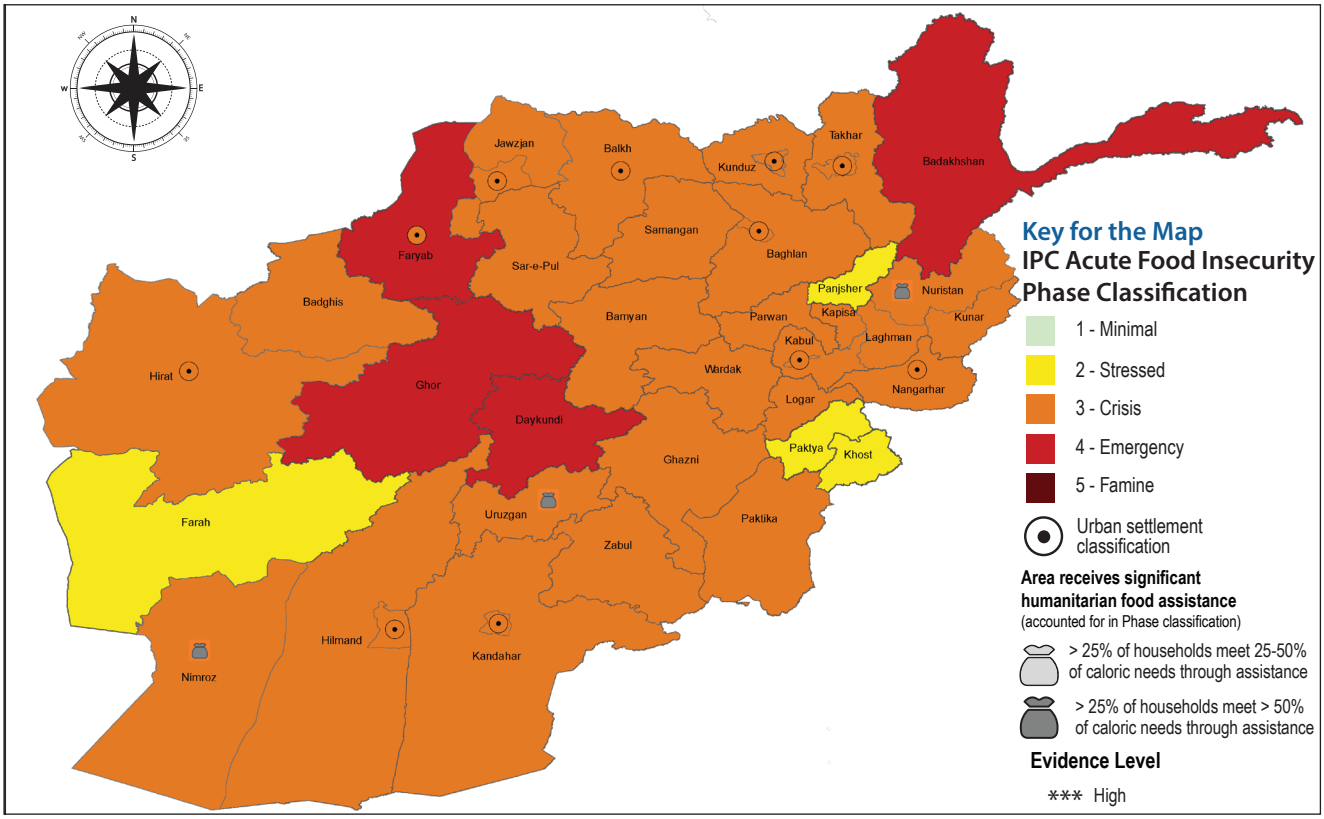
Economic access to food is seriously compromised because of a significant increase in prices. Overall, an estimated 10-20 % price increase has been observed compared with the same period of the last five years, whereas the prices for most of the food items except cooking oil have decreased by 5–10% in comparison to the peak of the COVID-19 outbreak in March – April 2021. Simultaneously, a decrease of up to 25% has been recorded in prices of vegetables. The increase is mainly due to the COVID-19 related impacts, steadily accelerating year-on-year inflation and seasonal changes. To further compound the situation, the PLSA indicated a reduction in income for 75% of people and an increase in debt. Around 73% of households reported having debt, and 74% cited food as the main reason for borrowing. With the increasing dependency on the market due to relatively lower production, increased prices, and debt, financial access to food is constrained for most households, as evidenced by the livelihood coping strategy. One out of five households (20%) adopted Emergency livelihood coping strategies, and 24% resorted to Crisis livelihood coping strategies to mitigate their food consumption gaps.

Unemployment continues to be a major driving force for economic vulnerability in Afghanistan, and only a small proportion of households have access to productive or sustainable remunerative employment. Around 75% of households (88% for urban households) reported that their income levels had decreased compared to the previous year, with reduced employment opportunities and loss of jobs being attributed as the main causes. Due to seasonal changes, agriculture and non-agriculture wage labor become further limited during the winter / lean season. This affects the income level of almost half of the labor force whose employment is vulnerable and insecure, especially for self-employment, agriculture and non-agriculture day labor and skilled workers.

Moreover, the abovementioned issues are compounded with years of conflict and instability that have caused livelihood disruption and displacements. Despite efforts for a peace deal, this has not yet translated into a sustained reduction in violence. In the first quarter of 2021, an estimated 62,200 people have been displaced. Internal displacement was limited to new IDPs in the first quarter of 2021. Still, IDPs from previous years were unable to return to their places of origin mainly because of continued conflict, loss of livelihoods, and a lack of economic opportunities. Returnees from Iran and Pakistan also continue to add stress to the livelihoods of households. According to the IOM, last year, 866,000 people returned from Iran and Pakistan, and this year during the first quarter, 254,000 people returned to Afghanistan from both countries.

It is important to notice (see the comparison section) that there has been a significant scale-up of Humanitarian Assistance provided by partners and Afghanistan's Government. This has supported a partial mitigation of the situation that appears, therefore, less severe than what was foreseen in the previous analysis, which factored in minimum assistance based on **available plans at the time of the analysis.**

# IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY CURRENT SITUATION (MARCH - MAY 2021)




Around 10.9 million people (35% of the analysed population) are estimated to be facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) in the current period (March-May 2021). This includes around 7.8 million people in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and 3.2 million people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). Four analysis areas were classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4): Badakshan, Daykundi, Ghor, and Faryab. Across all areas the evidence level for the analysis is **High (***).**

## The Impact of Humanitarian Food Assistance (HFA):

As Afghanistan is one of the world's most complex humanitarian emergencies, timely provision of humanitarian food aid to the people in the highest levels of acute food insecurity by the humanitarian community is essential for the survival of the most vulnerable households. Following the price shocks and unemployment crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, a significant scale-up of humanitarian assistance was initiated by key humanitarian partners. As a result, the provinces of Nimroz, Nuristan and Uruzgan, which were classified in IPC Phase 4 in the projection period of the September 2020 analysis for the January to March pre-lean season, are estimated to be receiving significant humanitarian assistance during the current period (at least 25% of households received more than 50% of their kilocaloric needs through humanitarian assistance).

In the September 2020 analysis, the estimated assistance levels for the January to March period covered on average 360,000 individuals per month, compared to the actual delivered assistance of 1.4 million per month. As per the food security cluster records, food assistance went from 3.5 million beneficiaries in 2019, to almost 7.5 million in 2020. In addition, the assistance provided by the Government of Afghanistan to support households most affected by the COVID-19 crisis is ongoing and targeting around 5 million households.

In the projection period, the planned assistance figures are much higher than those of previous years, which will support households.

