IPC Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
Evidence and Standards for Better Food Security Decisions

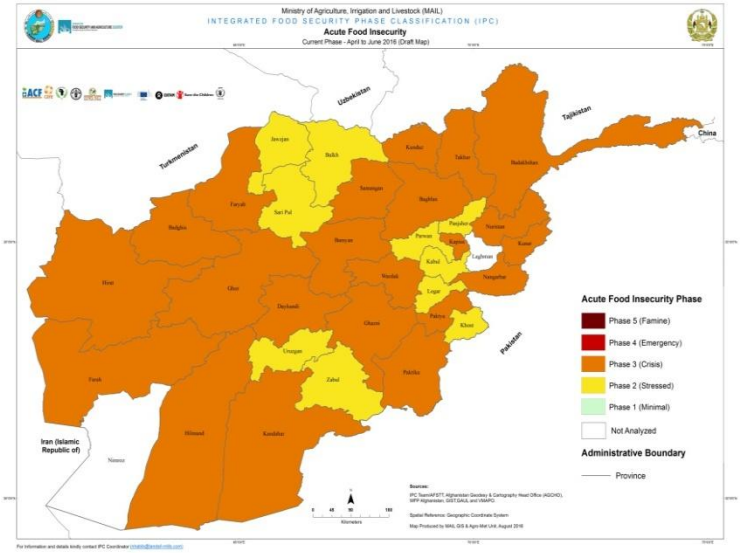
Humanitarian Aid

- IPC Afghanistan – Final Version
Acute Food Insecurity Situation Overview
Current (April- June 2016) and Projection (July-December 2016)

Created on: July 2016

HIGHLIGHTS - IPC Acute Food Insecurity Situation for April- June 2016:

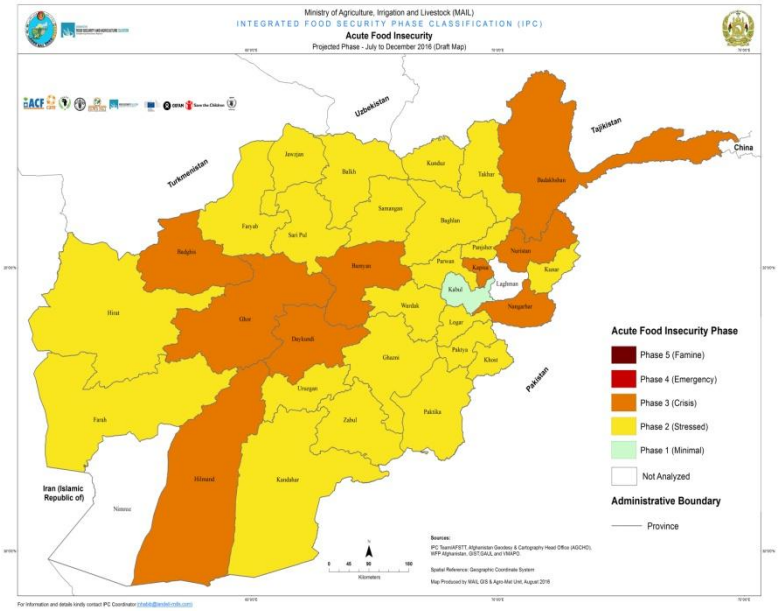
- Out of 32 provinces analyzed, **22 are classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3)** and **10 in Stressed (IPC Phase 2)**.
- Out of 22 provinces in Crisis, **of major concern are:** Badakhshan and Ghor (15%), Daykundi (14%) and Bamyan (12%), with the highest percentage of population in Emergency food insecurity situation (Phase-4).
- **Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)** host communities and households with vulnerable livelihood are the most affected populations.
- **Lack of access to and poor utilization of food** are the major factors driving food insecurity.
- **Acute malnutrition and limited resilience to conflicts and shocks** are major consequences that further aggravate the food insecurity situation.



