

FSAC AFGHANISTAN RESPONSE MONITORING UPDATE
 August 2022

Background

The humanitarian situation in Afghanistan remains dire. In addition to the ongoing economic crisis, ruptures in basic services, and high food insecurity, natural disasters such as floods, drought, and earthquakes have devastated the lives of many Afghans. At the same time, acute vulnerabilities continue to be compounded by emerging shocks including a high-magnitude Earthquake, wide-spread outbreak of diseases (including Acute Watery Diarrhoea) as well as atypical floods and other seasonal risks, all on the backdrop of a crippling economic decline and ruptures in basic services. High acute food insecurity persists across Afghanistan whereas nearly 19 million Afghans are projected to be in Crisis or Emergency (IPC Phases 3+) between June and November 2022.

Situation Overview

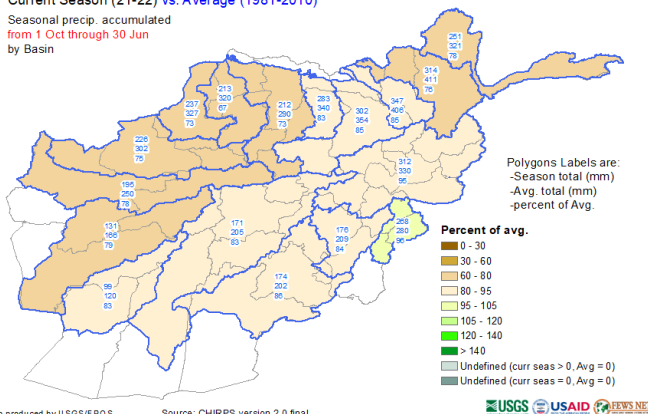
• **Climate Outlook**

A weak to moderate La Niña event hit Afghanistan in the wet winter precipitation season, following a moderate-severe La Niña in 2020-21 which resulted in a consecutive event (“double-dip La Niña”). This La Niña event has resulted in a back-to-back drought in 2022 and the 3rd drought in 5 years (2018, 2021 & 2022) with adverse impacts on crop production, livestock health, local ecosystems, eroding agricultural and landless rural households’ coping capacities. As per latest available forecasts in August 2022, key global and regional climate prediction centers indicate that La Niña is favored to continue through the northern hemisphere winter 2022-23, with a 91% chance between September - November, which would be the first triple-dip event of the 21st century.

Afghanistan Accumulated Precipitation

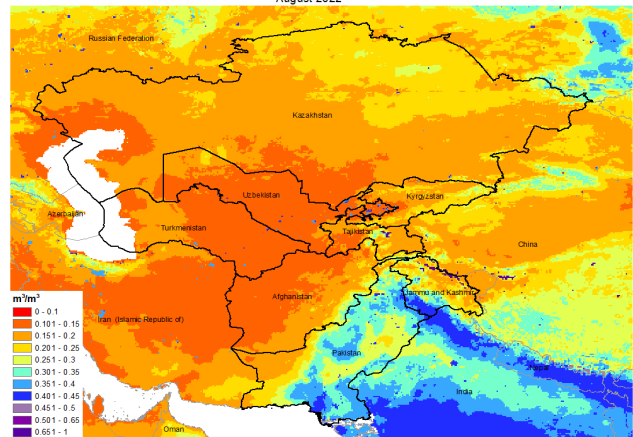
Current Season (21-22) vs. Average (1981-2010)

Seasonal precip. accumulated
 from 1 Oct through 30 Jun
 by Basin



Long term forecast predict chances for La Niña gradually decreasing to a 54% between January-March 2023. A triple-dip La Niña could have a severe impact on the winter wheat season, due to the likelihood of low soil moisture affecting

Soil Moisture (0-10 cm)
 August 2022



germination and early stages of crop establishment, while a reduced snow fall could impact irrigation water availability and higher temperature in the winter could increase the likelihood of crop diseases.

The longterm anomaly in precipitation experienced at the start of the season still exists across most parts of the country. The situation in the southern/south-eastern part of the country is better than last year, which was a drought year, in terms of accumulated precipitation. August precipitation has been exceptionally higher compared to long term average where in some areas this has caused severe flooding and flash floods. Soil Moisture levels remain worrying around most of the country.

