

FSAC AFGHANISTAN RESPONSE MONITORING UPDATE
 October 2022

Background

The humanitarian situation in Afghanistan remains dire. In addition to the ongoing economic crisis, ruptures in basic services, and high food insecurity, disasters caused by floods, drought, and earthquakes have devastated the lives of many Afghans. Deterioration in food security is expected between November 2022 and March 2023, which is the lean season in most areas of the country. In the same period, the number of people in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) is projected to increase to 19.9 million. Urgent action is still required to save lives and protect livelihoods for the population likely to experience Emergency and Crisis (IPC Phase 3 and 4) food insecurity in the projection period.¹

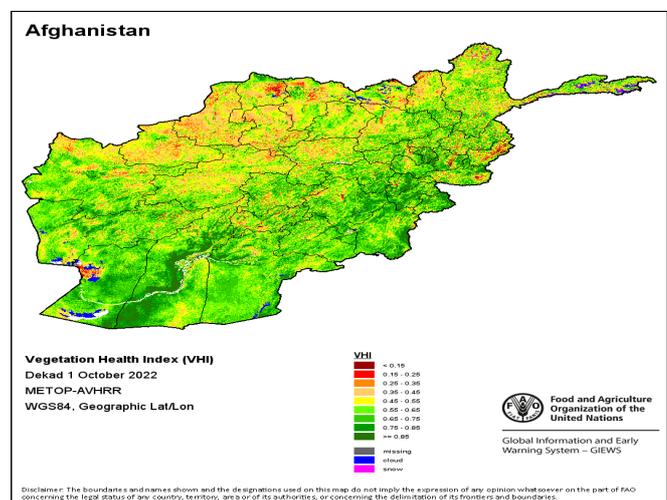
snowfall could impact water reserve/water availability, and higher-than-normal temperature in winter is also forecasted.

In October, some relief precipitation (including snow) has occurred in Badakhshan and the central highlands. Longer range forecasts (January– March 2023), still show that below-normal precipitation will likely continue until February 2023 before a near-normal condition at the beginning of spring.

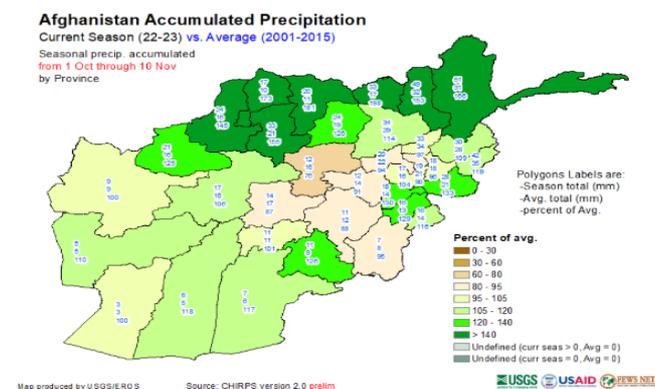
Situation Overview

• **Climate Outlook**

A weak to moderate La Niña event hit Afghanistan in the wet winter precipitation season 2021-22, which resulted in a consecutive event (“double-dip LN”) following a moderate-severe La Niña in 2020-21 that led to a severe drought in Afghanistan. In the current winter season, 2022-23, below-normal precipitation is forecasted, even though they seem less severe than in the previous two years. 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, and agricultural & landless rural households’ coping capacities. A triple-dip La Niña could severely affect the winter wheat season; if this occurs, low soil moisture could reduce germinability and crop development. In addition, reduced



Analysis of Snow Depth Difference Anomaly (October 2021 vs. 2022) shows positive differences between 2022 vs. 2021, and in general, above average compared to 2002-2016; indications of snow cover extent are slightly higher with the last 10-year average for September/October period. The situation is average or above average for the period everywhere, except the northern provinces.