HIGHLIGHTS - Projected IPC Acute Food Insecurity Situation for July-December 2016:

Out of the 22 Provinces classified in Crisis, IPC Phase 3 in current (April-June 2016):

- 13 are expected to improve and likely to step down from crisis to a stressed situation (IPC Phase 2) and only 9 will remain in Phase 3.
- Out of 10 provinces classified in stressed (Phase 2) in current (April-June), only one province (Kabul) will step down to phase 1, during projection period, while the rest 9 provinces will be still in stressed (Phase-2) situation with reduced number of population.
- Most Food Insecure households in 9 provinces are likely to remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) with reduced number of population in worst conditions due to harvest and market functionality.



In general out of 32 provinces analyzed during projection period (July-December 2016):

- 9 Province will remain in crisis (Phase 3);
- 22 provinces will remain in stressed (Phase 2);
- And only one province will be in minimal (Phase 1) food insecurity situation.

Note: Projection period for Badkhshan and some of the central highland provinces will only be till the end of October as the situation might change negatively due to various factors.

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Classification of severity of acute food insecurity conducted according to the IPC Protocols.
This analysis has been made possible with the technical and financial assistance received from EU under the Direct technical supervision of directorate of Statistics of MAIL.

OVERVIEW OF SEVERITY OF CURRENT AND PROJECTED ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY

- During April- June 2016, 8.4 million people are classified in the acute food insecurity crisis and emergency situation all over the country. The most food insecure populations are located in Ghor, Badakhshan, Nuristan & Nangarhar that are in higher crises & emergency phases.

- The push back of Afghan refugees from Pakistan in the past 3 months is continuously growing, where lack of suitable refugees camp and livelihood activities is resulting severe food insecurity situation for both hosted and protracted house hold communities, these situations are adding stress to the already challenging environment. In addition, returnees are resettling in large numbers in urban areas, putting additional strain on services, already saturated labour markets and reportedly creating tensions with longer-term residents. With the arrival of winter and peak of lean season, refugees population would be of greatest concern.

- National wheat production in Afghanistan is likely to be good due to relatively favourable weather and precipitation that increased cultivation of both rain-fed and irrigated wheat. This precipitation has also improved spring pasture condition.

- During the projected period internal conflicts and policy changes of neighbouring countries on Afghan refugees causing waves of returnees in various part of the country will have significant impact on food security of hosting areas, district and provinces. Eastern provinces especially Nangarhar is burdened with almost 70% of the returnees from Pakistan who have been receiving short term assistance. It's worthy to be mentioned that undocumented returnees are the most vulnerable as they are not receiving any type of assistance during departure while on arrival some support which is not sufficient.

- In the last 6 months overall 245,254 individuals have been displaced and fled their homes due to conflicts. In spite humanitarian assistance, people are still vulnerable to inadequate shelter, food insecurity, insufficient access to sanitation and health facilities, as well as a lack of protection, often result in precarious living conditions that jeopardises the well-being and dignity of affected families.

- Meanwhile, 67,721 individuals have been affected by natural disasters due to floods, landslides, avalanches & earthquakes.

- A total of 8.3 million people have currently achieved food security. These people are able to meet food and essential non-food needs without engaging in atypical, unsustainable strategies to access food and income, including any reliance on humanitarian aid.

- Acute food insecurity in this pre-harvest situation resulted from high level of poverty, generating further vulnerability to food insecurity, lack of employment opportunities or more specifically under employment, high insecurity; limited market functionality that has negative impact on food prices; deteriorating purchasing power of the poor especially the unskilled wage labourers, lower resilience of disaster affected populations; and serious erosion or depletion of livelihood assets during a harsh 2016 lean season in many provinces. Meanwhile, livestock distress sales, lack of extension services and poor access to fodder facilities are of main concerns for the higher altitude provinces.

- Overall, food utilization is one of the major driving factors of food insecurity in Afghanistan. Poor access to safe water and improved sanitation, poor access to safe fuel for cooking (Gas and electricity), high level of illiteracy rate of women and very low level of nutrition and food security knowledge are of high concern for this pillar of food security.

