



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



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Afghanistan

Drought response

The results of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis, released in October 2018, show that Afghanistan is experiencing a major livelihood crisis – primarily caused by severe drought, which limits food production and depletes farmers' and livestock keepers' assets and livelihoods. Years of civil conflict and instability as well as the severely degraded condition of much of the land have compounded the impacts of the drought, leading to the food security crisis situation we are witnessing today.

Objectives

Within the framework of the revised 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan, FAO is working with partners in the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster to:

- Enhance food security and nutrition, minimize asset depletion and reduce further drought-induced displacement.
- Provide vulnerable farmers with urgent agricultural inputs in time for the winter/spring planting season.
- Support livestock protection for the peak harsh winter months into spring 2019.

Activities



Restore agricultural production

certified wheat seed | quality fertilizer | training on good agricultural practices



Protect livestock assets

deworming treatment | concentrated livestock feed | drought-resistant fodder crop seed | training on animal husbandry



Provide complementary emergency livelihood assistance in 2019

community water management | nutrition-sensitive backyard vegetable and poultry kits | training and capacity building on poultry raising | community-based disaster risk reduction

In numbers



to assist

1.4 million people affected by drought in 22 provinces



FAO requires

USD 30 million



period

October 2018 – April 2019



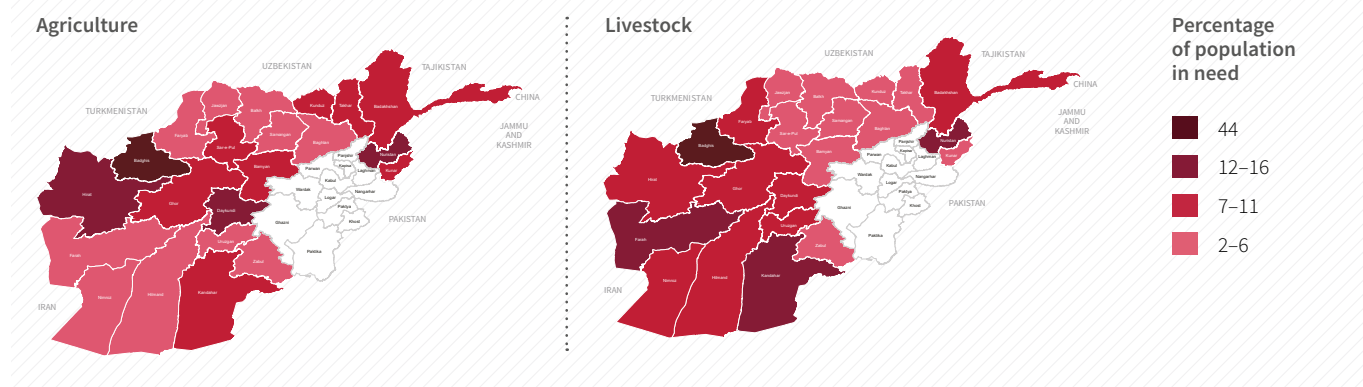
10.6 million people

severely food insecure



Affected populations require urgent agricultural inputs in time for the winter planting season and livestock protection for the peak harsh winter/spring months until April 2019 in the 22 drought-affected provinces.

Intensity maps of emergency agriculture and livestock support needs (November 2018 – April 2019)



Source: Afghanistan Food Security Cluster

Impact on food security

In 2018, the winter planting season (December 2017 – February 2018) experienced an extended period of dryness. In most parts of the country there was a precipitation deficit of more than 70 percent during these traditionally wet months. The winter wet season is critical for successful agricultural production throughout the year. The planting season for Afghanistan's main crop – wheat – starts when autumn rainfall allows farmers to sow seeds into March in some regions.

Decreases in precipitation during this period had devastating effects on crops and livestock, which in turn further exacerbated the already chronically food-insecure population, and disrupted the country's main livelihoods.

Agriculture, which provides a livelihood to nearly 80 percent of the population, has been the sector most affected by the drought. Impacts include insufficient food, loss of assets, drought-induced migration, reduced planting areas and distress selling of livestock.

In order to assess the drought impact across the country, FAO participated in a rapid assessment in March 2018, followed by an Emergency Food Security Assessment with cluster partners in August 2018 and the IPC analysis in October 2018. The assessments showed a progressively deteriorating situation with 10.6 million people (around 30 percent of the population) now facing severe food insecurity and in need of urgent action.

Response to date

Since FAO began responding to the drought in May 2018, the Organization has received contributions close to USD 15.5 million from the governments of Belgium, France, the Republic of Korea, Sweden and the United States of America, and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. As of November 2018, FAO has provided emergency livestock protection support to 242 200 people and emergency agriculture support to 170 730 people.

Situation analysis

78% of Afghans depend on agriculture and livestock for their livelihoods

92% of farmers reported having insufficient or no seeds for the current planting season

Wheat production is **28%** below the five-year average

48% of pastoralists report reduced livestock productivity and/or animal death

Milk production has decreased by more than **30%**, and fodder prices have increased by up to 100%

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