

Key Messages

Early Warning information working group

Date – 11th April 2019

FSAC partners conducted early warning information working group meeting in the FSAC secretariat on 9th April 2019 at 1400 Hrs where 22 technical staff of 10 organization were available for the discussion. Following key messages are concluded as a result of the discussion.

Precipitation trends and flooding:

- ✓ Overall precipitation in Afghanistan remained above average across the country as compare to last year 2018 but with long term average this is still below average for 12 out of 34 provinces with major deficit in Kunduz 49% followed by Hilmand, Nimroz, Sar-i-pul, Takhar and Badakhshan where precipitation deficit is between 20% to 35%.
- ✓ Cumulative precipitation for the November to May 2019 wet season is most likely to be above average due to the ongoing weak El Niño event.
- ✓ Throughout most of the country for the March to May 2019 period temperatures are most likely to be above average.
- ✓ Given the above average rainfall, snow at higher elevations, and high soil moisture the risk of flooding is elevated through the end of the rainy season in the western, northern, and central areas of Afghanistan.
- ✓ This is important to note that we already had early flooding this year where almost 183,736 people are reported to be affected; 99 human deaths, 6,605 houses destroyed, 14,786 houses partly damaged, 118,635 jerib of cultivatable land damaged and 9,882 livestock death are reported by partners and government.

Livestock:

Rangeland vegetative conditions during the 2019 spring and summer (April – September) are most likely to be above average in most areas, due to high soil moisture and above average cumulative 2018/19 precipitation. This may reduce pressure of livestock feeding at home and livestock can migrate to high elevations though recent floods can damage some of the pasture land. EWIWG members agreed to monitor this as current condition looks not very positive.

FSAC partners and government have not reported any major disease outbreak of livestock or poultry in Afghanistan.

Livestock sale prices are getting back to normal but still most of the areas are facing between 3 to 17% below 5-year average prices for small ruminants.

Agriculture:

Major staple crop production is expected to be below average because of last year drought as many farmers remained unable to cultivate. Major reasons for not cultivating crops were fear of the drought continuity, lack of access to seed, fertilizers, migration and ploughing arrangements. Recent floods caused further damaged to standing crops affecting community's ability to access major staple production. NSIA, MAIL and FSAC partners are conducting pre-harvest appraisal to come up with crop harvest estimation.

Crops pest and diseases are not reported from any part of the country by MAIL or partners.

The current average wheat price in main cities' markets of Afghanistan (AFN 25.0/Kg) is slightly higher by 8.8% compared to the same time last year (March 2018) and slightly higher by 4.8% compared to the last 5-year average price of the same months (Marches 2014 - 2018).

Food availability and market prices:

Major food availability issue is not reported by any partners across the country. There were localized very short duration disruptions of the linkage because of flood, heavy rain, snow or conflict but it has not caused any hunger or price hike issue. Food basket for the humanitarian response remain still valid at 90 USD/person/day. Price of wheat flour, rice, salt, pulses and oil remain stable with slight variation.

Note: Detail presentation made by FEWSNET, IMMAPP and WFP during EWIIWG are available on FSAC website <http://fscluster.org/afghanistan>.