- Due to poor road conditions and deteriorating security situations, humanitarian's assistance could not reach to some of the targeted destinations.

KEY DRIVERS and CONSEQUENCES OF THE SEVERE ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY

- Intense conflicts all over Afghanistan contributed in acute food insecure conditions. 30 provinces out of total 34 provinces saw some level of conflicts and individuals were displaced either within provinces or to/from other provinces. from conflicts is expected to continue in the projected period.
- Vulnerable groups should receive timely lifesaving assistance that include food support to contain assets and livelihoods protection assistance to avoid further depletion of livelihoods assets.
- Natural disasters contributed to bring thousands of Afghans on verge of food insecurity. Main disasters reported are earthquake, floods, landslides and mudflows, and avalanches.
- Returnees have been overloaded into some provinces and competing for already limited resources available with locals. It is expected that flow of returnees will continue and provinces neighbouring Pakistan may experience massive move of returnees in the near future.
- Not only internal conflicts caused displacement in Afghanistan but conflicts in Pakistan also brought displacements to Afghanistan. With escalating intensity over there people might surge further displacement along the border.
- Low coping capacity and poor resilience made Afghans more vulnerable to man-made and, particularly, natural hazards. Recurrent shocks year after year made many exposed to hazards.
- Plant pest and diseases were tremendously high this year than previous years due to intense precipitation in a short span with warm temperatures that led to spread of diseases. In particularly rust, smut, and locust infestation reportedly damaged standing crops and decrease yield. Low quality and high price of agriculture inputs and chemicals are reported as contributors of lower production and enhanced damage and losses against plant pest and diseases. Similarly, animal diseases that affected livestock were also reported.
- Lake of enough knowledge and financial resources led many people to continue malpractices in food preparation and feeding which in turn resulted in very poor food utilization across the country. Lack of access to safe drinking water and improved sanitation facilities and use of unsafe fuel for cooking are also major problem in food utilization.
- High acute food insecurity together with poor health facilities may lead to enhance acute malnutrition if not addressed properly and immediately, in particularly during upcoming summer and winter which are common season for diseases accelerating malnutrition.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POLICY AND DECISION MAKERS

- Government and partners should intensify the focus on increasing the capacity of recurrent hazards affected populations to avert upcoming shocks and stresses. Moreover, they must further articulate policies that look to synchronize humanitarian emergency assistance and longer-term development to break the poverty cycle.
- While mass repatriation from Pakistan must be accompanied with effective government policies that facilitate the returnees reinsertion and help lessen liabilities of host communities, it should not distract from the continuing needs of those who are increasingly leaving homes and assets in all parts of Afghanistan so that they can save their own and children's lives.
- The role of the private sector can be crucial in decreasing food insecurity in Afghanistan if coordinated with national and provincial strategies and communities priorities; this, even more so, in least accessible areas, as government incentives can encourage investment in livelihoods in any kind of context.
- It is important that stakeholders recognize the complexity of the contexts in which diverse populations are facing food insecurity in Afghanistan, and continue to develop strategies that are appropriate and effective depending on context and populations.
- Employment opportunities: Provision of sustained and well paid employment opportunities as unemployment and specifically underemployment is one of the main causes of food insecurity and poverty.
- Establishment of early warning system to reach end user on timely manner: Agriculture is the main livelihood in rural Afghanistan and the losses due to natural hazards are very high hits the country on annual basis, while the risk could be reduced with early warning.
- Reduce risk of natural hazards, by applying interagency joint DRR projects and natural disaster prone areas.
- Establish a clear interagency policy and strategy for IDPs, returnees and refugees.
- Monitoring the food assistance and track our the impacts on food security situation