• **Crop Outlook**

The area planted with winter wheat and barley from October to December 2022 is expected to be below average due to below-average soil moisture and below-average precipitation. However, this depends on the timing and distribution of rainfall received. Farmers who reduce winter planting will likely seek to compensate during the spring planting window (March/April in lower elevations and April/May in higher elevations), though below-average spring rainfall could threaten this, depending on the timing and distribution of rainfall. Farmers are generally expected to access sufficient

¹ FSAC IPC report- October 2022 unpublished

seeds for planting, given support from government and international agencies. In anticipation of the winter planting season, the FAO planned to distribute improved wheat seeds and fertilizer to 500,000 households (3.5 million people) and animal feed to 275,000 households beginning in September.

• **Livestock Outlook**

Due to poor pasture conditions and high fodder prices in the previous season, livestock owners' fodder stocks are likely below normal. Fodder costs will likely further increase during the winter due to the reduced availability of local fodder and seasonally high demand, which will increase livestock production costs. Overall, income from livestock sales will likely be near average due to above-average livestock prices. However, in some areas where households engage in atypical livestock sales during the winter (December to March) given to inability to afford production costs, livestock prices will likely further decline from December to March before seasonally increasing again in April. Additionally, income earned from livestock sales is expected to be below average in areas where households' herd sizes have declined to very low levels. ([Source FAO](#))

The country's livestock sector has been negatively impacted by the sudden change in climate conditions and the outbreak of Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD). FAO Afghanistan has launched a vaccination programme to initially vaccinate up to 1.25 million cattle against LSD to prevent new infections and the further spread of the disease. LSD cases have been reported in 26 provinces since May, when it was initially reported in Afghanistan. This disease poses a significant threat to many Afghan families, as livestock is a key source of livelihood. FAO has procured 125,000 doses of LSD vaccines, which are currently administered in 11 provinces through private-sector Veterinary Field Units (VFUs). The VFUs provide vaccinations, deworming, and treating special conditions and ectoparasites for all livestock species. There are up 1200 functioning VFU facilities across the country, and FAO is working with 100 VFU facilities for LSD vaccinations in the 11 provinces during the first phase of administering the vaccine. Over 3 million cows across Afghanistan's 34 provinces need to be vaccinated, which is around 80 percent of the total cattle in the country

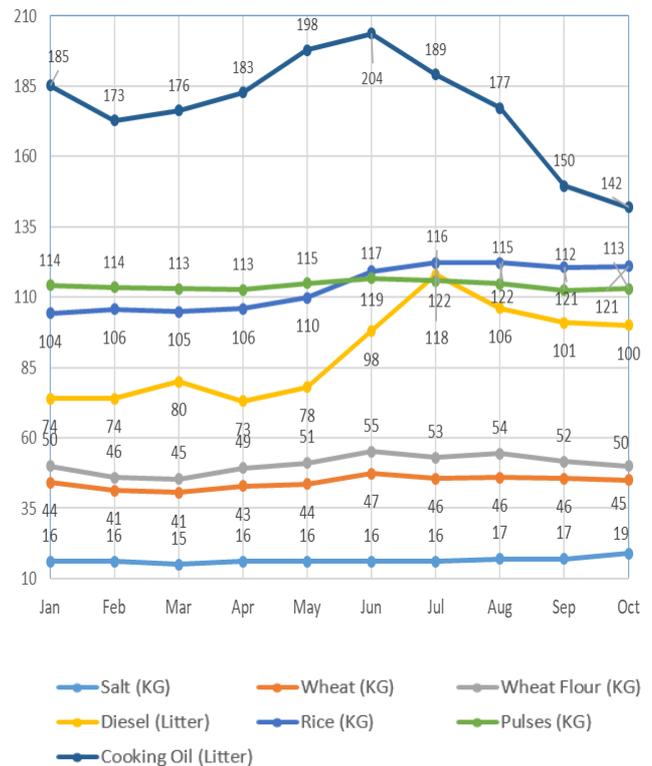
• **Markets**

WFP market price monitoring² shows that staple commodity prices in October 2022 for wheat, wheat flour, cooking oil, and sugar remained significantly above last year and the previous two years. In October, wheat flour's price decreased by 2.2

percent compared to last month. It remains higher by 13 percent and 27 percent compared to the previous year's average and two years ago, respectively. Wheat grain prices decreased by 1.5 percent compared to last month but are still higher by 21 percent compared to ~~2021~~ while showing a 14 percent decrease compared to last year and an 8% increase compared to the last two years.