## IPC population table for the current period: March - May 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 | 105,409 | 10 | 263,522 | 25 | 368,930 | 35 | 316,226 | 30 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 685,156 | 65 |
| 2 | Badghis | 549,583 | 109,917 | 20 | 219,833 | 40 | 164,875 | 30 | 54,958 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 219,833 | 40 |
| 3 | Baghlan | 803,529 | 241,059 | 30 | 321,412 | 40 | 160,706 | 20 | 80,353 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 241,059 | 30 |
| 4 | Baghlan Urban | 211,105 | 63,332 | 30 | 63,332 | 30 | 63,332 | 30 | 21,111 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 84,443 | 40 |
| 5 | Balkh | 924,297 | 231,074 | 25 | 323,504 | 35 | 323,504 | 35 | 46,215 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 369,719 | 40 |
| 6 | Balkh Urban | 584,886 | 146,222 | 25 | 175,466 | 30 | 204,710 | 35 | 58,489 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 263,199 | 45 |
| 7 | Bamyan | 495,557 | 148,667 | 30 | 173,445 | 35 | 123,889 | 25 | 49,556 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 173,445 | 35 |
| 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 | 197,059 | 35 | 281,513 | 50 | 84,454 | 15 | - | - | 0 | 0 | 2 | 84,454 | 15 |
| 10 | Faryab | 969,469 | 193,894 | 20 | 290,841 | 30 | 242,367 | 25 | 242,367 | 25 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 484,734 | 50 |
| 11 | Faryab Urban | 139,754 | 41,926 | 30 | 41,926 | 30 | 48,914 | 35 | 6,988 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 55,902 | 40 |
| 12 | Ghazni | 1,362,504 | 408,751 | 30 | 613,127 | 45 | 272,501 | 20 | 68,125 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 340,626 | 25 |
| 13 | Ghor | 764,472 | 152,894 | 20 | 267,565 | 35 | 191,118 | 25 | 152,894 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 344,012 | 45 |
| 14 | Helmand Urban | 100,361 | 30,108 | 30 | 40,144 | 40 | 20,072 | 20 | 10,036 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 30,108 | 30 |
| 15 | Hilmand | 1,345,869 | 471,054 | 35 | 471,054 | 35 | 336,467 | 25 | 67,293 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 403,760 | 30 |
| 16 | Hirat | 1,488,548 | 372,137 | 25 | 595,419 | 40 | 372,137 | 25 | 148,855 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 520,992 | 35 |
| 17 | Hirat Urban | 652,114 | 163,029 | 25 | 260,846 | 40 | 163,029 | 25 | 65,211 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 228,240 | 35 |
| 18 | Jawzjan | 469,257 | 93,851 | 20 | 164,240 | 35 | 140,777 | 30 | 70,389 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 211,166 | 45 |
| 19 | Jawzjan Urban | 132,825 | 39,848 | 30 | 46,489 | 35 | 39,848 | 30 | 6,641 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 46,489 | 35 |
| 20 | Kabul | 745,204 | 186,301 | 25 | 298,082 | 40 | 186,301 | 25 | 74,520 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 260,821 | 35 |
| 21 | Kabul Urban | 4,459,463 | 1,114,866 | 25 | 1,783,785 | 40 | 1,114,866 | 25 | 445,946 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1,560,812 | 35 |
| 22 | Kandahar | 876,335 | 219,084 | 25 | 306,717 | 35 | 262,901 | 30 | 87,634 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 350,535 | 40 |
| 23 | Kandahar Urban | 523,259 | 130,815 | 25 | 156,978 | 30 | 183,141 | 35 | 52,326 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 235,467 | 45 |
| 24 | Kapisa | 488,298 | 195,319 | 40 | 195,319 | 40 | 73,245 | 15 | 24,415 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 97,660 | 20 |
| 25 | Khost | 636,522 | 286,435 | 45 | 254,609 | 40 | 63,652 | 10 | 31,826 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 95,478 | 15 |
| 26 | Kunar | 499,393 | 149,818 | 30 | 174,788 | 35 | 124,848 | 25 | 49,939 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 174,787 | 35 |
| 27 | Kunduz | 833,422 | 291,698 | 35 | 291,698 | 35 | 166,684 | 20 | 83,342 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 250,026 | 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 | 197,395 | 40 | 123,372 | 25 | 49,349 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 172,721 | 35 |
| 30 | Logar | 434,374 | 108,594 | 25 | 195,468 | 45 | 108,594 | 25 | 21,719 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 130,313 | 30 |
| 31 | Nangarhar | 1,424,377 | 427,313 | 30 | 498,532 | 35 | 356,094 | 25 | 142,438 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 498,532 | 35 |
| 32 | Nangarhar Urban | 277,321 | 83,196 | 30 | 83,196 | 30 | 83,196 | 30 | 27,732 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 110,928 | 40 |
| 33 | Nimroz | 183,554 | 45,889 | 25 | 64,244 | 35 | 55,066 | 30 | 18,355 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 73,421 | 40 |
| 34 | Nuristan | 163,814 | 57,335 | 35 | 49,144 | 30 | 40,954 | 25 | 16,381 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 57,335 | 35 |
| 35 | Paktika | 775,498 | 271,424 | 35 | 310,199 | 40 | 116,325 | 15 | 77,550 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 193,875 | 25 |
| 36 | Paktya | 611,952 | 244,781 | 40 | 275,378 | 45 | 61,195 | 10 | 30,598 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 91,793 | 15 |
| 37 | Panjsher | 169,926 | 59,474 | 35 | 84,963 | 50 | 16,993 | 10 | 8,496 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 25,489 | 15 |
| 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 | 129,147 | 30 | 129,147 | 30 | 107,622 | 25 | 64,573 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 172,195 | 40 |
| 40 | Sari pul | 621,002 | 124,200 | 20 | 248,401 | 40 | 217,351 | 35 | 31,050 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 248,401 | 40 |
| 41 | Takhar | 944,492 | 330,572 | 35 | 377,797 | 40 | 188,898 | 20 | 47,225 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 236,123 | 25 |
| 42 | Takhar Urban | 148,600 | 44,580 | 30 | 59,440 | 40 | 37,150 | 25 | 7,430 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 44,580 | 30 |
| 43 | Uruzgan | 436,079 | 109,020 | 25 | 174,432 | 40 | 109,020 | 25 | 43,608 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 152,628 | 35 |
| 44 | Wardak | 660,258 | 198,077 | 30 | 297,116 | 45 | 132,052 | 20 | 33,013 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 165,065 | 25 |
| 45 | Zabul | 384,349 | 134,522 | 35 | 115,305 | 30 | 115,305 | 30 | 19,217 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 134,522 | 35 |
| | **Grand Total** | **31,390,171** | **8,669,926** | **28** | **11,781,317** | **38** | **7,766,480** | **25** | **3,172,449** | **10** | **0** | **0** | | **10,938,928** | **35** |

*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.*

# PROJECTED SITUATION OVERVIEW AND KEY DRIVERS (JUNE - NOVEMBER 2021)

During the projection period, from June to November 2021, the total population in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) and IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) is expected to decrease to 9.5 million (30% of the analysed population), with 6.7 million people (21%) in Crisis and 2.7 million (9%) in Emergency. The decrease follows the expected seasonal patterns of harvest. The number of areas classified in IPC Phase 4 will remain the same. However, the number of areas classified in IPC Phase 3 is expected to decrease from 37 in the current period to 35 in the projection period. The number of areas classified in IPC Phase 2 (Stressed) will increase to 6 due to Kunduz rural and Kapisa's transition into a Stressed situation.

The food security situation will likely improve from June onwards with 5% of the people moving into an IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) situation from IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) and further to IPC Phase 2 (Stressed) from IPC Phase 3, depending on the extent of impacts of harvest, the reduced impact of COVID-19, stability in commodity prices and better-expected performance of the remittances sector, especially from Gulf countries.

Conflict is likely to increase in the projection period above the usual spring trends, with displacements towards urban centers. The protracted conflict has put parts of Afghanistan in a precarious situation. Despite the efforts of a peace deal, conflict and insurgency continue. If a peace deal does not materialize, the conflict's intensity will increase in the projection period, which will likely trigger further internal displacement and cause further food insecurity. Food security will also be negatively impacted in urban areas as a more significant number of people will be displaced into main urban hubs due to conflicts. According to the IOM and UNHCR, cross-border movement from Iran and Pakistan will remain a key challenge in 2021, primarily due to reduced employment opportunities amid the economic crisis partially caused by COVID-19. People will continue to face a complex situation of decreased remittances – mainly from Iran due to its currency deprecation – low to no employment opportunities and more competition in the job market due to people returning from Iran and Pakistan and internal displacement. Conversely, it is assumed that the level of remittance from Gulf countries will likely improve during the projection period, depending on the impact of the third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Key Assumptions** for the projection period

**Conflict** is likely to increase in the projection period above the usual spring trends, with displacements towards urban centers.

**COVID-19** and the **international economic situation** will continue to affect food security, with remittances likely decreasing from Iran and Pakistan and slightly increasing from the Gulf countries.