NEXT STEPS FOR ANALYSIS, MONITORING AND UPDATES

- *The seasonal assessment should be carried out at least twice a year in Afghanistan to timely inform the IPC. It may not be necessary to cover all 34 provinces, or use the same detailed questionnaire in both assessments. Beside rural population, the snap shot of urban population is also required to be reflected in these assessments.*

- *Thresholds, with the support of specialists, could be developed for some key contributing factors indicators taking into account livelihoods.*

- *It is recommended that stakeholders conduct more livelihood based assessments and more nutrition surveys. Nutrition surveillance data would also add value to the analysis.*

- *Since situation for some provinces of north east and central highlands are worsening, TWG with support of IRTG will conduct 2nd round of Analysis for those specific provinces.*

- *Chronic application of IPC with support of GSU is strongly recommended as this is really needed in Afghanistan, considering the chronic nature of food insecurity, so this needs to be considered for upcoming year in order to differentiate the underlying and casual causes of food insecurity in the country.*

- *Market monitoring, to see food availability and prices is one of the key determinants as many Afghans are relying on markets for the food. As the flow of IDP's and returnees is increasing, there is need to monitor market conditions on regular basis.*

Population Table for current Period (April-June 2016)

S/N	province	Population	Minimal		Stress		Crissis		Emergency		Total Phase 3 & 4	
			%	Population	%	Population	%	Poulation	%	Poulation	%	Population
1	Badakhshan	950,953	20%	190,191	15%	142,643	50%	475,477	15%	142,643	65%	618,119
2	Badghis	495,958	20%	99,192	20%	99,192	50%	247,979	10%	49,596	60%	297,575
3	Baghlan	910,784	35%	318,774	40%	364,314	20%	182,157	5%	45,539	25%	227,696
4	Balkh	1,325,659	60%	795,395	23%	304,902	12%	159,079	5%	66,283	17%	225,362
5	Bamyan	447,218	25%	111,805	23%	102,860	40%	178,887	12%	53,666	52%	232,553
6	Daykundi	424,339	21%	89,111	25%	106,085	40%	169,736	14%	59,407	54%	229,143
7	Farah	507,405	45%	228,332	25%	126,851	25%	126,851	5%	25,370	30%	152,222
8	Faryab	998,147	40%	399,259	25%	249,537	30%	299,444	5%	49,907	35%	349,351
9	Ghazni	1,228,831	42%	516,109	25%	307,208	28%	337,929	6%	67,586	33%	405,514
10	Ghor	690,296	20%	138,059	30%	207,089	35%	241,604	15%	103,544	50%	345,148
11	Hilmand	924,711	40%	369,884	27%	249,672	28%	258,919	5%	46,236	33%	305,155
12	Hirat	1,890,202	35%	661,571	25%	472,551	35%	661,571	5%	94,510	40%	756,081
13	Jawzjan	540,255	55%	297,140	27%	145,869	12%	64,831	6%	32,415	18%	97,246
14	Kabul	4,372,977	63%	2,754,976	20%	874,595	12%	524,757	5%	218,649	17%	743,406
15	Kandahar	1,226,593	33%	404,776	17%	208,521	40%	490,637	10%	122,659	50%	613,297
16	Kapisa	441,010	34%	149,943	30%	132,303	30%	132,303	6%	26,461	36%	158,764
17	Khost	574,582	48%	275,799	35%	201,104	10%	57,458	7%	40,221	17%	97,679
18	Kunar	450,652	25%	112,663	30%	135,196	40%	180,261	5%	22,533	45%	202,793
19	Kunduz	1,010,037	33%	333,312	30%	303,011	30%	303,011	7%	70,703	37%	373,714
20	Logar	392,045	43%	1,686	40%	1,568	15%	58,807	2%	7,841	17%	66,648
21	Nangarhar	1,517,388	33%	5,007	25%	3,793	35%	531,086	7%	106,217	42%	637,303
22	Nooristan	147,967	40%	592	25%	370	30%	44,390	5%	7,398	35%	51,788
23	Paktika	434,742	50%	2,174	22%	956	25%	108,686	3%	13,042	28%	121,728
24	Paktya	551,987	45%	2,484	20%	1,104	25%	137,997	10%	55,199	35%	193,195
25	Panjsher	153,487	46%	706	35%	537	11%	16,884	8%	12,279	19%	29,163
26	Parwan	664,502	65%	4,319	20%	1,329	13%	86,385	2%	13,290	15%	99,675
27	Samangan	387,928	52%	2,017	20%	776	25%	96,982	3%	11,638	28%	108,620
28	Sari Pul	559,577	63%	3,525	20%	1,119	15%	83,937	2%	11,192	17%	95,128
29	Takhar	983,336	35%	3,442	35%	3,442	25%	245,834	5%	49,167	30%	295,001
30	Uruzgan	386,818	53%	2,050	30%	1,160	14%	54,155	3%	11,605	17%	65,759
31	Wardak	596,287	40%	2,385	25%	1,491	25%	149,072	10%	59,629	35%	208,700
32	Zabul	304,126	55%	1,673	27%	821	15%	45,619	3%	9,124	18%	54,743
Tota		26,490,799		8,278,352		4,751,967		6,752,721		1,705,547		8,458,268

