Acute Food Insecurity Situation August - October 2020

Overview
During the period of August to October 2020, corresponding to the post-harvest season, it is estimated that a total of 11.15 million people (36% of the analysed population) were facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) and required urgent humanitarian action. This includes around 1.34 million people in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and 9.8 million people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). Around 11.34 million people were also in Stress (IPC Phase 2) and required livelihood support.

During the projection period of November 2020 and March 2021, corresponding to the lean season, around 13.15 million people (42% of the analysed population) are likely to experience high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above), out of which an estimated 8.85 million people will likely be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and nearly 4.3 million people will likely be in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). Furthermore, around 10.6 million people are expected to be in Stressed (IPC Phase 2).

Although the two periods of analysis do not exactly coincide, as the April-May 2020 includes the green harvest in lowland areas, a rough comparison between the 2020 lean season and the 2021 lean season could be attempted. The 2020 lean season, analyzed in April 2020, shows an estimated population of 10.9 million people (108.9 million) that was facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above). Meanwhile, the analysis conducted in October 2020 over the 2021 lean season (November 2020 and March 2021) shows 13.1 million people (13.1 million) will likely be facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above), corresponding to an increase of 2.3 million people (2.298 million) from the 2019 to 2020 lean season.

Key Drivers

COVID-19
The consequences of restrictions imposed due to COVID-19 have resulted in a significant decrease of daily wage opportunities and small trader income. On the other hand, decreased remittances remain at the same level as during the initial outbreak of COVID-19, with some improvements.

High Food Prices
High food prices of commodities already in the post-harvest time have negatively impacted the purchasing power of people and further exacerbated food access, especially for the households already living below the poverty line.

Conflict
Ongoing conflict in most provinces has led to displacement, caused loss of livelihoods, or affected people’s livelihoods. As a result, farmers don’t have access to their agricultural lands for cultivation and harvesting at the right time, with a similar effect on livestock and other sectors. Overall, access to contended areas remained limited during the current period and is expected to remain the same during the projection period.

Floods
Floods have resulted in the loss of shelters and productive assets, causing displacement and increasing food insecurity.

IPCA Analysis Partners

AFGHANISTAN: Integrated Food Security Phase Classification Snapshot | August 2020 - March 2021
The analysis is subject to ongoing internal Quality Review due to a breakdown in technical consensus among IPC Technical Working Group members. The outcomes of the review will be communicated once the process has been completed.