Due to prolonged dryness during the spring, low soil moisture and above-average temperatures in August across much of the north, northeastern, western, and central highlands regions, pasture conditions are expected to be worse than normal across most of the country, with northern areas worst affected.

• **Crop Outlook**

The main harvest of wheat was recently concluded and harvesting of fruit and second season crops is ongoing as of late August. This year, FAO Afghanistan conducted the

Agriculture Prospective Report (APR) assessment in April – May 2022 to estimate the 2022 country wheat balance. Based on the preliminary results, the total cultivated area of wheat is estimated to be between 1.9 and 2.3 million hectares in 2021/22, with irrigated wheat between 1.1 and 1.4 million hectares and rainfed cultivated areas are estimated to be between 0.8 and 0.9 million hectares. As per the APR, wheat production is estimated to range between 3.4 and 4.4 million metric tons in 2021/2022 cultivation season. With the 6.7 million metric tons' wheat requirements for the entire country, it is forecasted that the wheat deficit (estimated domestic wheat production vs. estimated domestic requirements) to be between 2.3 – 3.1 million metric tons in Afghanistan.

Planting of winter wheat for the 2022/23 season will occur from around September to December 2022, providing some seasonal income from agricultural labor opportunities. However, winter wheat planting could be negatively impacted by below-average precipitation, depending on the timing and distribution of precipitation that is received. In January, availability of income from agricultural labor opportunities will seasonally decline¹.

• **Livestock Outlook**

Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) cases have been registered in 26 out of 34 provinces in the north, east, and southern regions of Afghanistan. The disease was firstly detected in Punjab in Bahawalpur district of Pakistan on 28 October 2021, a major outbreak was then reported in February 2022 in several areas of Pakistan, triggering concern for neighboring countries. Since May, LSD reports has increased in provinces bordering with Pakistan, with now presence reported in majority of the country, as of August 2022

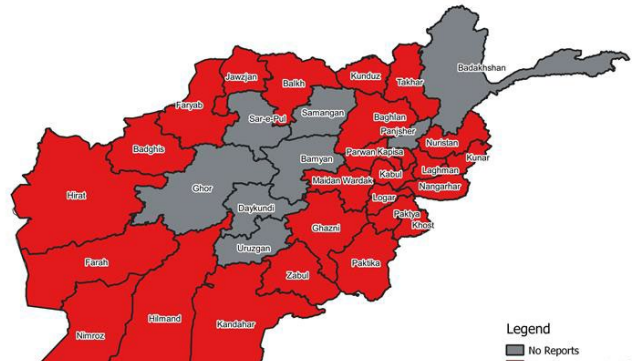


LSD affected cattle: Source: FAO, Afghanistan

LSD is a poxviral disease with a morbidity rate up to 45% and a mortality rate of up to 10%. The outbreak of LSD threatens the loss of productive assets and livelihoods of smallholder farmers for whom dairy and meat production is a significant

contributor to their food and nutrition security and income generation. By reducing milk yields, profits, and employment in that sector, LSD can contribute to widening gender inequality