Population Table for Projected Period (July- December 2016)

S/N	Province	Population	Minimal		Stress		Crisis		Emergency		Total Phase 3& 4	
			%	Population	%	Population	%	Population	%	Population	%	Population
1	Badakhshan	950,953	32%	304,305	25%	237,738	35%	332,834	8%	76,076	43%	408,910
2	Badghis	495,958	33%	163,666	30%	148,787	30%	148,787	7%	34,717	37%	183,504
3	Baghlan	910,784	53%	482,716	33%	300,559	12%	109,294	2%	18,216	14%	127,510
4	Balkh	1,325,659	65%	861,678	30%	397,698	4%	53,026	1%	13,257	5%	66,283
5	Bamyan	447,218	34%	152,054	30%	134,165	30%	134,165	6%	26,833	36%	160,998
6	Daykundi	424,339	38%	161,249	30%	127,302	25%	106,085	7%	29,704	32%	135,788
7	Farah	507,405	52%	263,851	35%	177,592	10%	50,741	3%	15,222	13%	65,963
8	Faryab	998,147	47%	469,129	35%	349,351	15%	149,722	3%	29,944	18%	179,666
9	Ghazni	1,228,831	50%	614,416	32%	393,226	15%	184,325	3%	36,865	18%	221,190
10	Ghor	690,296	30%	207,089	38%	262,312	25%	172,574	7%	48,321	32%	220,895
11	Hilmand	924,711	50%	462,356	27%	249,672	20%	184,942	3%	27,741	23%	212,684
12	Hirat	1,890,202	45%	850,591	37%	699,375	15%	283,530	3%	56,706	18%	340,236
13	Jawzjan	540,255	60%	324,153	30%	162,077	7%	37,818	3%	16,208	10%	54,026
14	Kabul	4,372,977	63%	2,754,976	30%	1,311,893	6%	262,379	1%	43,730	7%	306,108
15	Kandahar	1,226,593	50%	613,297	32%	392,510	14%	171,723	4%	49,064	18%	220,787
16	Kapisa	441,010	45%	198,455	30%	132,303	20%	88,202	5%	22,051	25%	110,253
17	Khost	574,582	55%	316,020	33%	189,612	10%	57,458	2%	11,492	12%	68,950
18	Kunar	450,652	32%	144,209	50%	225,326	15%	67,598	3%	13,520	18%	81,117
19	Kunduz	1,010,037	43%	434,316	40%	404,015	10%	101,004	7%	70,703	17%	171,706
20	Logar	392,045	50%	196,023	40%	156,818	8%	31,364	2%	7,841	10%	39,205
21	Nangarhar	1,517,388	43%	652,477	35%	531,086	20%	303,478	2%	30,348	22%	333,825
22	Nooristan	147,967	45%	66,585	30%	44,390	20%	29,593	5%	7,398	25%	36,992
23	Paktika	434,742	51%	221,718	38%	165,202	8%	34,779	3%	13,042	11%	47,822
24	Paktya	551,987	50%	275,994	35%	193,195	10%	55,199	5%	27,599	15%	82,798
25	Panjsher	153,487	54%	82,883	40%	61,395	5%	7,674	1%	1,535	6%	9,209
26	Parwan	664,502	65%	431,926	25%	166,126	5%	33,225	0%	-	5%	33,225
27	Samangan	387,928	63%	244,395	25%	96,982	10%	38,793	2%	7,759	12%	46,551
28	Sari Pul	559,577	70%	391,704	20%	111,915	8%	44,766	2%	11,192	10%	55,958
29	Takhar	983,336	48%	472,001	40%	393,334	10%	98,334	2%	19,667	12%	118,000
30	Uruzgan	386,818	58%	224,354	35%	135,386	5%	19,341	2%	7,736	7%	27,077
31	Wardak	596,287	45%	268,329	38%	226,589	12%	71,554	5%	29,814	17%	101,369
32	Zabul	304,126	60%	182,476	30%	91,238	7%	21,289	3%	9,124	10%	30,413
Total		**26,490,799**		**13,489,387**		**8,669,169**		**3,485,595**	**0%**	**813,422**		**4,299,017**

