FSAC Afghanistan Newsletter

April – June 2020

Issue: XXII

Food Security and Agriculture Cluster (FSAC)

FSAC is co-led by FAO & WFP in Afghanistan and co-chair by Welthungerhilfe. The cluster includes strong representation of government, national and international NGO's, donors, red cross/red crescent movement, UN agencies and research institutes. At current FSAC has 178 members with electronic reach to almost 452 partners/members in the country.

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Upcoming Activities

- Seasonal Food Security Assessment (SFSA) 2020 regional trainings
- Seasonal Food Security Assessment (SFSA) 2020 data collection
- Virtual IPC acute analysis
- Virtual national and regional FSAC meetings
- Field missions to regions
- Reporthub training in Kabul and regions

FSAC Achievements in 2020

In the first half of 2020, FSAC partners provided food assistance to **3,237,853** people or **(39%)** against a revised target of **8,340,969** people and livelihoods assistance was provided to **1,042,234 people** or **(31%)** against a revised target of **2,450,092** people. Total funding received is USD **76 Million + 48.5 Million USD** carry over fund from 2019 against a revised requirement of **USD 370 million**.

Revised Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) 2020

Due to the COVID-19 impact, FSAC revised its HRP targets and overall funding requirement. Under the revised HRP, the overall target increased from 6.7 million people to 9.7 million people and funding requirements increased from 279 million USD to 370 million USD.

PEOPLE IN NEED	PLANNED REACH	REQUIREMENTS (US$)
13.2M	9.8M (COVID-19: 3.1M, NON-COVID-19: 6.7M)	$370.3M (COVID-19: 60.7M, NON-COVID-19: 309.6M)

Photo by AAH

Click here to download the revised HRP

Seasonal Food Security Assessment (SFSA 2020) Update

FSAC is planning to conduct the post-harvest Seasonal Food Security Assessment (SFSA) with the support of Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL), National Statistics and Information Authority (NSIA), INGOs and NNGOs in all 34 provinces (around 360 districts). FAO, WFP and UNDP are the main funding bodies for this assessment. The regional trainings and data collection will start after EID al Adha.

The main objectives of SFSA 2020 are;

- Assess food security and livelihoods situation in 34 provinces and the 11 largest urban areas to identify the people in need, geographic areas of highest need, and characteristics of food insecure households during the post-harvest season.
- To capture the impacts of COVID-19 on households' food security and livelihoods.

Virtual IPC 2020 Acute Analysis

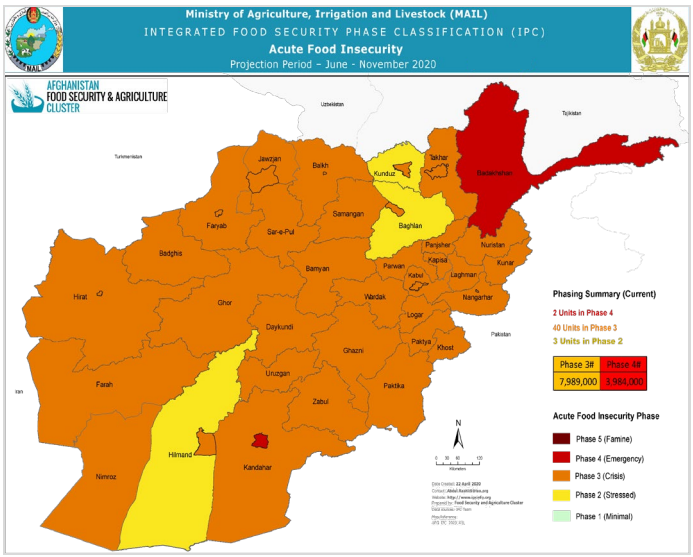
FSAC has successfully conducted the world's first virtual IPC analysis from 5th to 14 April 2020. Representatives from central and provincial government, UN organizations, technical agencies and NGOs participated in the workshop.

Analysis Results:

Projection: (June - November 2020):

- Total 12.4 million people projected to be food insecure (crisis and emergency) (IPC phase 3 and phase 4).
- Out of 34 provinces nationwide, 2 units of analysis (Badakhshan province and Kandahar urban) have been classified in IPC Phase 4.

For the first time, 11 major towns of selected provinces were also analyzed, to assess the specific vulnerabilities of urban households. Across the urban areas, around 2.48 million people (34%) are classified in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) and above, of which 834,000 people (11%) are classified in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency).



The overall number of people facing acute food insecurity is on the rise in urban settlements, and the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic are anticipated to push even more families and communities into ever more vulnerable conditions during the second half of 2020. Urban hubs such as Kabul, Hirat, Mazar, Nangarhar and Kandahar are already hard hit by the impact of COVID-19 with significant degradations in household's economic accessibility to food. In these centers, a more pronounced increase in food insecure population is expected.

Click here to download the IPC 2020 report

AHF 3rd Reserve Allocation 2020

In line with the evidence-based information provided by FSAC, AHF allocated USD 4 million to food assistance interventions. The focus of this allocation was to support prolonged and protracted IDPs whose income sources were affected by COVID-19. IDPs in Mazar, Nangarhar, Kandahar and Herat will receive food or cash assistance to cover their immediate food gaps. In addition, multiple shock affected farmers in Farah, Nimroz and Herat will also receive food assistance under this allocation. Prioritized areas, activities and partners were made in consultation with FSAC's SAG members.

