

FSAC AFGHANISTAN RESPONSE MONITORING UPDATE April 2022

Background

The combined impact of a series of acute droughts since 2018, the protracted political crisis and conflict that affected the country for over forty years and economic collapse in the second half of 2021 generated a hunger crisis of unprecedented proportions. High acute food insecurity persists across Afghanistan stemming from a combination of a collapsing economy and drought that have resulted in nearly 20 millionⁱ Afghans of food, classified in Crisis or Emergency (IPC Phases 3+), between March and May 2022.

Situation Overview

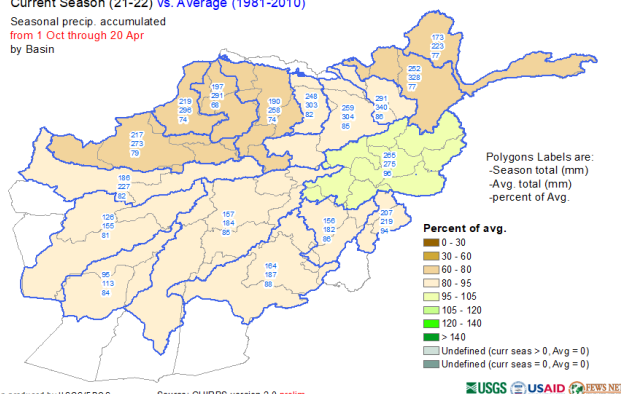
• Climate Outlook

A weak to moderate La Niña event has been affecting Afghanistan since October 2021 and will likely continue through May 2022 wet season. Precipitation anomaly experienced at the start of the season which led to below average precipitation still exists across most parts of the country. FEWS NET's climate data show that dry conditions have prevailed from mid-March to April. Cumulative precipitation for the entire 2021/22 wet season was below average across most of the country, though near average in some eastern and central areas. Snowpack has been depleted early in many basins while low soil moisture and low snow water volumes have led to moisture stress in the northern wheat belt. Below-average and near-record low snow water volumes persist in most basins of the country. The below-average precipitation and above-average temperatures will likely continue through the end of August in Afghanistan due to the ongoing La Niña. Less than average second crop cultivated area may result from low water availability in most basins across the countryⁱⁱ.

Afghanistan Accumulated Precipitation

Current Season (21-22) vs. Average (1981-2010)

Seasonal precip. accumulated
from 1 Oct through 20 Apr
by Basin



• Crop Outlook

Below-average water availability for both rainfed and irrigated crops, spiralling household debts and the inability of farmers to procure and use fertilizers indicate that the wheat harvest is likely to be below average at the national level with the greatest concern for deficits in northern rainfed areas in the first planting season. Faryab, Sare Pul, Balkh, and Samangan were mostly affected by below average precipitation as the agricultural lands in these provinces are mostly rainfed. According to FAO and FEWS NET climatic updates the recent dry weather and above-average temperatures have stressed the rainfed wheat crop, with lower elevation areas in the north and northeast reporting significant crop damage. Similar to other areas, the western region was also affected by the below average precipitation. Field observations show that the crop situation in Herat, Farah, Badghis and Ghor provinces is also poor. The initial estimates indicate that harvest in the west region will be significantly below average.



Wheat field in Sholgara district, Balkh Province: Photo credit@FAO

• Livestock Outlook

Livestock prices are above average and slightly higher than the same time last year. The increase in prices is attributed to the improved pasture conditions between March and April due to the March precipitation and early snowmelt. Compared to the same time last year considerable price improvement occurred in the following provinces, Daykundi the price increased by 37%, Sar-e-Pul 33%, Kandahar 29%, Paktya 31%, Badghis 27%, Baghlan 25%, Logar 24%, Nimroz 23% and Kunduz 20%. Price decreases were also reported in

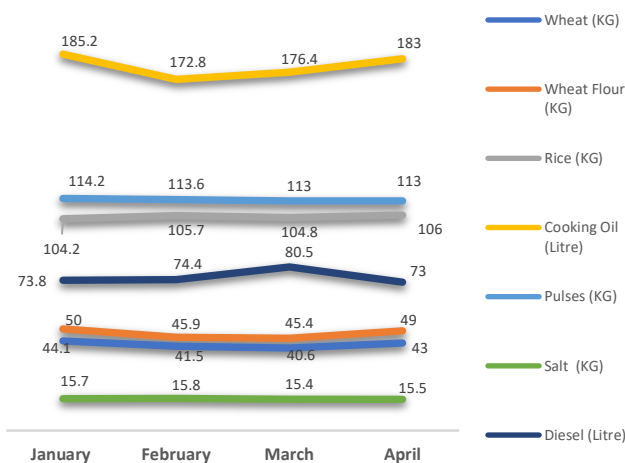
various provinces. Compared to the same period last year, Nuristan prices decreased by 35%, Uruzgan 33%, Ghazni 26%, Wardak 24%, Paktika 20% and Zabul 16%ⁱⁱⁱ.

Given the continued below-average precipitation and above-average temperatures forecasted, pasture conditions are likely to deteriorate rapidly in many areas in the coming months, which will likely lead to worsening livestock body conditions and reduced livestock prices in worst affected areas^{iv}.