WORST AFFECTED Province PROFILE

Badakhshan: This province has got 53,000 MT deficits in wheat production. Along with being prone to natural disasters, it is also highly affected by conflicts. At least 3 districts do not have access route from country side and about 50% of districts do not have road access for at least 6 months of the year. The FCS illustrates that 32.3% of the population have poor FC (Phase 4), 21.3% have severely/moderately insecure LC (Phase 3) and 24.5% have slight to severe HHS (Phase 2). However, due to cultural sensitivity of this indicator and doubt in its accuracy, HHS is less considered by TWG. Badakhshan is the only province that doesn't have any updated nutrition data, however considering the poor dietary intake and high morbidity-diseases, poor immunization, very high default rates in treatment of SAM/MAM and poor food consumption (both acute and chronic), the malnutrition status seems to be very poor. In addition the Food Expenditure share (Phase 4), FCS/CSI (ALCS) also indicates that 38.2% are SFI (Phase 4). Overall the province is classified as Phase 3.

Hilmand: During period of April -June 2016, based on SFSA 2016 direct food security outcome element, 1.6 % of the population were in poor food consumption, 27.5 % were borderline and 71 % acceptable. In spite of this, other food security outcome indicator do not show any worse condition, but insecurity is the main challenging factor which is worsening the food security situation day by day. Only 10% of the area is under the government control where humanitarian intervention and development activities could be applied. As conclusion this province could be fallen in phase 3 of IPC.

Nangarhar: Based on direct evidence, FCS exhibits a value of 52.5% which is on the borderline of phase 3, HHS value is 39% which also places it in phase 3, and however, indirect indicator of reduced CSI value found to be 66% is equitable to phase 4.Besides, LCS shows a percentage value of more than 30% due to accelerated depletion of livelihood strategies indicating phase 3 scenarios. U5DR percentage value of 0.86% is also indicative of phase 3. GAM prevalence that is equal to 5.6% and CDR value of 0.58% indicates phase 2 scenarios. Considering most of the direct indicators above, demonstrating phase 3 and the existing contributing factors like conflicts, armed clashes by AGES, high number of IDPs and Returnees (12,600) from Jan-June 2016 and a deficit value of 105,000 in local wheat production, the province is finally classified into phase 3 for the current situation.

Ghor: Analysis of outcome elements on food consumption revealed that 20-30% of households have food consumption gaps, likewise livelihood change suggested that around 23% of households are adopting moderate to difficult livelihood coping strategy. Locast infestation affected more than 4000 farmers in chachacharan and dawlatyar districts of this province.

