



**AFGHANISTAN**

LESSONS LEARNED  
2018-2019  
DROUGHT

# LESSONS LEARNED 2018-2019 DROUGHT

- Early, clear, common messaging to the Government on the situation and the need for a drought declaration. **We must speak with one voice and encourage early action.**
- Decisions on **how and where to respond should be guided by emerging needs** not whether there has been a declaration or not
- Early response is critical. **Response in places of origin is preferred** – prevention and anticipatory action to prevent displacement and reduce suffering, especially in light of COVID. This requires **early funding**.
- **Good pipeline management is critical.** Luckily our NFIs are currently well stocked but without additional funds, we would not be able to replenish them.
- HCT focus on strategic decision-making and advocacy, while ICCT implements the operational aspects of the response. To support this ICCT will report regularly on planning and forecasts.
- We must **engage with development actors** now to prevent people slipping into humanitarian need.

# LESSONS LEARNED 2018-2019 DROUGHT

## If there is displacement.....

- The key pressure points are **water provision** in displacement sites and places of origin, **shelter provision, negative coping strategies** (protection), **supply pipelines**
- Need to **avoid status-based response** where drought-displaced people get different assistance to conflict-displaced people. In reality displacement drivers were mixed and but the different levels of assistance encouraged people to self-report drought as their reason for moving.
- Concerns over the **duration of assistance** have also been addressed through our new scope of humanitarian action in Afghanistan where there is now a separate category for vulnerable people, irrespective of when they were affected by a shock. **Needs must be our guide.**
- The **land** on which people are staying is central to the kind and quality of the response we can deliver
- We also need to consider the relationships between **host communities, new and protracted IDPs** and make clear early decisions about assistance for these groups
- The Government will be interested in whether humanitarian assistance is a **pull factor**