Below-average **precipitation** is likely to result in below-average wheat production in 2021. However, the late rainfall in some parts of the country has resulted in a relative increase in spring wheat cultivation.

The **harvest** will improve food security conditions in the projected period. However, the below-average stocks linked to the expected below-average precipitation and yield will affect the next lean season (outside the projection period).

In the June to September period, shortages of fodder and grazing areas for **livestock** are likely to result in below-average livestock body conditions and productivity. Therefore, reduced livestock products availability for consumption and increased distress sales of livestock are expected.

The **Afghan economy** is expected to rebound to 1.5 – 2.5 percent in 2021, subject to an improved situation in the country (WB and ADB).

**Food prices** will decrease seasonally but remain above the five year average. The income from agricultural labor opportunities is expected to be below-average due to the below-average production season. The purchasing power will consequently reduce.

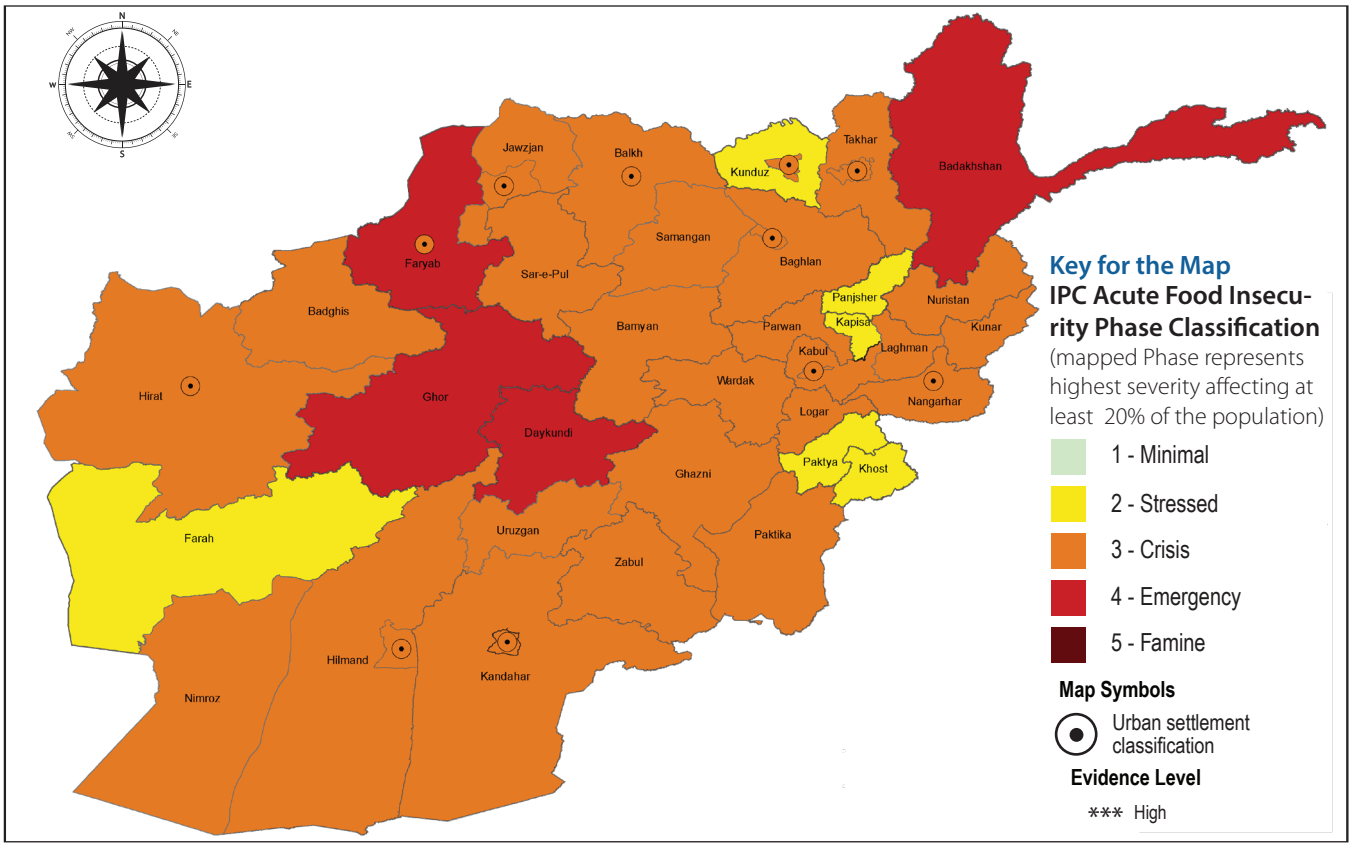
**Emergency humanitarian food and livelihood assistance** is expected to continue as per the previous year's trends for the harvest season. The government of Afghanistan will distribute emergency humanitarian food and livelihood assistance through the Dastarkhwan-e-Meli initiative and FSAC partners throughout the country.

As per FEWSNET's climate data, most of the country received below-average precipitation. Several provinces in the north, northeast, west, south, and east experienced precipitation deficits during the current wet season. Wheat cultivation and production, especially in rain-fed areas, is directly dependent upon adequate and timely precipitation. Looking at the precipitation level and remote sensing data collected by FEWSNET and the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL), it is estimated that the harvest will be below average this year. Even though the anticipated harvest between June and August will be below average, it is expected that the harvest improves household access to food while also increasing agriculture wage labor opportunities, especially in rural areas. Although the income from agricultural labor opportunities is expected to be low, it will improve the food security situation because of the seasonality factor. The harvest will likely outweigh the negative impacts of conflict, displacement, returns from Iran and Pakistan, etc., thereby slightly improving the food security situation. It is worth mentioning that wheat production is hugely dependent on precipitation during the coming one or two months. There might even be a need to update the projection period results, should the cropping season's performance be poor due to the precipitation deficit.

In the projected period, it is planned that emergency humanitarian food and livelihood assistance will be provided to the vulnerable population, such as IDPs, returnees, refugees, natural disaster-affected, and population classified in IPC Phase 3 or above, by FSAC partners throughout the country. The government of Afghanistan will also assist the vulnerable population through the Dastarkhwan e Meli COVID-19 relief program until November 2021. The planned humanitarian assistance during the projection period is expected to improve the food security situation. .

Despite the improvement of food security conditions during the harvest period (analysis projection), it is important to warn about the fact that the below-average harvest in the projected period will imply that households may not be able to sustain their food consumption until the end of harvest and post-harvest seasons. The households may face problems in stocking food for the next lean season. The situation is expected to deteriorate during the next lean season due to insufficient food stocks. Households would have consumed their limited stocks during the year because of poor harvests.

# IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY PROJECTION (JUNE - NOVEMBER 2021)




Note: Around 9.5 million people (30% of the analysed population) are estimated to be facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) in the projection period (June - November 2021). This includes around 6.7 million people in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and 2.7 million people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). Four analysis areas are classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4), namely Badakshan, Daykundi, Ghor, and Faryab. Across all areas, the evidence level for the analysis is **High (***).**

