

FSAC AFGHANISTAN RESPONSE MONITORING UPDATE
 February 2022

Background

Afghanistan remains one of the world's most severe food security crises. 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. Some 22.8 million people were projected to be facing acute food insecurity (IPC3 and IPC4) by the start of 2022.

Situation Overview

• **Crop and Livestock**

As of February 2022, the country was in the 2021/22 winter season - which coincided with the lean period. Planting of the main wheat crop was completed while the overall wheat crop outlook looked positive, with many fields having a healthy vegetative growth, however wheat fields in the north, northeast, west and southern provinces were showing signs of moisture stress.



Wheat field in Herat: Photo credit@FSAC

• **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 season which has led to lower than average precipitation, still persists across most parts of the country- with slight improvements being noticed since January 2022. Despite limited improvements, the precipitation during the spring rainy season (March to May 2022) is still expected to be below average across the country.

Negative snow depth anomalies were observed at higher elevations in the northeastern and central highlands of the

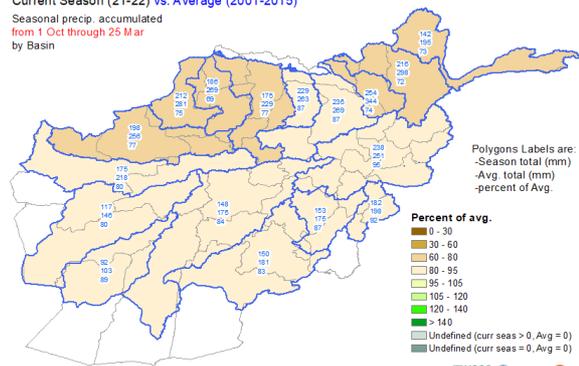
Afghanistan Accumulated Precipitation

Current Season (21-22) vs. Average (2001-2015)

Seasonal precip. accumulated

from 1 Oct through 25 Mar

by Basin



Map produced by USGS/EROS

Source: CHIRPS version 2.0 prelim

USGS USAID FEWS NET

country. While these anomalies were reduced in February 2022, lower snow water equivalent has been recorded in February 2022 compared to average which will likely reduce water table recharge. The below-average precipitation and above-average temperatures are expected through May 2022.

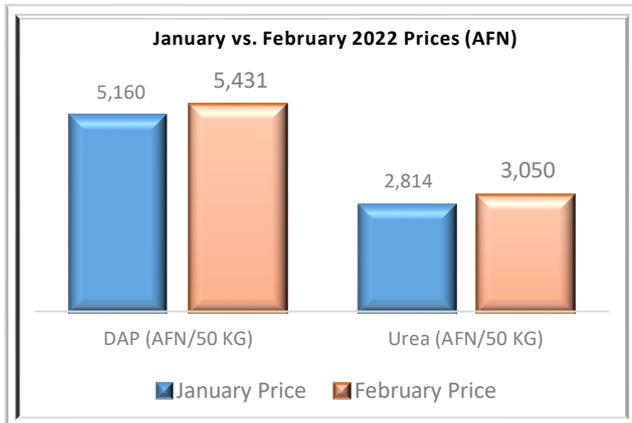
• **Markets**

Prices of main food commodities slightly decreased compared to January 2022, but remained higher compared to the 2 year average and month of June 2021 before the collapse of previous government. Prices of wheat flour and grain reduced between January and February. The February average monthly price of diesel increased by 7% to 74 AFN/L compared to the previous month, with an increase of 70% compared to same time last year and 49% compared to the month of June 2021.



The Afghani currency value slightly improved from 104 to 92 AFN to 1US\$ between January and February 2022. Price of DAP and Urea increased by 1% compared to the January price. Compared to June 2021, DAP price increased by 91%. During February, price of 50KG DAP was 5,431 Afghani whereas in June it was 2,847 Afghani. Prices were

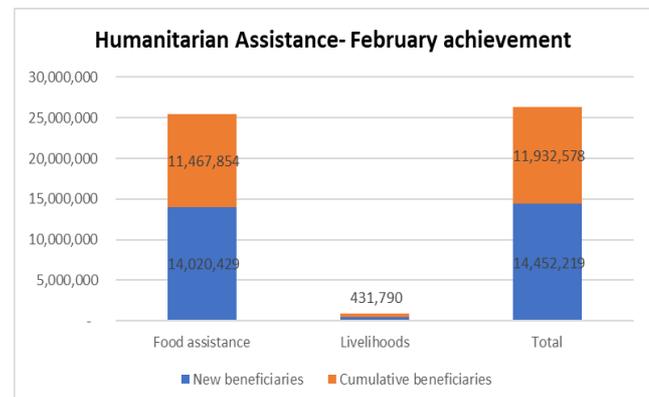
The FSAC requires US\$2.6 billion to cover the urgent food assistance and livelihood needs under the 2022 HRP. US\$434.9 (16.9% of the required funding) has been received as of February 2022.