Daykundi: Evidence on Food Consumption showed that 47% of households are in poor FCG and 27 in borderline. Evidence on livelihood change indicated 33% of households adopting moderate to severe LCS and that 58% households are adopting high to medium coping. About 25% of households reported livestock diseases outbreak was the main shock experienced, and 81% households said that this shock was occurred in <3 months ago. Livestock is one of the main livelihoods in Daykundi. Accordingly 17.5%, 16.1% and 13.9% households reported food prices increase, floods and heavy rain falls and income reduction or illness were the main shocks experienced; of them 92%, 58%, 61% households reported that these shocks had occurred in <3 months respectively. Nearly 706 individuals were affected by natural disasters, mainly floods in Khider, Bandar Sangtakhst and Ishterlay District, during Jan to Jun 2016, about 385 hectares of agricultural lands were damaged.

Bamyan: This was affected by natural disasters mainly by floods and heavy rainfall; about 3,994 people were affected, 465 houses were severely damaged or completely destroyed due to this disaster. SFSA results revealed that 43% households had experienced shocks in last 12 months and that about 25% households had reported floods and rainfall were the main shocks; about 50% households reported that flood and heavy rainfall had occurred in last 3 months. Evidence on Food Consumption showed that 40-50% of households have food consumption gaps, whereas the evidence on livelihood change indicated 31.6% of households adopting moderate to severe LCS.

Note: As flow of IDPs and returnees for the projected period is one of the major concerns in the country, thus provinces of Hilmand and Nangarhar are also considered in the worst affected provinces profile.

The Process And Methodology

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a set of tools and procedures to classify the nature and severity of food insecurity for decision support. The IPC is a multi-stakeholder process based on broad technical consensus, convergence of evidence, accountability, transparency, and comparability across unit of analysis, countries and over time. The IPC classifies areas with acute food insecurity into five phases –Minimal, Stressed, Crisis, Emergency and Famine -, with each phase aligned with conforming response objectives.

To reflect the snap shot of the food insecurity in 2016, The analysis workshop was organized 24- 30th July 2016 in Kabul. In addition to the presence of international technical support, over 40 professionals from all regions of Afghanistan representing provincial and central government, UN organizations, NGOs, technical agencies, and Academia attended. Meanwhile, in order to increase the technical rigor beside the Afghan experts from various provinces, participants from Nepal, Bangladish and Thialand also took part in the analysis. Out of 34 provinces of Afghanistan 32 were covered. The data fed into the analysis was organized according to the IPC analytical framework, which includes contributing factors and outcome indicators. It was collected from a wide range of sources; that includes reports from the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL), other government institutions at national and provincial levels, and international organizations. To depict the lean season food insecurity situation the latest Seasonal Food Security Assessment (SFSA 2015) conducted by the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster (FSAC) was one of the main data set, beside this SMART surveys and some other relevant sources of information were utilized during the analysis. The analysis was conducted via the IPC Acute ISS, a country-based internet application in which analysis worksheets were filled out and the map generated.

Since representative of Regional IPC Unit based in Bangkok were available during the workshop the entire process and technical consensus sessions were managed and monitored by them and consequently consensus were reached and the final report including the report and maps were submitted to the IPC Steering committee for endorsement.

Major Data Sources for IPC Analysis 2016

S/N	Data Source
1	SFSA 2016, 2015 & 2014-FSAC
2	SMART Surveys 2016-ACF
3	Agriculture Production and Food Price – MAIL
4	Land Cover Atlas-2016 MAIL-FAO
5	NNS -2013 MoPH, UNICEF, CSO
6	Population, ALCS - CSO
7	Food Price, ICA, Food Distribution - WFP
8	NDVI, Precipitation – FEWSNET
9	Pre Harvest Assessment 2016 - FEWSNET, FAO, WFP
10	Refugee & IDP data - UNHCR, OCHA, FSAC, IOM
11	Natural disaster affected population – IOM, FSAC