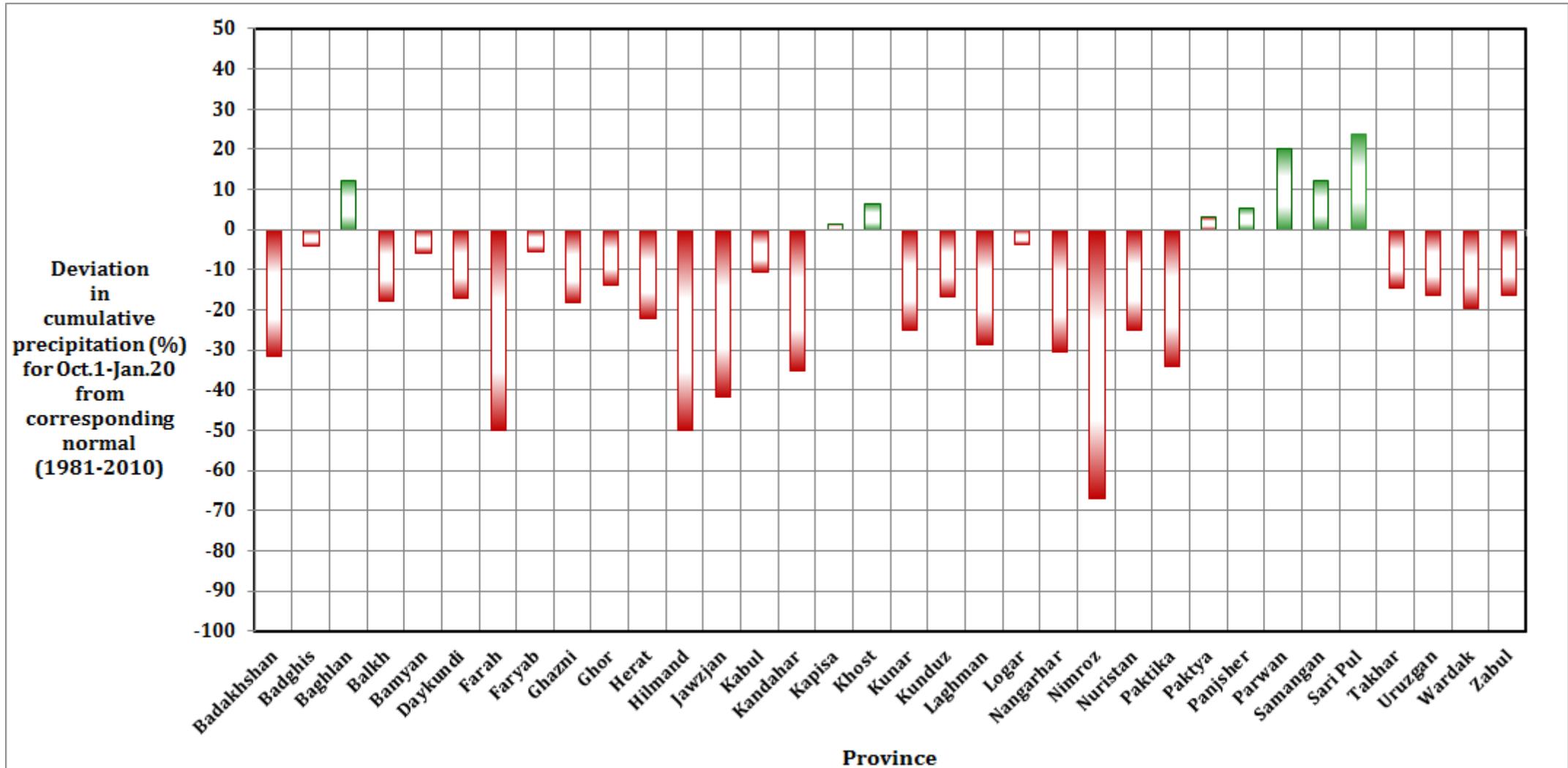
# 2021 OUTLOOK

## 2021 - WHAT WE KNOW

- World Meteorological Organisation projects the intensity of **the current La Niña event will be medium to strong.**
- Since October 2020, **cumulative precipitation has been below average** across much of northern, southern, and eastern Afghanistan. Expected to remain this way through until May.
- The greatest precipitation deficits will be in the **north, northeast, east and south of the country.**
- **Above-average temperatures** are anticipated throughout most of the country through until June 2020.