Provinces Reporting LSD

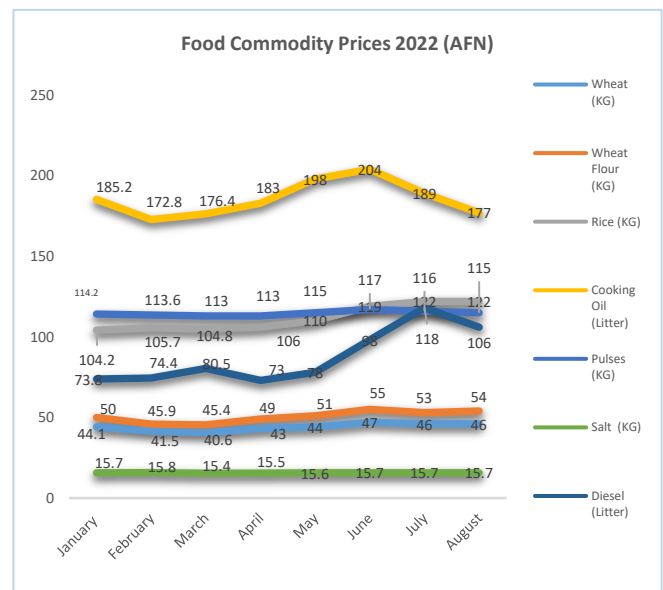


Source: FAO, Afghanistan

Besides the lack of prior experience of the existing veterinary extension service providers in effective LSD containment / management, the available LSD vaccines on the local market are of low quality and the handling / storage (cold chain system) of vaccines does not meet the required standards to ensure efficacy. This has resulted into the more rapid spread of LSD across the country. This condition necessitates a technically sound LSD management and vaccination plan as per the International Animal Health Care / Disease Management Protocols.

• **Markets**

WFP market price monitoring shows that staple commodity prices in August for wheat, wheat flour, cooking oil, and sugar remained significantly above last year and last three years.

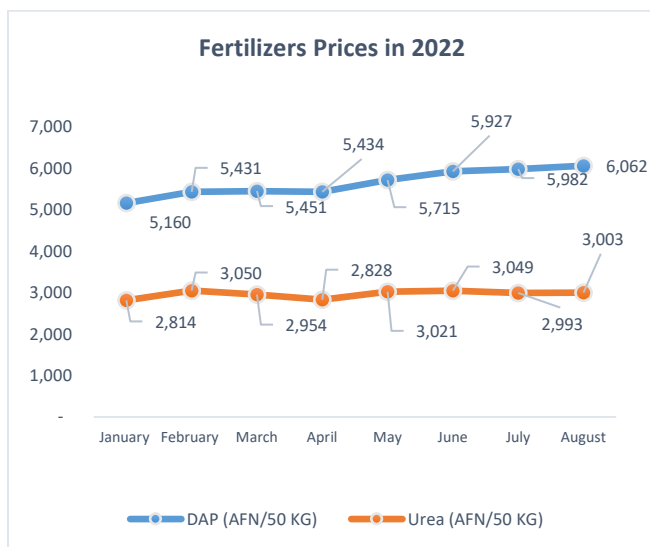


¹ [Afghanistan - Remote Monitoring Report: Wed, 2022-08-31 | Famine Early Warning Systems Network \(few.net\)](#)

Due to the global crisis, wheat flour prices increased by 4 percent, 13 percent and 3 percent in Kazakhstan, Pakistan and Afghanistan respectively compared to the previous month. Price of wheat increased by 1% in Afghanistan's markets compared to July 2022. Despite of below average wheat production in Afghanistan, recent harvest has helped to stabilize wheat and wheat flour prices.

Rice price increased by 0.1% compared to last month, 33% compared to last year, and 22% compared to the last three years' average. Pakistan, the world's fourth largest rice exporter, has suffered from floods in late August, and it's expected that it will lose around 10 percent of its 2022 estimated rice production of around 8.7 million tonnes. This will impact the rice prices in Afghanistan since its export will likely be reduced in the future. The price of cooking oil decreased by 6% compared to last month, however, it's still 19% higher compared to last year and 66% compared to last three years' average.

Di-ammonium Phosphate, popularly known as DAP, is a preferred 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 1% compared to last month, 95% compared to the previous year, and 57% compared to the last three years' average. Urea is a source of Nitrogen, an essential nutrient crucial for crop growth and development. Urea is the most important nitrogenous fertilizer in the country because of its high N content (46%N). Urea price increased by 0.3% compared to last month. Urea price is 106% higher compared to last year and 60% higher compared to last three year's average.



Conflict and Displacements

From 1 January 2021 to August 2022, 896,877 ²people fled their homes due to conflict across the country. Although the de-facto authorities are encouraging the displaced people to move back to their place of origin, a lack of livelihood opportunities prevents many from returning.