● **Humanitarian Assistance**

For the month of February 2022, FSAC partners provided food assistance to 14 million people and livelihoods assistance to 408,051 people in all 34 provinces. Most of these beneficiaries received only their first or second round of assistance. Out of the 14.4 million people assisted, 13 million

significantly higher by 154% , 43% and 133% comparing to last year same time,, two years average and month of June 2021 respectively. Higher DAP prices were reported in all province where wheat cultivation was ongoing. For example an increase of 203% in Samangan, 184% in Jawzjan, 186% in Nimroz, 165% in Takhar, 167% in Nangarhar, 128% in Kunar, 170% in Balkh and Parwan and 176% in Kapisa was observed compared to month of June 2021.



● **Conflict and Displacements**

From 1 January 2021 to February 2022, 736,000 people fled their homes due to conflict across the country. This is 20,000 more than the number reported in January 2022. Although there has been a push by the de-facto authorities encouraging the displaced to move back to the areas of origin, many of the IDPs remain displaced as a lack of livelihoods opportunities is preventing them from returning to their areas of origin.

IPC Phase 3 and 4 people received cash or in-kind food assistance. The primary focus of humanitarian partners were to primarily support IPC Phase 4 people. Agriculture and livestock support provided to vulnerable people across 28 provinces. More funding is needed to complement and complete the assistance package for these people since most of them received only their first or second round of assistance. On top of this and as per the recent response and gap analysis, more than 13.5 million people need urgent cash / food assistance in 34 provinces. Additionally, close to 10.3 million IPC phase 3 and 4 farmers, livestock owners and natural disaster affected people require urgent livelihoods assistance.

● **Natural Disasters**

There were no reported natural disasters or deaths due to disasters that were reported in the month of February.

● **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 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 and 4), focusing on both rural and urban areas and livelihoods.

● **Access**

There were no access issues reported in the month of February. Some level of interference of the de-facto authorities into the implementation of interventions has been reported in most regions that were resolved locally.

● **Women's Needs and their Participation in the Humanitarian Action**

According to WFP monthly monitoring data, Afghanistan's food security situation continues to deteriorate. Indicative

data from February suggests that female-headed households (FHH) are struggling the most. Nearly 100 percent of FHH are experiencing insufficient food consumption, while 82 percent resort to crisis-level coping strategies to survive. Beyond FHH, the situation of Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLW) is particularly worrisome, given women's special nutritional needs for healthy pregnancy and breastfeeding, and associated risks of stunting and mortality amongst children under two, when these needs are not met. Since August 2021, average household consumption of proteins has halved, and consumption of fruits and dairy have more than halved.

In response to this need, and in addition to general food distribution and resilience strengthening activities, WFP and partners are scaling up the delivery of specialised nutritious foods to PLW and children. Preserving access of female field staff, for direct interaction with women on their needs, also remains an utmost priority. WFP has negotiated partial or full access of female humanitarian staff in nearly all provinces. However, challenges remain, and the situation is being closely monitored.

- **Pre-lean Season Assessment 2022**

FSAC with the Assessment Working Group (AWG) conducted the Pre-lean Season Assessment from 19 January to 15 February 2022. Data was collected from 11,250 households in 1,134 enumeration areas in 34 rural and 11 urban analytical domains. A total of 339 field workers (45 supervisors and 294 enumerators) including 43 female enumerators participated in the data collection process. At least 15% of the data was collected by the female enumerators. To ensure the assessment was properly administered, field level monitoring was conducted by the company assigned field supervisors as

well as FSAC partners. The findings from the PLSA will be used in the upcoming IPC analysis.

- **Partner Capacity**

Supported by over 236 registered FSAC partners, of which 68 partners are operational in 34 provinces. Despite improvement women staff participation in humanitarian activities, many women staff are still not allowed to fully participate in humanitarian work.



- **Planned Cluster Activities**

Following the completion of the PLSA, the FSAC/ IPC TWG and IPC secretariat will conduct an IPC analysis workshop from 19-28 March 2022. The IPC report is expected to be released in April 2022.

ⁱ <https://www.ipcinfo.org/ipc-country-analysis/details-map/en/c/1155210/?iso3=AFG>