Markets

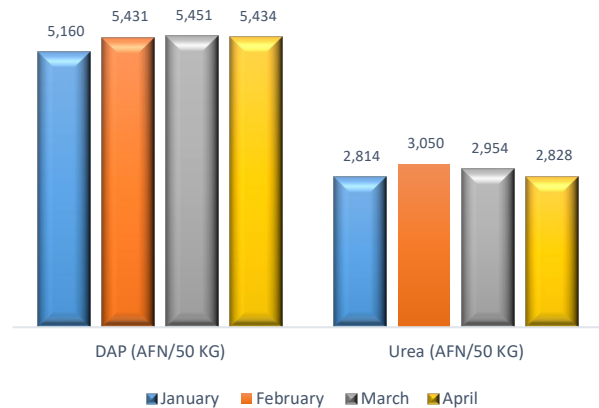
WFP market price monitoring shows that staple commodity prices in the month of April (*wheat grain, wheat flour, cooking oil*) increased compared to last month and remained significantly above last year, the 2 year average and month of June 2021 before the political transition in the country. The increase in food commodity prices have been influenced by food commodity price increases in Kazakhstan and Pakistan, and Kazakhstan imposing quota on wheat exports to Afghanistan. The quota which has come at time when prices for food commodities have risen to record levels globally, will be in place until at least 15 June 2022, limiting exports of wheat grain to 1 million tonnes and wheat flour to 300,000 tonnes.

Food Commodity Prices 2022 (AFN)



Di-ammonium Phosphate popularly known as DAP, is a preferred basal fertilizer in Afghanistan because it contains both nitrogen and phosphorus which are primary macro-nutrients and part of the 18 essential plant nutrients. DAP prices increased by 2% compared to last month, 95% compared to same time last year, 91% compared to June 2021, and 32% compared to last two years average. Urea, a source of nitrogen, an essential nutrient crucial for crop growth and development - is the most important nitrogenous fertilizer in the country because of its high N content (46%N). Urea prices remained the same in April compared to March 2022. Compared to the same time last year, urea prices

Fertilizers Prices in 2022



increased by 126%, and compared to June 2021 it increased by 121%.

In the month of April, the value of the Afghan currency partially stabilized. The exchange rate slightly improved by 0.7% from 88.2 to 87.6 Afghani per dollar. The depreciation of the Afghan currency, which was caused by economic and political factors, increased the prices of major food commodities in recent months. The effects of the currency fluctuations are still being felt in most markets in Afghanistan. On average due to higher inflation rates prices of imported food and non food commodities increased significantly compared to last year and 2 years average.

Conflict and Displacements

From 1 January 2021 to April 2022, 822,546^v people fled their homes due to conflict across the country. Although the de-facto authorities are encouraging the displaced to move back to their areas of origin, many of the IDPs remain displaced as a lack of livelihood opportunities is preventing them from returning to their areas of origin. To facilitate a principled return the UN is advocating for a proper engagement with the authorities and displacement affected communities to support safe returns supported by other durable solutions, and also ensuring that humanitarian assistance and services to those IDPs who elect to remain continues.

Natural Disasters

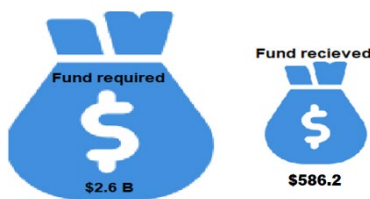
Between January to April 2022, 37,210^{vi} people in Badghis, Herat, Ghor, Hilmand, Nimroz, Kunar, Laghman, Nangarhar, Badakhshan, Takhar and Kunduz provinces were affected by natural disasters. Of these 11,940 people were affected by floods, 25,256 people were affected by earthquake and 14 people were affected by landslide or mudflow. Flood incidents happened in Herat, Ghor and Takhar provinces in the month of April affecting 553 people in Herat, 175 people in Ghor and 42 people in Takhar.

Humanitarian Response Planning 2022

In 2022, to address the high levels of food insecurity, FSAC will scale up emergency life-saving food assistance in cash or

in-kind for 21.6 million food-insecure men, women and children that includes 20.5 million multiple shock affected people in IPC Phase 3+, 200,144 undocumented returnees, 72,000 refugees, 504,370 IDP's, 150,000 natural disaster affected people and 72,000 Pakistani refugees. A total of 10.7 million vulnerable and food insecure people will also receive assistance to protect and promote livelihoods, including: 10.5 million people facing acute food insecurity (IPC 3+), 100,000 conflict-affected IDP's, and 100,000 natural disaster-affected people in 'crisis' and 'emergency' levels of food insecurity (IPC 3+), focusing on both rural and urban areas.

The FSAC requires US\$2.6 billion to cover the urgent food assistance and livelihood needs under the 2022 HRP, and US\$586 million (23% of the required funding) has been received as of April 2022.