# PRECIPITATION DEVIATION BY PROVINCE: 1 OCTOBER 2020 TO 20 JANUARY 2021

Indicates meteorological drought in most parts of the country

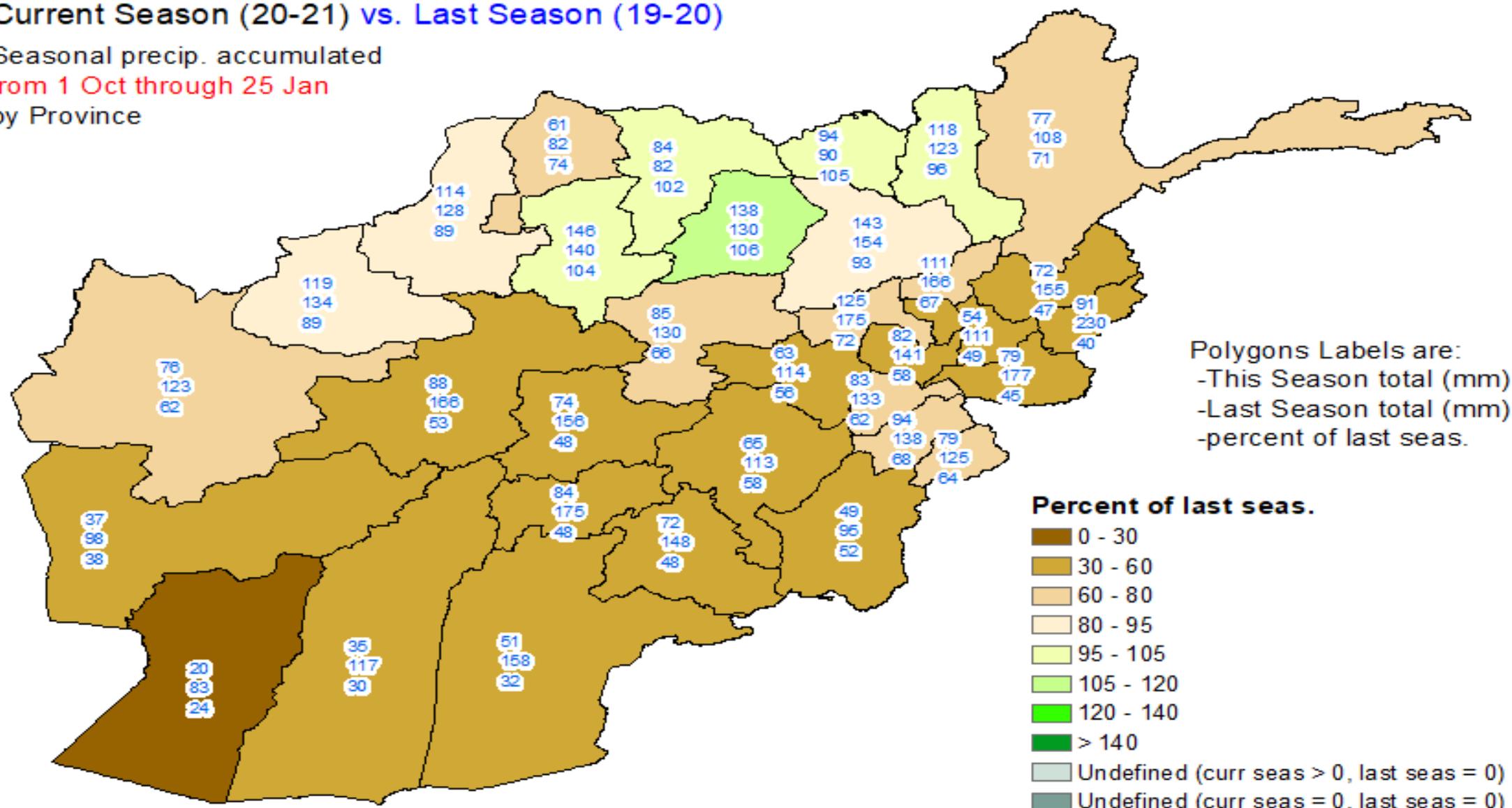


\* Please note that analysis presented on this slide is by sub-working group of EW Committee meeting organized by NSIA on 27/01/2021

# Afghanistan Accumulated Precipitation

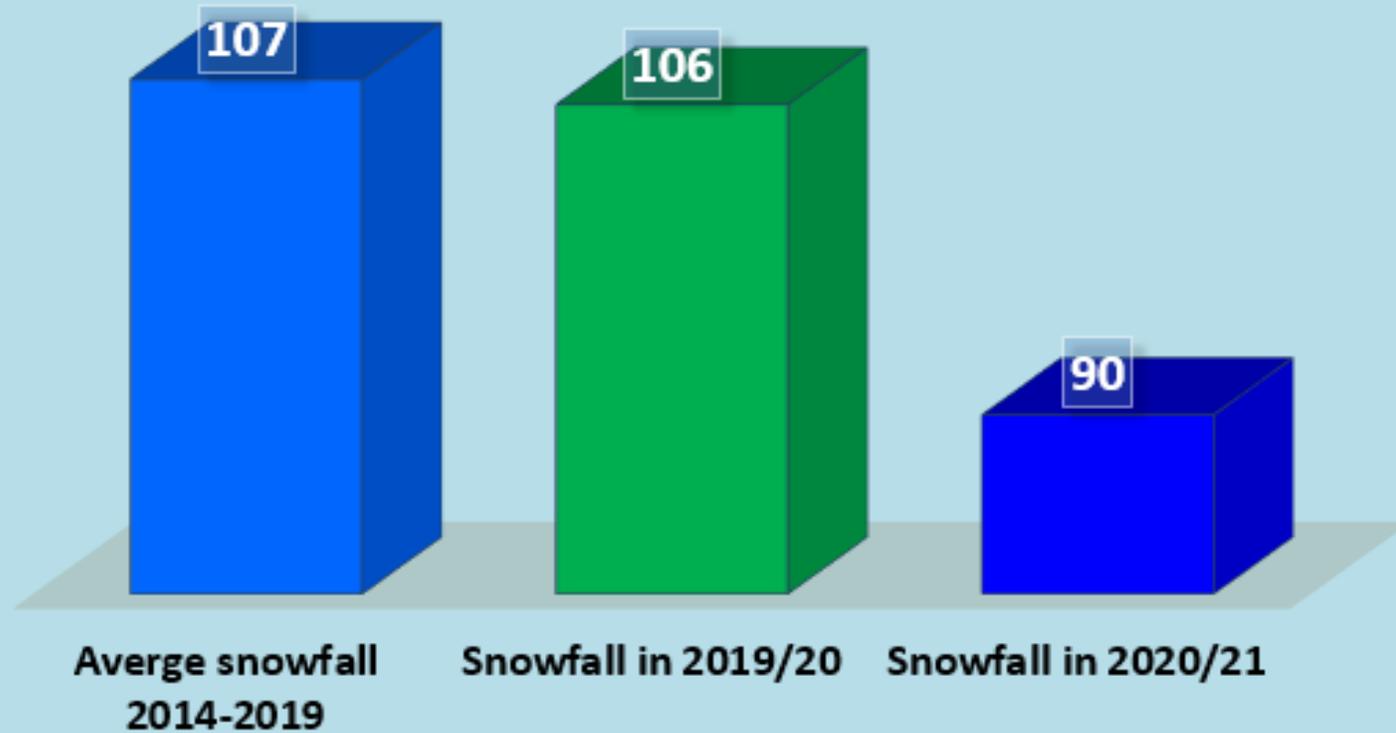
Current Season (20-21) vs. Last Season (19-20)