## IPC population table for the projection period: June - November 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 | 158,113 | 15 | 316,226 | 30 | 263,522 | 25 | 316,226 | 30 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 579,748 | 55 |
| 2 | Badghis | 549,583 | 137,396 | 25 | 219,833 | 40 | 137,396 | 25 | 54,958 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 192,354 | 35 |
| 3 | Baghlan | 803,529 | 281,235 | 35 | 361,588 | 45 | 120,529 | 15 | 40,176 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 160,706 | 20 |
| 4 | Baghlan Urban | 211,105 | 84,442 | 40 | 84,442 | 40 | 31,666 | 15 | 10,555 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 42,221 | 20 |
| 5 | Balkh | 924,297 | 231,074 | 25 | 369,719 | 40 | 277,289 | 30 | 46,215 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 323,504 | 35 |
| 6 | Balkh Urban | 584,886 | 146,222 | 25 | 204,710 | 35 | 175,466 | 30 | 58,489 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 233,954 | 40 |
| 7 | Bamyan | 495,557 | 123,889 | 25 | 198,223 | 40 | 123,889 | 25 | 49,556 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 173,445 | 35 |
| 8 | Daykundi | 516,504 | 103,301 | 20 | 103,301 | 20 | 180,776 | 35 | 129,126 | 25 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 309,902 | 60 |
| 9 | Farah | 563,026 | 225,210 | 40 | 253,362 | 45 | 84,454 | 15 | - | - | 0 | 0 | 2 | 84,454 | 15 |
| 10 | Faryab | 969,469 | 242,367 | 25 | 290,841 | 30 | 242,367 | 25 | 193,894 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 436,261 | 45 |
| 11 | Faryab Urban | 139,754 | 41,926 | 30 | 48,914 | 35 | 41,926 | 30 | 6,988 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 48,914 | 35 |
| 12 | Ghazni | 1,362,504 | 476,876 | 35 | 613,127 | 45 | 204,376 | 15 | 68,125 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 272,501 | 20 |
| 13 | Ghor | 764,472 | 191,118 | 25 | 229,342 | 30 | 191,118 | 25 | 152,894 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 344,012 | 45 |
| 14 | Helmand Urban | 100,361 | 30,108 | 30 | 40,144 | 40 | 20,072 | 20 | 10,036 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 30,108 | 30 |
| 15 | Hilmand | 1,345,869 | 471,054 | 35 | 471,054 | 35 | 269,174 | 20 | 134,587 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 403,761 | 30 |
| 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 | 260,846 | 40 | 130,423 | 20 | 65,211 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 195,634 | 30 |
| 18 | Jawzjan | 469,257 | 93,851 | 20 | 187,703 | 40 | 140,777 | 30 | 46,926 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 187,703 | 40 |
| 19 | Jawzjan Urban | 132,825 | 39,848 | 30 | 53,130 | 40 | 33,206 | 25 | 6,641 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 39,848 | 30 |
| 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 | 1,560,812 | 35 | 1,783,785 | 40 | 891,893 | 20 | 222,973 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1,114,866 | 25 |
| 22 | Kandahar | 876,335 | 219,084 | 25 | 306,717 | 35 | 262,901 | 30 | 87,634 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 350,534 | 40 |
| 23 | Kandahar Urban | 523,259 | 104,652 | 20 | 130,815 | 25 | 209,304 | 40 | 78,489 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 287,792 | 55 |
| 24 | Kapisa | 488,298 | 195,319 | 40 | 219,734 | 45 | 48,830 | 10 | 24,415 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 73,245 | 15 |
| 25 | Khost | 636,522 | 286,435 | 45 | 286,435 | 45 | 31,826 | 5 | 31,826 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 63,652 | 10 |
| 26 | Kunar | 499,393 | 149,818 | 30 | 199,757 | 40 | 99,879 | 20 | 49,939 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 149,818 | 30 |
| 27 | Kunduz | 833,422 | 375,040 | 45 | 333,369 | 40 | 83,342 | 10 | 41,671 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 125,013 | 15 |
| 28 | Kunduz Urban | 303,255 | 106,139 | 35 | 136,465 | 45 | 45,488 | 15 | 15,163 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 60,651 | 20 |
| 29 | Laghman | 493,488 | 123,372 | 25 | 246,744 | 50 | 74,023 | 15 | 49,349 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 123,372 | 25 |
| 30 | Logar | 434,374 | 152,031 | 35 | 173,750 | 40 | 86,875 | 20 | 21,719 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 108,594 | 25 |
| 31 | Nangarhar | 1,424,377 | 284,875 | 20 | 640,970 | 45 | 427,313 | 30 | 71,219 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 498,532 | 35 |
| 32 | Nangarhar Urban | 277,321 | 83,196 | 30 | 97,062 | 35 | 69,330 | 25 | 27,732 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 97,062 | 35 |
| 33 | Nimroz | 183,554 | 55,066 | 30 | 55,066 | 30 | 55,066 | 30 | 18,355 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 73,422 | 40 |
| 34 | Nuristan | 163,814 | 57,335 | 35 | 65,526 | 40 | 32,763 | 20 | 8,191 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 40,954 | 25 |
| 35 | Paktika | 775,498 | 310,199 | 40 | 310,199 | 40 | 116,325 | 15 | 38,775 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 155,100 | 20 |
| 36 | Paktya | 611,952 | 244,781 | 40 | 275,378 | 45 | 61,195 | 10 | 30,598 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 91,793 | 15 |
| 37 | Panjsher | 169,926 | 59,474 | 35 | 84,963 | 50 | 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 | 129,147 | 30 | 150,671 | 35 | 86,098 | 20 | 64,573 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 150,671 | 35 |
| 40 | Sari pul | 621,002 | 155,251 | 25 | 279,451 | 45 | 155,251 | 25 | 31,050 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 186,301 | 30 |
| 41 | Takhar | 944,492 | 377,797 | 40 | 377,797 | 40 | 141,674 | 15 | 47,225 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 188,898 | 20 |
| 42 | Takhar Urban | 148,600 | 59,440 | 40 | 52,010 | 35 | 29,720 | 20 | 7,430 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 37,150 | 25 |
| 43 | Uruzgan | 436,079 | 109,020 | 25 | 174,432 | 40 | 109,020 | 25 | 43,608 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 152,628 | 35 |
| 44 | Wardak | 660,258 | 198,077 | 30 | 297,116 | 45 | 132,052 | 20 | 33,013 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 165,065 | 25 |
| 45 | Zabul | 384,349 | 96,087 | 25 | 134,522 | 35 | 115,305 | 30 | 38,435 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 153,740 | 40 |
| | **Grand Total** | **31,390,171** | **9,694,433** | **31** | **12,233,391** | **39** | **6,719,607** | **21** | **2,742,741** | **9** | **0** | **0** | | **9,462,347** | **30** |

*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.*

# FOOD SECURITY SITUATION IN SELECTED URBAN AREAS

Eleven major towns of selected provinces were analysed to assess the specific vulnerabilities of urban households. Across the urban areas, around 2.73 million people (36% of the analysed population) were facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above), of which 717,000 people (10%) were classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). All urban areas were classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3), the urban area of Mazar (Balkh) and Kandahar, each having 45% of their total population classified in IPC Phase 3 or above, are amongst the most vulnerable urban centers, followed by Maimana (Faryab), Pul-e-Khumri (Baghlan), Jalalabad (Nangarhar), each having 40% of their population classified in IPC Phase 3 or above. The number of people in high acute food insecurity is expected to relatively decrease in the projected period (June - November 2021) to 2.2 million people (29%) due to the expected outcomes of the upcoming harvest, improved food availability, decrease in prices and job opportunities.

The overall situation is slightly better compared to last year in terms of financial access, with businesses and industries recovering from the impact of COVID-19, resulting in increased urban employment opportunities, and food prices are moderate this year in comparison to during the COVID-19 outbreak, with ease of border closures and lockdowns. However, above-average food prices due to a below-average harvest and potential displacement if the conflict intensifies threaten the urban centers' overall food security.

## Urban population table for the current period: March - May 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 | 63,332 | 30 | 63,332 | 30 | 63,332 | 30 | 21,111 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 84,443 | 40 |
| Balkh Urban | 584,886 | 146,222 | 25 | 175,466 | 30 | 204,710 | 35 | 58,489 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 263,199 | 45 |
| Faryab Urban | 139,754 | 41,926 | 30 | 41,926 | 30 | 48,914 | 35 | 6,988 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 55,902 | 40 |
| Helmand Urban | 100,361 | 30,108 | 30 | 40,144 | 40 | 20,072 | 20 | 10,036 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 30,108 | 30 |
| Hirat Urban | 652,114 | 163,029 | 25 | 260,846 | 40 | 163,029 | 25 | 65,211 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 228,240 | 35 |
| Jawzjan Urban | 132,825 | 39,848 | 30 | 46,489 | 35 | 39,848 | 30 | 6,641 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 46,489 | 35 |
| Kabul Urban | 4,459,463 | 1,114,866 | 25 | 1,783,785 | 40 | 1,114,866 | 25 | 445,946 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1,560,812 | 35 |
| Kandahar Urban | 523,259 | 130,815 | 25 | 156,978 | 30 | 183,141 | 35 | 52,326 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 235,467 | 45 |
| 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 | 83,196 | 30 | 83,196 | 30 | 83,196 | 30 | 27,732 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 110,928 | 40 |
| Takhar Urban | 148,600 | 44,580 | 30 | 59,440 | 40 | 37,150 | 25 | 7,430 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 44,580 | 30 |
| **Grand Total** | **7,532,943** | **1,964,061** | **26** | **2,832,904** | **38** | **2,018,909** | **27** | **717,073** | **10** | **0** | **0** | | **2,735,982** | **36** |