● **Humanitarian Assistance**

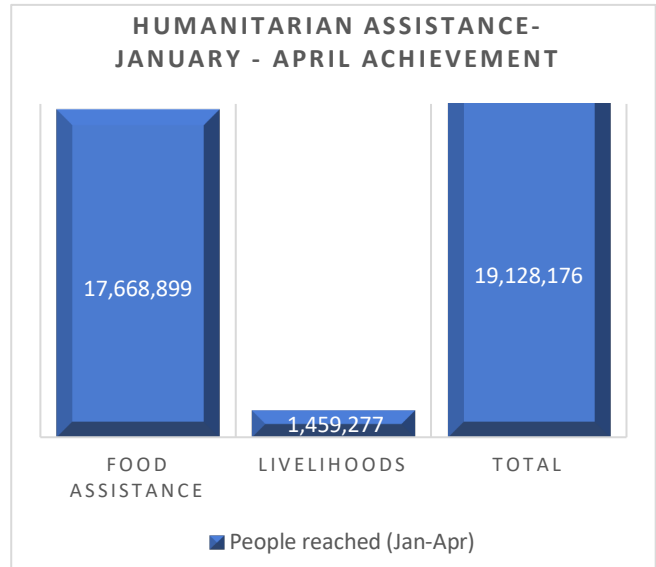
Between January and April 2022, FSAC partners supported 19.1 million^{vii} people (see [FSAC interactive dashboard](#)). About 17.7 million people were supported with food assistance and 1.5 million people with livelihood assistance (*agriculture and livestock support*) in all 34 provinces. For food assistance, most of these beneficiaries received one to four rounds of assistance. Of the 17.7 million people supported with food, 17.3 million were in IPC Phase 3 and 4 locations. Due to the increase needs, IPC Phase 4 beneficiaries are receiving 75% of the recommended basket while IPC Phase 3 populations are receiving 50% of the recommended food basket in cash or kind. As these beneficiaries are supposed to receive multiple rounds of assistance, more funding is required to complement and complete the assistance package.

● **Access**

There were no major access issues reported in the month of April. Some level of interference by the de-facto authorities in the implementation of interventions was reported in most regions, but these were resolved locally without major impact on the delivery of assistance.

● **Country Cluster Performance Monitoring**

FSAC conducted the Country Cluster Performance Monitoring (CCPM) workshop. The objective of CCPM was for FSAC to review its 2021 performance, and make recommendations to help the cluster fulfil its core cluster functions and become a more efficient and effective coordination mechanism at national and sub-national level. The workshop was attended by 31 participants from 28



organisations. The following recommendations were made for improving the FSAC work:

- FSAC should have face to face FSAC national monthly meetings.
- In FSAC monthly meetings more time needs to be dedicated to FSAC partners to present their achievements, lessons learned, challenges, experiences etc.
- Monthly cluster meetings are very lengthy. Partners recommended to reduce number of presentations and increase time for engagements/ discussions.
- An orientation training should be provided to partners on using the FSAC products (e.g. Dashboard, 3Ws, ReportHub etc)
- AHF project proposals' approval process takes more time and it delays project implementation. FSAC need to discuss this with the OCHA AHF team.
- FSAC to increase more funding for projects that build communities resilience rather than focussing mostly on food assistance.
- FSAC must advocate for funding and implementation of activities with medium to long term impact.
- FSAC team needs to conduct regular field visits to monitor and support partners activities.

Based on these recommendations, FSAC developed an action plan to make sure the necessary improvements will be incorporated in FSAC work.

● **Partner Capacity**

Supported by over 236 registered FSAC partners, of which 82 partners are operational^{viii} in 34 provinces. Despite some improvement in women staff participation in humanitarian activities, women staff are still not allowed to fully participate in humanitarian work.

● **Planned Cluster Activities**

FSAC will conduct the following activities in the month of May and June:

- Orientation session for the newly elected Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) members.
- Field visits to the eastern region.
- Support the management of the AHF 1st Standard Allocation.
- Seasonal Food Security Assessment Planning
- April FSAC meeting.
- Conducting information management training for FSAC partners.
- Ensuring the incorporation of the CCPM recommendations in FSAC work.

ⁱ <https://reliefweb.int/report/afghanistan/afghanistan-ipc-acute-food-insecurity-analysis-march-november-2022-issued-may>

ⁱⁱ Afghanistan - Remote Monitoring Report: Fri, 2022-04-29 | Famine Early Warning Systems Network (fews.net)

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://reliefweb.int/report/afghanistan/afghanistan-countrywide-monthly-market-price-bulletin-issue-23-covering-april-2022-18-may-2022>

^{iv} Afghanistan - Remote Monitoring Report: Fri, 2022-04-29 | Famine Early Warning Systems Network (fews.net)

^v <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/afghanistan/idps>

^{vi} <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/afghanistan/natural-disasters-0>

^{vii} <https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrjoiZTUwZjI4ODQtMmZjMS00MDVhLTk5YzYtZThjYjlxOTZjODQxliwidCI6ImY2ZjcwZjFjLTJhMmQtNGYzMC04NTJhLTU0YjhhZjZBjMTkNyIsImMiOiJF9&pageName=ReportSection64b3c034b642d475e05a>

^{viii} [Have running projects and are reporting to FSAC](#)

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