The diesel price decreased by 1.3 percent compared to last month; however, it continues to be significantly higher by 54 and 97 percent compared to last year and two years average, respectively

Food Commodity Price 2022 (AFN)



As the winter wheat planting season is at the last stages, the demand for fertilizers (DAP and UREA) is decreased, pushing down their prices. Di-ammonium Phosphate, popularly known as DAP, prices fell by 3.3% compared to last month, 61% compared to the previous year, and 94 percent since 2020. 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's price increased by 0.9% compared to

²<https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000142725/download/>

last month. Urea's price is 71% higher than last year and 101% higher than the last two years' average.

- **Conflict and Displacements**

From January 1, 2021, to October 2022, 735,400 people were displaced and 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, conflict, and poverty prevents many of them from returning to their areas of origin. ([Source OCHA](#))

- **Disasters**

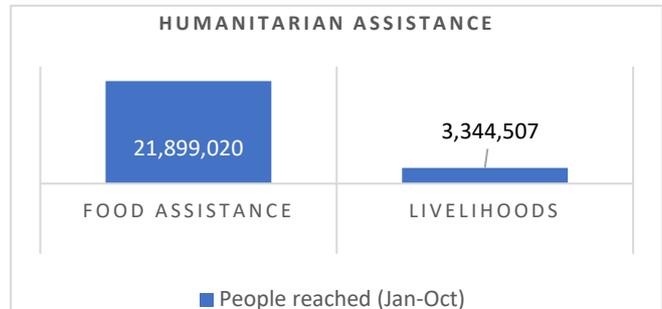
According to data from UN OCHA, 223,062³ people were affected by natural disasters from January 1 to October 31, 2022. A total of 33 provinces out of 34 experienced some natural disasters during the period. Afghanistan is prone to earthquakes, flooding, drought, landslides, and avalanches. Over 105,831 people were affected by earthquakes in Paktika and Khost in June, while over 115,411 (more than half of the total) people were affected by flooding in the south and east of the country bordering Pakistan in July and August. The heavy floods damaged or destroyed 14,000 houses, 84,500 acres of cropland damaged, and over 7,500 livestock lost. Overall, 110,600 individuals were affected by heavy floods during 2022r in Farah, Kandahar, Uruzgan, Daykundi, Zabul, Khost, Paktya, Wardak, Parwan, Kapisa, Laghman, Nangarhar, Kunar, and Nuristan provinces. On average, such disasters affect 200,000 people every year.

- **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. To address these needs 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) had been received.

- **Humanitarian Assistance**

From the targeted 21.8 million food-insecure between January and October 2022, FSAC partners supported 21.8 million people with food assistance and 3.3 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 21.8 million people supported with food, 21.2 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**

In October 2022, recorded high access constraints and operational challenges were observed, with 184 access incidents reported resulting in the temporary suspension of 91 Programs reported by humanitarian partners. The access incidents in October 2022 have shown an increase of 87 percent from the same time last year and a 23 percent increase from September 2022, with the majority accounting for 'interference in the implementation of humanitarian activities, followed by 'violence against humanitarian personnel, assets and facilities' authored by the de-facto authorities. The humanitarian access incidents in October resulted in the temporary suspension of 91 programs and damaged 11 organizations' assets or facilities.⁴

- **Partner Capacity**

Supported by over 272 registered FSAC partners, of which 82 partners are operational⁵ in 34 provinces.

- **Planned Cluster Activities**

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

- Review the AHF 3rd Reserve Allocation proposals
- Publish the IPC analysis report

³ <https://response.reliefweb.int/afghanistan/natural-disasters-dashboard>

⁴ [Afghanistan: Humanitarian Access Snapshot \(September 2022\) - Afghanistan | ReliefWeb](#)

⁵ [Have running projects and are reporting to FSAC](#)

- Conduct November FSAC meeting
- IPC-TWG meeting
- AWG meeting

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