## Urban population table for the projection period: June - November 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 | 84,442 | 40 | 84,442 | 40 | 31,666 | 15 | 10,555 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 42,221 | 20 |
| Balkh Urban | 584,886 | 146,222 | 25 | 204,710 | 35 | 175,466 | 30 | 58,489 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 233,954 | 40 |
| Faryab Urban | 139,754 | 41,926 | 30 | 48,914 | 35 | 41,926 | 30 | 6,988 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 48,914 | 35 |
| Helmand Urban | 100,361 | 30,108 | 30 | 40,144 | 40 | 20,072 | 20 | 10,036 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 30,108 | 30 |
| Hirat Urban | 652,114 | 195,634 | 30 | 260,846 | 40 | 130,423 | 20 | 65,211 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 195,634 | 30 |
| Jawzjan Urban | 132,825 | 39,848 | 30 | 53,130 | 40 | 33,206 | 25 | 6,641 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 39,848 | 30 |
| Kabul Urban | 4,459,463 | 1,560,812 | 35 | 1,783,785 | 40 | 891,893 | 20 | 222,973 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1,114,866 | 25 |
| Kandahar Urban | 523,259 | 104,652 | 20 | 130,815 | 25 | 209,304 | 40 | 78,489 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 287,792 | 55 |
| Kunduz Urban | 303,255 | 106,139 | 35 | 136,465 | 45 | 45,488 | 15 | 15,163 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 60,651 | 20 |
| Nangarhar Urban | 277,321 | 83,196 | 30 | 97,062 | 35 | 69,330 | 25 | 27,732 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 97,062 | 35 |
| Takhar Urban | 148,600 | 59,440 | 40 | 52,010 | 35 | 29,720 | 20 | 7,430 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 37,150 | 25 |
| **Grand Total** | **7,532,943** | **2,452,419** | **33** | **2,892,323** | **38** | **1,678,494** | **22** | **509,707** | **7** | **0** | **0** | | **2,188,201** | **29** |

# 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 protracted conflict, ongoing insecurity, the COVID-19 pandemic, and natural hazards such as droughts, floods, and earthquakes. Internal displacement and emigration have become familiar survival strategies for many Afghans. Millions of Afghan individuals, families, and communities migrated within and outside the country. Rural communities mainly migrated to nearby urban or semi-urban settlements, where security is relatively better, and land is still affordable or available free of the rental cost for temporary accommodation. While these settlements may provide a safe living from conflict with non-state actors but internal communal conflict on land use, lack of basic services like electricity, water, access to latrines, education, and poor shelter conditions are major issues.

Due to the severity of the conflict and its sudden nature, most of these vulnerable IDPs' livelihood assets are either looted or sold at meager prices. They often migrate without the necessary legal identity documents 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 safer locations. Therefore, in the absence of agriculture and livestock-based livelihoods, and with no urban labor skills, they are left with almost zero livelihood options. Most of the IDPs bring agriculture-based livelihood skills to these urban areas where there is no market for their skills. Their arrival increases the local job market's pressure, reducing wages and adding strain on infrastructure, ultimately fueling 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%) need urgent humanitarian assistance as per the historical trend data from the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster (FSAC) of Afghanistan. Though 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 3.14 million IDPs in Afghanistan in June 2020, and this number is expected to further increase by mid -2021. According to OCHA's IDP tracking data, a total of 62,200 IDPs fled their homes from January to mid-March 2021. Looking at the trends, numbers increase during spring, summer and autumn. Therefore, it is anticipated, that by the end of 2021, the IDP number is likely to increase further.

The food security situation for displaced populations remained severe as per various assessments conducted by FSAC partners. In 2020, REACH conducted an assessment with different vulnerable groups on the move that included new and prolonged IDPs, returnees and refugees, mostly concentrated in 11 urban areas (Nangarhar, Hirat, Kabul, Faryab, Takhar, Kunduz, Kandahar, Hilmand, Balkh, Baghlan and Jawzjan), on which the urban IPC analysis is focused. According to this assessment's findings, 97% of the IDPs have a Poor and 3% have a Borderline Food Consumption Score, a very low level of income, far below the cost of a basic food basket, and a high level of debt (69%). 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 to return to their place of origin due to the fragile security situation. The preference is to remain closer to urban and semi-urban areas to be safe, find income opportunities, or receive assistance. Whereas the labor 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 has put them in a worsening situation.

# COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY ANALYSES

## 2020-2021 LEAN SEASON ANALYSES COMPARISON[1]

Comparing the analysis covering the lean season (March/April to May), in 2020 (April 2020 analysis), and 2021 (April 2021 analysis), the situation portrays the same prevalence of food insecurity, at about 35% of the total population, corresponding to 10.9 million people.

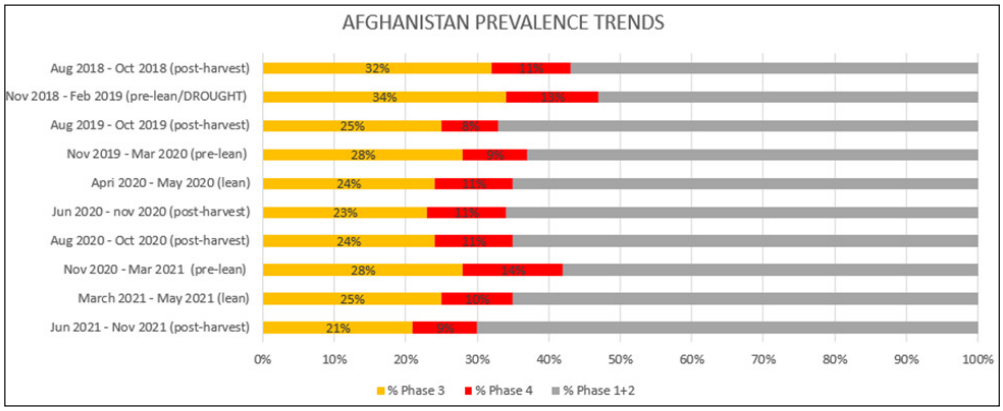
In September 2020, a projection was conducted over the 2021 pre-lean season, forecasting a higher prevalence (42% corresponding with 13.2 million people) of the population in highly acute food insecurity. That forecast has not materialized with the same severity due to a lower than estimated impact of the second wave of COVID-19 and in part thanks to the scale-up of Humanitarian Food Assistance (see Current Situation Overview and the Humanitarian Food Assistance box). Moreover, the March-May 2021 analysis period includes the green harvest in lowland areas, which will enhance the food availability in this season compared to the pre-harvest period. In more details, regarding the estimated impact of the second wave of COVID-19, the end of lockdowns has reduced the impact on the household's economy, border closure, price and remittances. Besides, the impact of COVID-19 restrictions was not very significant in the rural areas and did not significantly impact agricultural and livestock products.

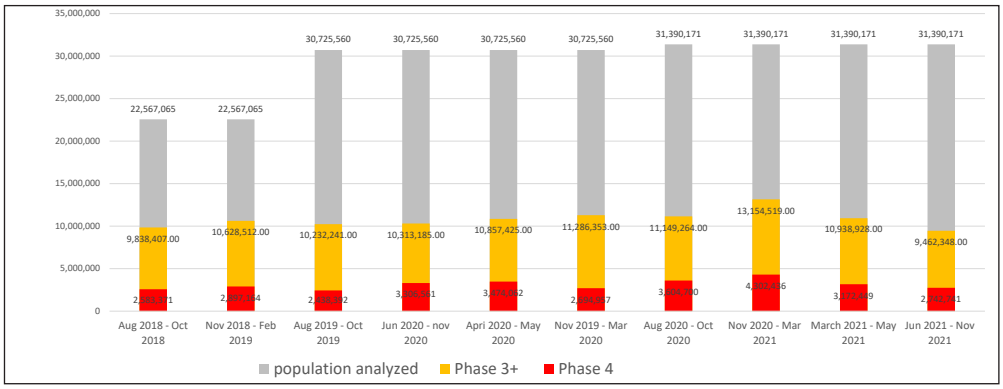
[1] Comparison of March current analysis (March-May 2021, lean-season) with the same season April analysis current (April – May 2020, lean season) and September projection analysis (Nov 2020 – March 2021).