Seasonal precip. accumulated  
from 1 Oct through 25 Jan  
by Province



# SNOW DEPTH

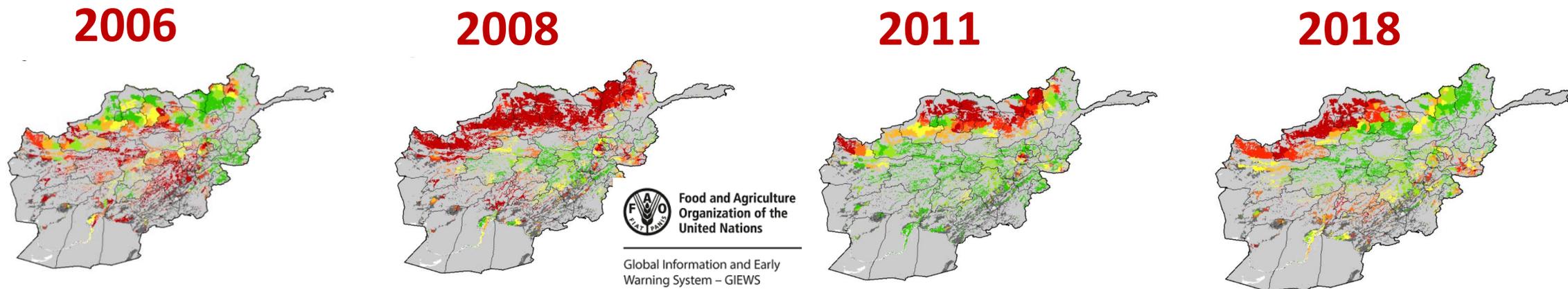
5 RIVER BASINS 3.5 MONTHS (OCT TO 15.JAN) AVERAGE  
CUMULATE SNOWFALL (2014-2019) COMPARING WITH YEAR  
(2019/20 AND 2020/21) SNOW DEPTH IN (CM)



# WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

- Given these factors, **below average rangeland vegetative conditions** are expected during the beginning of the spring season (late March to May 2021) and throughout the summer dry season (until at least Sept).
- These conditions will likely have a **negative impact on both farmers and pastoralists**. Particularly concerning in the North and North East where most rainfed agriculture takes place.
- Past 4 La Niña years suggest that there may be a **negative impact of wheat production in the range of 16-27% - larger than normal deficit**.
- **Below average springtime flood risk** due to thin snowpack and reduced melt impact.

# ANALYSIS OF PAST LA NIÑA/DROUGHT EVENTS ON WHEAT



FAO highly recommends a close monitoring of the wheat cultivation areas and rangelands vegetative conditions.

2010-11 was the only strong La Nina event in recent years and may provide a guide to what we can expect

La Nina event	Wheat Harvest affected	Thousand tonnes	Change compared to previous 5yr avg.	Change compared to previous year
2005-06	2006	3 363	17%	-21%
2008-09	2008	2 623	-27%	-42%
2010-11	2011	3 388	-16%	-25%
2017-18	2018	3 613	-25%	-16%

# 2021 - WHAT WE DON'T KNOW YET

## **If/when there will be a drought declaration?**

- We can advocate for an early declaration but the absence of one should not delay assistance based on need. Planning should begin regardless.

## **Severity and duration of agricultural and humanitarian impacts?**

- This depends on a range of factors that are still being analysed. We have some estimates (e.g wheat) but not the full picture.