FSAC has supported its partners in the preparation of quality proposals. FSAC led the technical review of the proposals and recommended five partners' proposals for AHF funding.

FSAC Field Missions

The national FSAC team conducted field missions to Badakhshan, Bamyan, Kandahar, Jalalabad, Mazar and Hirat to receive regional inputs and feedback on the current coordination challenges and issues related to the COVID-19 crisis. A rapid overview of the context specific challenges that may impact on food insecurity this year were explored with each regional FSAC focal point.

Click here to see overview of the field missions

Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) Election 2020

FSAC held the reelection for the Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) in June 2020. Through an online vote, FSAC members elected OXFAM, ACTED, CoAR and ORCD as Strategic Advisory Group (SAG 2020) members.

Objectives of the SAG:

- Provide ongoing strategic direction to the Cluster
- Develop and adjust the strategic framework, priorities and work plan of the Cluster
- Serve as a review committee for FSAC members' project proposals submitted for the HRP and pooled funding mechanisms as applicable.

FSAC Challenges and Key Messages

- **Funding constraints:** Funding is not available at the level needed to meet current FSAC targets. Thus, while FSAC continues to implement all planned activities, assistance scope is limited by less funding than is needed to reach all vulnerable populations identified as in need of assistance.
- **Cross-border constraints**: The C-19 pandemic has resulted in border closures delaying the timely import of food items into Afghanistan. Delays in the arrival and distribution of some food commodities occur as a result of import delays at the border with Pakistan, particularly affecting deliveries of vegetable oil and other staple food items. These challenges can cause interruptions or delays in the delivery of assistance to populations in need or impact on their access to nutritious food. Border closures also impact Afghan producer's ability to export goods and lack of cold-storage options limits overall flexibility.
- **Access Constraints (Weather and Insecurity):** Access to some areas was reduced by harsh weather conditions and road blockages during the winter period at the start of 2020, resulting in some delayed food deliveries and distributions. In addition, access restrictions tied to insecurity led to delays in deliveries or distributions.
- **Trainings:** Due to COVID-19, trainings under different activities (agricultural and livestock support programs and vocational skills) continue to be suspended.

Case Study by OXFAM

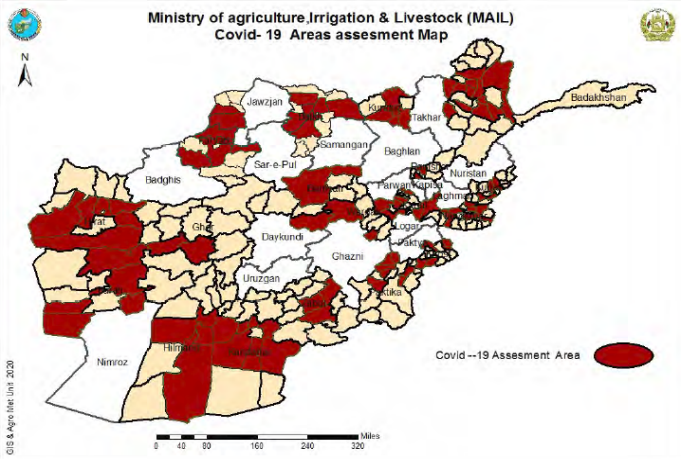
Mr. Shah Mahmood suffers from a chronic illness, his household was displaced and forced to flee their home along with 12 family members to Nangarhar due to conflict between the Taliban and ISK in Kunar province.

They are living in a makeshift room provided by the community. Their lack of regular access to water or sanitation hygiene is compounded by their lack of regular income. The family is facing a shortage of food, as they do not have a primary bread winner.

During the months of June 2020 OXFAM-OHW through the AHF funded project assessed and selected Mr. Mahmood for a one-month lifesaving cash for food assistance.

COVID-19 Assessment by FAO & MAIL

In Mid-2020; FAO and MAIL jointly conducted a COVID-19 rapid assessment in 18 provinces (113 districts) to generate new evidence and increase understanding of the impact of COVID-19 on the agricultural sector.



Click here to download the assessment report

Success Story by CHA (FAO Project)

Ms. Fatima is 58 years old, has 8 children and is living in the Anar Dara district of Farah province. Her household source of income was fully dependent on agricultural activities. Due to recent floods, she lost her agricultural land and crops. Ms. Fatima did not have seed stock to replenish, cultivate and fertilize a new crop cycle and increase her crops' productivities.

CHA selected Ms. Fatima through an FAO funded project to receive 50Kg of certified seeds and fertilizer (50 Kg DAP and 50 KG urea). She was able to cultivate the certified seeds and apply the fertilizer schedule to a new crop cycle on her lands. The cultivated seeds showed very good germination and proved resistant to diseases and pests and are anticipated to provide a high yield.

Ms. Fatima said: I am very happy for the assistance and contributions of FAO and CHA organizations. Their activities were on time and very effective, and as a result, I obtained a lot of wheat and stored 100 kg of seeds for next year. Today, I am mentally very comfortable and calm.

FSAC is funded by: USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

FSAC Website: http://fscluster.org/afghanistan/