Secondly, the impacts of humanitarian food assistance provided by the government of Afghanistan through the Dastarkhwan e Meli COVID-19 relief program and other humanitarian actors have been significant in enhancing the people's food security situation in some of the most affected provinces. It is important to highlight that the projection analysis conducted in September 2020 factored in estimated assistance levels for the January to March period, covering about 360,000 individuals per month. The actual assistance provided has been 1.4 million per month. In addition to this significant scale-up, the Government of Afghanistan has also provided considerable assistance that was not factored into the previous analysis as detailed elements were not yet available.

Despite these positive changes, more than one-third of the total analysed population face high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) and require urgent humanitarian food assistance. The food insecurity situation is particularly pronounced in fragile livelihoods and remote access issues, such as the central highlands, the highlands of the northeast, and some provinces in the north region.

## 2020-2021 POST-HARVEST ANALYSES COMPARISON[2]




Comparing the analysis covering the post-harvest season (June to November) in 2020 (April and October 2020 analyses) and 2021 (April 2021 analysis), the situation portrays an improvement in the prevalence of food insecurity, from 10.3 million people (34%) - April 2020 analysis - or 11.15 million (36%) – October 2020 analysis – to 9.5 million people (30%) in the April 2021 analysis[3].

The projection estimates of the recent analysis predict a 6% reduction in the population classified in IPC Phase 3 or above in comparison to the September 2020 post-harvest analysis, and 4% in comparison to the April 2020 analysis.

A significant number of people were estimated to be in high acute food insecurity during the last year, primarily due to the COVID-19 impacts and the projected COVID-19 second wave impacts, that were expected to result in loss of employment, reduction in income, remittances, and steep food price hikes. These projection assumptions reflected a worse scenario than what was eventually observed. In the 2021 projection period, although the negative impacts of the La Niña phenomenon will likely contribute to below-average harvests in most of the areas, it is assumed that households will get a minimum harvest to sustain their food consumption needs until the end of the harvest season. Government assistance through the Dastarkhwan e Mel COVID-19 relief program and humanitarian food assistance by humanitarian partners will continue until November 2021, which coincides with the end of the projection period. The numbers in IPC Phase 1 and 2 are therefore expected to improve slightly.

However, it has to be highlighted that the situation is expected to deteriorate significantly during the next lean season. Due to reduced harvests, households would not have adequate food stocks to take them through the lean season.

[2] Comparison of Projection Analysis conducted in March 2021 (covering June – November 2021, post-harvest) with the current analysis conducted in October 2020 (covering August and October 2020, post-harvest) and projection analysis of April 2020 (covering June – November 2020 post-harvest)

[3] The 2021 projected estimates suggest that between June and November 2021, corresponding to the harvest season, around 9.5 million people (30% of the total analyzed population) are likely to experience high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) and requires urgent humanitarian action. Similarly, the current analysis conducted in October 2020 covering the months of August and October 2020, corresponding to the post-harvest season, estimated that 11.15 million people (36% of the total analyzed population) were facing high levels of acute food insecurity and required urgent humanitarian action. Moreover, the projection analysis conducted in April 2020 projected that 10.3 million people (34% of the total population) will likely face acute food insecurity during the post-harvest situation.

# RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

## Response Priorities

The food insecurity situation continued to worsen during the lean season, even in a normal year. Protracted conflict, a significant reduction in income because of lack of economic opportunities fueled by COVID-19, and localised prolonged dry spells will continue to affect rural and urban food security and livelihoods during the current and projection period. The following are the pressing needs to avoid hunger and asset depletion:

- Consistent actions are required to contain a high rate of asset depletion and food consumption gaps through food assistance for the population classified in IPC Phase 3 or above. Markets are functional in major urban and peri-urban areas, so food assistance through cash assistance can play a crucial role in strengthening local markets.
- Conditional food assistance should be considered to improve local livelihoods infrastructure, especially in prolonged dry spell-affected areas where improving the water infrastructure can resolve water scarcity issues for human consumption, crops, and livestock. Food Assistance programmes should target vulnerable food insecure women-headed households through unconditional cash grants/food assistance.
- Seasonal food insecurity support may require an extension in a number of months supported in targeted areas where prolonged dry spell impacts seem to affect crops and livestock sector. Urban areas are equally vulnerable to large-scale food insecurity so cash assistance in urban areas will reduce food gaps.
- Access to drought-resistant improved crop inputs should be increased in areas where there is consistent prolonged dry spell trends. Government and the international community need to work together to address this long persistent issue.
- Building on the experience of 2018/2019, livestock support should be provided to small and medium-scale farmers, especially women farmers, to contain livestock asset depletion. This will help in reducing malnutrition in women and children.
- Small-scale livelihood programmes are required to reduce the large-scale income gaps and lack of economic opportunities. In urban areas, a marketing review is required before launching such projects. In rural areas, building on experiences of small scale, poultry and kitchen gardening support will ensure access to nutritious food and income.
- In case of severe lean season because of drought-like conditions, a scale-up in response may be required in rural areas, so monitoring the situation and effective response preparation is required to support those most in need i.e. agriculture labor and small scale agriculture and livestock farmers.

Stakeholders should also focus their attention and funding on programs to build resilience to disasters and reduce disaster risks, especially droughts and localized flooding.

## Situation Monitoring and Update of Activities

The Afghanistan IPC TWG (Technical Working Group) should engage proactively with the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster Hazard and Crisis Assessment Group (HCAG), the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) and the National Statistics and Information Authority (NSIA), to monitor alarming conditions during the projection period. The key factors to monitor are;

- The impact of the prolonged dry spells on the food security in rural areas. Low precipitation is expected to affect crop production in many areas that can trigger an early lean season onset. Significantly below-average production in areas with less rainfall require continuous monitoring. Water availability for the second crop should also be monitored to alarm the humanitarian community on the possible impact.
- Pastures condition and fodder availability for livestock to avoid distress sale resulting in long-term food insecurity for livestock rearing communities.
- Lack of economic activities, reduced income, and decrease in remittances because of the COVID-19 pandemic, especially in urban areas. Measures to monitor the performance of the urban wage sector and its impact on food security of the urban poor.
- Afghanistan is highly dependent on importing staple food; border closures and lockdown because of the third wave of COVID-19 needs close monitoring.
- Food price monitoring should also continue in the major markets of the country. In rural areas, prices get significantly high because of conflict-driven road and market closures, requiring monitoring of local markets.
- Crop pests and diseases and livestock diseases can potentially affect crops and livestock in 14 provinces of the country, as per the historical trends.
- During the projection period, the US and its allies' troops withdrawal, the ongoing Afghan Peace Talks and their impact on the security situation should be closely monitored, particularly in provinces that trigger the displacement of rural population to urban cities. On average, around 500,000 people migrate to secure areas every year because of conflict.

- The flow of returns from Iran, Pakistan and other countries, especially in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The overall food security situation should be monitored through the conduction of the Post-harvest Seasonal Food Security Assessment and the IPC Analysis workshop to capture better the severity and the impact of the La Niña phenomenon.
- Humanitarian food assistance delivery and the factors that might prevent planned assistance from being delivered, such as lack of access, conflict and so on, should be monitored.

### Plans for the Next Analysis

The next analysis is planned for October 2021 during the post-harvest period in all 34 provinces, including major urban hubs. Internally displaced people will also be included in the next analysis. Based on the continuous monitoring of the risk factors and emerging shocks, the IPC TWG will decide on the possibility of conducting an update to the analysis during the mid-year review.

## PROCESS, METHODOLOGY AND LIMITATIONS

### Process and Methodology

The IPC Acute Food Insecurity analysis was conducted on 7-17 March 2021 assessing two time periods, the current and the projection. The current analysis period (March-May 2021) was based on the assessments and data collected mainly during 2020-2021, capturing the food insecurity key information; and the projection period (June – November 2021) was based on the current period analysis, demonstrated by the projection assumptions related to conflict, the expected La Niña impact, precipitation, remittances, food prices, trade and economic outlook, and crop harvests. The analysis covered all 34 provinces of the country, 23 provinces were analysed at the provincial level whereas the rural and urban centers of the 11 provinces were analysed separately, making 45 analytical domains in total.

A full IPC Acute Food Insecurity Level 1 training from 15-18 February was conducted in Kabul prior to the IPC analysis workshop. Respecting the working modality of partner organizations, the analysis workshop adopted a hybrid approach where most of the participants had physically participated, while a few others were dialing in virtually. The workshop was attended by almost 80 experts from across Afghanistan, representing provincial and central government, UN organizations, international and national NGOs, technical agencies, and academia. The active participation and support of officials/staff from the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) and from the above departments and organizations are highly acknowledged.