## **The geographic areas that will have the worst humanitarian impact?**

- This depends on a range of factors that are still being analysed. Rainfall will have a direct impact on rainfed agriculture but humanitarian impact from this is hard to estimate at this point.
- Bigger initial impact in rural areas but if there's displacement, people will come to cities/centres and compete for land and livelihoods in already stressed urban centres where there is more COVID-19 risk

## **Will there be displacement?**

- As above, this is difficult to predict until we do further analysis and look at underlying vulnerabilities that are already present. Droughts do not always cause displacement but one will almost certainly cause increased suffering given the existing needs of the population.

# WHAT TECHNICAL WORK IS UNDERWAY TO ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS?

**Monitoring wet season indicators** - Precipitation, snowpack, snow water equivalent, temperature – broken down to the provincial level

**Mapping provinces/districts vulnerable to drought impact**

- Provinces with rainfed agriculture land
- Pasture and rangeland
- Comparison with IPC 3+4 provinces, provinces with high malnutrition

**Ground truthing** of the information generated through satellite/remote sensing

**Updating partners** about the situation through providing regular messages on developments

**Engaging and working with the Government:**

- NSIA has been tasked with preparing a presentation to the president
- Through the Hazard and Crises Assessment Working Group FSAC, Fewsnets, NSIA, MAIL and others are working together to create a **single agreed presentation and common messages**
- Push for **early and clear drought declaration** based on agreed technical thresholds to avoid politicisation

# CONTINGENCY PLANNING

# WHAT PLANNING IS THE ICCT DOING?

- ICCT met yesterday to begin collective planning regardless of an official declaration being made
- Agreed that instead of an annual Flood Plan, we will produce a **Spring Disaster Contingency Plan**
- This will look at drought/dry spell, flood and other contextual factors that will influence the scale of needs and our response approach
- OCHA will be working with FSAC, ES-NFI, WASH and FEWSNET to agree on a most likely planning scenario so that we can begin work
- This may change as we confirm more and things evolve. There is broad acknowledgement of the need to act early and update often on progress as well as new information
- The plan will be costed, based on the available scenario
- Duration initially four months – March through until June for now
- Activities and costs will be a subset of the HRP for now

# CONTEXTUAL FACTORS TO CONSIDER IN THE PLAN

## COVID-19

- Beneficiaries have already stretched their financial and emotional reserves, high debt
- COVID-safe arrangements for distributions, displacement sites
- COVID-19 cross-border import delays
- Vaccine rollout will be taking place simultaneously

## Food insecurity and malnutrition

- Food insecurity is already among the worst in the world – 16.9m in IPC 3 & 4. Next IPC analysis is just starting with new IPC Numbers due in early April
- Already, almost 1 in 2 children under 5 are expected to face acute malnutrition this year
- The price of food is already elevated because of COVID-19 – with more than 30m people already in need of social assistance, drought-related price hikes may be unsustainable for many

## Conflict

- Comes at a time of escalating conflict and insecurity, potentially increased conflict displacement
- International military drawdown – impacts on security and logistics

## Protection environment

- Negative coping strategies are already being used across the population – Child marriage, child labour, GBV
- This new stress will only make the situation worse for women, girls and boys

# FUNDING - EARLY WARNING

- **Our funding situation is currently dire**, considering the scale of needs
- The HRP is currently 3% funded with \$38m received against \$1.3b required
- Total carryover from 2020 is still being confirmed but there are some clusters with very little in reserve.
- The AHF currently has a programmable balance of just \$9.7m
- Dwindling funds for continuation of COVID-19 programming – significant funding streams for services such as surveillance are now ending and no extensions have been confirmed (see note circulated several weeks ago)
- **A drought will place significant additional pressure on us to deliver immediately.** This will not be possible without new funds.
- FAO has initiated anticipatory actions for safeguarding livelihoods especially livestock protection, protecting current wheat crop, supporting summer 2nd crop cultivation, and cash for work for water harvesting infrastructure. However, existing resources are not sufficient to respond at the scale which the situation demands.

HCT ASKS

# WHAT CAN THE HCT DO NOW?

- 1. Advocate with the Government** for an early drought declaration based on evidence and early action based on needs
- 2. Appeal to donors** for urgent funding in the face of escalating needs and an increasingly complex operating environment
- 3. Engage with development actors** on early, anticipatory action to prevent people slipping into humanitarian need.



OCHA

United Nations Office  
for the Coordination of  
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致力协调，挽救生命