Disasters

According to data from UN OCHA, 222,712³ people were affected by natural disasters from January 1 to August 31, 2022. This is double the five-year average for that time period. Over 85,000 people (one third of the total) were affected by earthquakes in Paktika and Khost in June, while over 78,800 people were affected by flooding in the south and east of the country bordering Pakistan in July and August.

Heavy rains and flash flooding have continued throughout August, affecting several provinces in the eastern, southern, south-eastern, western, and central regions. Due to these floods, 51 people had been killed, 112 people had been injured. The heavy floods damaged 3,520 houses and completely destroyed another 1,297 houses. Overall, 36,354 individuals had been affected by heavy floods during the month of August in Farah, Kandahar, Uruzgan, Daykundi, Zabul, Khost, Paktya, Wadakh, Parwan, Kapisa, Laghman, Nangarhar, Kunar and Nuristan provinces (iv).

Humanitarian Response Planning 2022

In 2022, to address the high levels of food insecurity, FSAC is scaling 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 shocks 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\$2.7 billion to cover the urgent food assistance and livelihood needs under the 2022 HRP. As of July, only US\$808 million (~36% of the required funding) has been received.

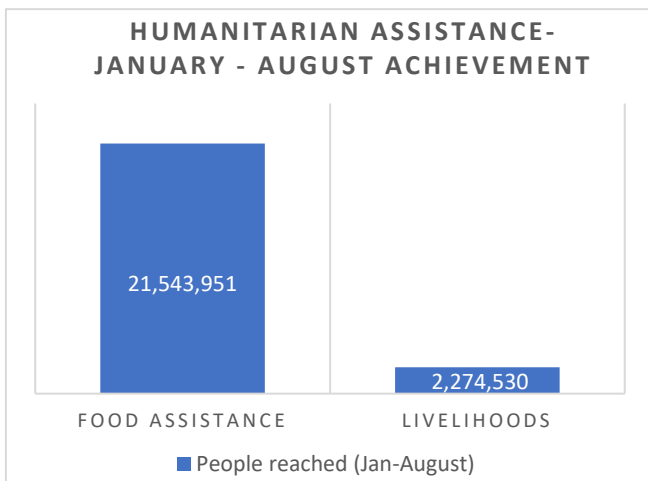


² <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/afghanistan/idps>
³ <https://response.reliefweb.int/afghanistan/natural-disasters-dashboard>

● **Humanitarian Assistance**

From the targeted 21.6 million food-insecure between January and July 2022, FSAC partners supported 21.5 million people with food assistance and 2.27 million people with livelihood assistance (agriculture and livestock support) in all 34 provinces. The HRP targeting assumptions considered beneficiaries of livelihood assistance as a subset of food assistance, therefore there are beneficiaries receiving food assistance who have also received livelihood assistance. Most of these beneficiaries received one to six rounds of food assistance.

Of the 21.5 million people supported with food, 20.9 million were in IPC Phase 3 and 4 locations. Due to the increased needs, IPC Phase 4 beneficiaries receive 75% of the recommended basket, while IPC Phase 3 populations receive 50% of the recommended food basket in cash or in-kind. As these beneficiaries are supposed to receive multiple rounds of assistance, more funding is required to complement and complete the assistance package.



● **Access**

Flash flooding caused several landslides in Nuristan province, destroying agricultural land and crops and blocking routes between Kamdesh and Bargematal districts. Road between Kunar and Nuristan was also destroyed due to heavy flash floods. Heavy flooding and water increase in Chakhansur river temporarily blocked roads for food deliveries.

● **Partner Capacity**

Supported by over 272 registered FSAC partners, of which 82 partners are operationalⁱ in 34 provinces. Despite some improvement in women staff participation in humanitarian activities, women staff are still not fully allowed to participate in humanitarian work in some provinces. For instance, recently one NGO female staff was barred from participation in an assessment in Kandahar province.

● **Planned Cluster Activities**

FSAC will conduct the following activities in the month of August:

- Support the management of the AHF 3rd Reserve Allocation.
- Conducting the Seasonal Food Security Assessment
- Conducting IPC analysis Workshop
- Supporting the earthquake response coordination
- September FSAC meeting

ⁱ [Have running projects and are reporting to FSAC](#)

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