The data used in the analysis was organized according to the IPC analytical framework and entails food insecurity contributing factors, outcome indicators, and multiple secondary sources. The data was collected from numerous sources, namely from MAIL, other government institutions at national and provincial levels, and international organizations.

### Sources

Data sources used for the analysis included: 1) Pre-Lean Season Assessment (PLSA) 2021 – the World Food Program (WFP). 2) Seasonal Food Security Assessment (SFSA) 2020 – the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster (FSAC). 3) Food prices, food production, livestock ownership, expected La Niña impact, and wheat balance sheet – MAIL. 4) Population estimation – NSIA/ 5) ALCS 2016-2017 – NSIA. 6) Climate, precipitation, NDVI, provincial seasonal calendars, field reports, and food security outlook – FEWSNET. 7) Refugee & IDP data – UNHCR, OCHA, FSAC and IOM. 8) Precipitation, temperature, snow, and estimated risk of natural disasters – iMMAP. 9) Hard to reach an informal settlement assessment and joint market monitoring initiative – REACH International. 10) Humanitarian Food Assistance (HFA) – FSAC. 11) Data on humanitarian assistance delivered and planned – WFP. 12) Food Supply, Agricultural Livelihoods & Food Security in the Context of COVID-19 and other Shocks in Afghanistan assessment – FAO. 13) Agroecological zoning – FAO. 14) Economic outlook 2021 – World Bank and IMF. 15) Nutrition data – Nutrition Cluster. 16) Socio-economic impact of specific crops on livelihoods, desk study – IPC Afghanistan secretariat. 17) Other localized assessments – I/NGOs, FSAC partners.

## Limitations of the analysis

The IPC workshop was conducted using a hybrid approach due to COVID–19 restrictions, with some of the agencies, including IPC GSU, participating in the workshop virtually. This resulted in minor communication problems due to weak internet connection and unstable electricity power for participants joining virtually. During this round of analysis, most of the data sources used were of high quality and reliability; however, two outcome indicators were found to have some logical inconsistencies, for which the TWG suggested ways to improve data quality for future analyses. Where possible, the problematic observations were dropped or the indicators reanalyzed. However, all evidences used in IPC analysis met minimum reliability criteria as per IPC Technical Manual Version 3.0 guidelines. Analysts were informed of the inconsistencies and advised to use them cautiously during area classification.

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 have not been considered in the Phase classification of any certain area. Additionally, because of the insufficient and lack of timely data on IDPs' food security situation, a separate food insecurity analysis for this group could not be conducted.

Following the completion of the IPC analysis, FEWS NET respectfully disagreed with a number of the area-level phase classifications and the total assessed population in need. Specifically, FEWS NET disagreed with the population's magnitude assessed to be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse and the classification of a number of areas, including four areas classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). A summary of FEWS NET's minority view can be found in this report.

## 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.

## 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.

## Contact for further Information

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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.

## IPC Analysis Partners

# Annex 1

## Current Flowminder population table (March - May 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 | 135,704 | 10 | 339,259 | 25 | 474,963 | 35 | 407,111 | 30 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 882,074 | 65 |
| 2 | Badghis | 707,535 | 141,507 | 20 | 283,014 | 40 | 212,260 | 30 | 70,753 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 283,014 | 40 |
| 3 | Baghlan | 1,046,775 | 314,032 | 30 | 418,710 | 40 | 209,355 | 20 | 104,677 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 314,032 | 30 |
| 4 | Baghlan Urban | 259,469 | 77,841 | 30 | 77,841 | 30 | 77,841 | 30 | 25,947 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 103,787 | 40 |
| 5 | Balkh | 1,325,091 | 331,273 | 25 | 463,782 | 35 | 463,782 | 35 | 66,255 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 530,036 | 40 |
| 6 | Balkh Urban | 617,840 | 154,460 | 25 | 185,352 | 30 | 216,244 | 35 | 61,784 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 278,028 | 45 |
| 7 | Bamyan | 637,983 | 191,395 | 30 | 223,294 | 35 | 159,496 | 25 | 63,798 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 223,294 | 35 |
| 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 | 253,694 | 35 | 362,420 | 50 | 108,726 | 15 | - | - | 0 | 0 | 2 | 108,726 | 15 |
| 10 | Faryab | 1,256,728 | 251,346 | 20 | 377,018 | 30 | 314,182 | 25 | 314,182 | 25 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 628,364 | 50 |
| 11 | Faryab Urban | 171,291 | 51,387 | 30 | 51,387 | 30 | 59,952 | 35 | 8,565 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 68,516 | 40 |
| 12 | Ghazni | 1,754,092 | 526,228 | 30 | 789,342 | 45 | 350,818 | 20 | 87,705 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 438,523 | 25 |
| 13 | Ghor | 984,184 | 196,837 | 20 | 344,464 | 35 | 246,046 | 25 | 196,837 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 442,883 | 45 |
| 14 | Helmand Urban | 1,748,033 | 524,410 | 30 | 699,213 | 40 | 349,607 | 20 | 174,803 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 524,410 | 30 |
| 15 | Hilmand | 113,852 | 39,848 | 35 | 39,848 | 35 | 28,463 | 25 | 5,693 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 34,156 | 30 |
| 16 | Hirat | 2,024,278 | 506,070 | 25 | 809,711 | 40 | 506,070 | 25 | 202,428 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 708,497 | 35 |
| 17 | Hirat Urban | 731,630 | 182,907 | 25 | 292,652 | 40 | 182,907 | 25 | 73,163 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 256,070 | 35 |
| 18 | Jawzjan | 619,726 | 123,945 | 20 | 216,904 | 35 | 185,918 | 30 | 92,959 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 278,877 | 45 |
| 19 | Jawzjan Urban | 155,399 | 46,620 | 30 | 54,390 | 35 | 46,620 | 30 | 7,770 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 54,390 | 35 |
| 20 | Kabul | 1,008,030 | 252,008 | 25 | 403,212 | 40 | 252,008 | 25 | 100,803 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 352,811 | 35 |
| 21 | Kabul Urban | 5,692,486 | 1,423,121 | 25 | 2,276,994 | 40 | 1,423,121 | 25 | 569,249 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1,992,370 | 35 |
| 22 | Kandahar | 1,136,056 | 284,014 | 25 | 397,620 | 35 | 340,817 | 30 | 113,606 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 454,423 | 40 |
| 23 | Kandahar Urban | 665,787 | 166,447 | 25 | 199,736 | 30 | 233,026 | 35 | 66,579 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 299,604 | 45 |
| 24 | Kapisa | 628,639 | 251,456 | 40 | 251,456 | 40 | 94,296 | 15 | 31,432 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 125,728 | 20 |
| 25 | Khost | 819,460 | 368,757 | 45 | 327,784 | 40 | 81,946 | 10 | 40,973 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 122,919 | 15 |
| 26 | Kunar | 642,920 | 192,876 | 30 | 225,022 | 35 | 160,730 | 25 | 64,292 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 225,022 | 35 |
| 27 | Kunduz | 1,224,164 | 428,457 | 35 | 428,457 | 35 | 244,833 | 20 | 122,416 | 10 | 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 | 254,127 | 40 | 158,829 | 25 | 63,532 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 222,361 | 35 |
| 30 | Logar | 559,215 | 139,804 | 25 | 251,647 | 45 | 139,804 | 25 | 27,961 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 167,765 | 30 |
| 31 | Nangarhar | 1,845,035 | 553,510 | 30 | 645,762 | 35 | 461,259 | 25 | 184,503 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 645,762 | 35 |
| 32 | Nangarhar Urban | 345,738 | 103,721 | 30 | 103,721 | 30 | 103,721 | 30 | 34,574 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 138,295 | 40 |
| 33 | Nimroz | 236,308 | 59,077 | 25 | 82,708 | 35 | 70,892 | 30 | 23,631 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 94,523 | 40 |
| 34 | Nuristan | 210,895 | 73,813 | 35 | 63,268 | 30 | 52,724 | 25 | 21,089 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 73,813 | 35 |
| 35 | Paktika | 998,379 | 349,433 | 35 | 399,352 | 40 | 149,757 | 15 | 99,838 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 249,595 | 25 |
| 36 | Paktya | 787,829 | 315,132 | 40 | 354,523 | 45 | 78,783 | 10 | 39,391 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 118,174 | 15 |
| 37 | Panjsher | 218,763 | 76,567 | 35 | 109,382 | 50 | 21,876 | 10 | 10,938 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 32,814 | 15 |
| 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 | 166,264 | 30 | 166,264 | 30 | 138,553 | 25 | 83,132 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 221,685 | 40 |
| 40 | Sari pul | 799,480 | 159,896 | 20 | 319,792 | 40 | 279,818 | 35 | 39,974 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 319,792 | 40 |
| 41 | Takhar | 1,300,339 | 455,119 | 35 | 520,136 | 40 | 260,068 | 20 | 65,017 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 325,085 | 25 |
| 42 | Takhar Urban | 106,913 | 32,074 | 30 | 42,765 | 40 | 26,728 | 25 | 5,346 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 32,074 | 30 |
| 43 | Uruzgan | 561,409 | 140,352 | 25 | 224,564 | 40 | 140,352 | 25 | 56,141 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 196,493 | 35 |
| 44 | Wardak | 850,019 | 255,006 | 30 | 382,508 | 45 | 170,004 | 20 | 42,501 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 212,505 | 25 |
| 45 | Zabul | 494,813 | 173,184 | 35 | 148,444 | 30 | 148,444 | 30 | 24,741 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 173,184 | 35 |
| | Grand Total | 40,411,860 | 11,082,560 | 27 | 15,249,651 | 38 | 9,910,392 | 25 | 4,169,256 | 10 | 0 | 0 | | 14,079,648 | 35 |

## Projection Flowminder population table (June - November 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 | 203,555 | 15 | 407,111 | 30 | 339,259 | 25 | 407,111 | 30 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 746,370 | 55 |
| 2 | Badghis | 707,535 | 176,884 | 25 | 283,014 | 40 | 176,884 | 25 | 70,753 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 247,637 | 35 |
| 3 | Baghlan | 1,046,775 | 366,371 | 35 | 471,049 | 45 | 157,016 | 15 | 52,339 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 209,355 | 20 |
| 4 | Baghlan Urban | 259,469 | 103,787 | 40 | 103,787 | 40 | 38,920 | 15 | 12,973 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 51,894 | 20 |
| 5 | Balkh | 1,325,091 | 331,273 | 25 | 530,036 | 40 | 397,527 | 30 | 66,255 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 463,782 | 35 |
| 6 | Balkh Urban | 617,840 | 154,460 | 25 | 216,244 | 35 | 185,352 | 30 | 61,784 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 247,136 | 40 |
| 7 | Bamyan | 637,983 | 159,496 | 25 | 255,193 | 40 | 159,496 | 25 | 63,798 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 223,294 | 35 |
| 8 | Daykundi | 664,948 | 132,990 | 20 | 132,990 | 20 | 232,732 | 35 | 166,237 | 25 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 398,969 | 60 |
| 9 | Farah | 724,841 | 289,936 | 40 | 326,178 | 45 | 108,726 | 15 | - | - | 0 | 0 | 2 | 108,726 | 15 |
| 10 | Faryab | 1,256,728 | 314,182 | 25 | 377,018 | 30 | 314,182 | 25 | 251,346 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 565,528 | 45 |
| 11 | Faryab Urban | 171,291 | 51,387 | 30 | 59,952 | 35 | 51,387 | 30 | 8,565 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 59,952 | 35 |
| 12 | Ghazni | 1,754,092 | 613,932 | 35 | 789,342 | 45 | 263,114 | 15 | 87,705 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 350,818 | 20 |
| 13 | Ghor | 984,184 | 246,046 | 25 | 295,255 | 30 | 246,046 | 25 | 196,837 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 442,883 | 45 |
| 14 | Helmand Urban | 1,748,033 | 524,410 | 30 | 699,213 | 40 | 349,607 | 20 | 174,803 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 524,410 | 30 |
| 15 | Hilmand | 113,852 | 39,848 | 35 | 39,848 | 35 | 22,770 | 20 | 11,385 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 34,156 | 30 |
| 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 | 292,652 | 40 | 146,326 | 20 | 73,163 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 219,489 | 30 |
| 18 | Jawzjan | 619,726 | 123,945 | 20 | 247,890 | 40 | 185,918 | 30 | 61,973 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 247,890 | 40 |
| 19 | Jawzjan Urban | 155,399 | 46,620 | 30 | 62,159 | 40 | 38,850 | 25 | 7,770 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 46,620 | 30 |
| 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 | 1,992,370 | 35 | 2,276,994 | 40 | 1,138,497 | 20 | 284,624 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1,423,121 | 25 |
| 22 | Kandahar | 1,136,056 | 284,014 | 25 | 397,620 | 35 | 340,817 | 30 | 113,606 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 454,423 | 40 |
| 23 | Kandahar Urban | 665,787 | 133,157 | 20 | 166,447 | 25 | 266,315 | 40 | 99,868 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 366,183 | 55 |
| 24 | Kapisa | 628,639 | 251,456 | 40 | 282,888 | 45 | 62,864 | 10 | 31,432 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 94,296 | 15 |
| 25 | Khost | 819,460 | 368,757 | 45 | 368,757 | 45 | 40,973 | 5 | 40,973 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 81,946 | 10 |
| 26 | Kunar | 642,920 | 192,876 | 30 | 257,168 | 40 | 128,584 | 20 | 64,292 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 192,876 | 30 |
| 27 | Kunduz | 1,224,164 | 550,874 | 45 | 489,666 | 40 | 122,416 | 10 | 61,208 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 183,625 | 15 |
| 28 | Kunduz Urban | 239,202 | 83,721 | 35 | 107,641 | 45 | 35,880 | 15 | 11,960 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 47,840 | 20 |
| 29 | Laghman | 635,317 | 158,829 | 25 | 317,659 | 50 | 95,298 | 15 | 63,532 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 158,829 | 25 |
| 30 | Logar | 559,215 | 195,725 | 35 | 223,686 | 40 | 111,843 | 20 | 27,961 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 139,804 | 25 |
| 31 | Nangarhar | 1,845,035 | 369,007 | 20 | 830,266 | 45 | 553,510 | 30 | 92,252 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 645,762 | 35 |
| 32 | Nangarhar Urban | 345,738 | 103,721 | 30 | 121,008 | 35 | 86,434 | 25 | 34,574 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 121,008 | 35 |
| 33 | Nimroz | 236,308 | 70,892 | 30 | 70,892 | 30 | 70,892 | 30 | 23,631 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 94,523 | 40 |
| 34 | Nuristan | 210,895 | 73,813 | 35 | 84,358 | 40 | 42,179 | 20 | 10,545 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 52,724 | 25 |
| 35 | Paktika | 998,379 | 399,352 | 40 | 399,352 | 40 | 149,757 | 15 | 49,919 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 199,676 | 20 |
| 36 | Paktya | 787,829 | 315,132 | 40 | 354,523 | 45 | 78,783 | 10 | 39,391 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 118,174 | 15 |
| 37 | Panjsher | 218,763 | 76,567 | 35 | 109,382 | 50 | 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 | 166,264 | 30 | 193,974 | 35 | 110,843 | 20 | 83,132 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 193,974 | 35 |
| 40 | Sari pul | 799,480 | 199,870 | 25 | 359,766 | 45 | 199,870 | 25 | 39,974 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 239,844 | 30 |
| 41 | Takhar | 1,300,339 | 520,136 | 40 | 520,136 | 40 | 195,051 | 15 | 65,017 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 260,068 | 20 |
| 42 | Takhar Urban | 106,913 | 42,765 | 40 | 37,420 | 35 | 21,383 | 20 | 5,346 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 26,728 | 25 |
| 43 | Uruzgan | 561,409 | 140,352 | 25 | 224,564 | 40 | 140,352 | 25 | 56,141 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 196,493 | 35 |
| 44 | Wardak | 850,019 | 255,006 | 30 | 382,508 | 45 | 170,004 | 20 | 42,501 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 212,505 | 25 |
| 45 | Zabul | 494,813 | 123,703 | 25 | 173,184 | 35 | 148,444 | 30 | 49,481 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 197,925 | 40 |
| | Grand Total | 40,411,860 | 12,409,066 | 31 | 15,830,388 | 39 | 8,644,597 | 21 | 3,527,810 | 9 | 0 | 0 | | 12,172,407 | 30 |