



KEY FINDINGS

- Access in **Darz Ab** district has been severely constrained for the past few weeks, mainly due to insecurity and conflict. As a result, many households are displaced to the neighbouring districts- **Sayad district of Saripul, Belcheragh district of Faryab, and Qoushtepa & Shiberghan districts of Jawzjan** province. The majority of the people in Darz Ab are unable to go to work or to find new income opportunities. Due to insecurity, access by the traders and local people to Darz Ab district market has also been limited for the last month.
- Supply of food commodities to Darz Ab district is mainly from Shiberghan district which is the capital of Jawzjan province. Supply of food commodities from Shiberghan market to Darz Ab market had been limited for the past month due to insecurity on the road between the two locations. This limited supply has resulted in an increase in the prices of food commodities.
- The respondents reported that due to the ongoing conflict and security threats, the local hospitals, clinics and schools have been closed the last 3 weeks.
- In conclusion, household access to food and livelihood opportunities in Darz Ab is constrained. Around **600 households** are displaced from Darz Ab district to the neighbouring districts and are considered as the most vulnerable group. A follow-up assessment is recommended to better understand the food security situation of the displaced population.

ASSESSMENT BACKGROUND AND METHODOLOGY

In response to reports of a deteriorating situation due to armed clashes between Government and anti-government elements (AGEs) and establishment of checkpoints by AGEs on the way between Qush Tepa – Darz Ab districts of Jawzjan province in the month of June which has limited access by humanitarian and governmental agencies, WFP launched a rapid phone (mVAM) survey on 29 June to better understand the situation on the ground. A total of 10 interviews were conducted with key Informants (*Shura* leaders and traders) in order to get a snapshot of how these events are impacting market function and the food security of the affected households. The findings in this report will help the Government and humanitarian agencies to determine the best way to respond to the crisis.

Insecurity

Most of the respondents in **Darz Ab** district indicated that traders are facing security and access issues when supplying food commodities from Shiberghan district markets. Additionally, people in Darz Ab district are facing security concerns when traveling to local food markets. Also due to insecurity, access to health facilities and clinics by both local people and doctors in **Darz Ab** district is constrained. It was also reported that medicines have been looted from the clinics by the insurgents.

As a result of the deteriorating security situation, the schools have remained closed. The recent security situation has also resulted a substantial influx of displaced population to Sayad district of Saripul, Becheragh district of Faryab and also Qoushtepa and Shiberghan districts of Jawzjan.

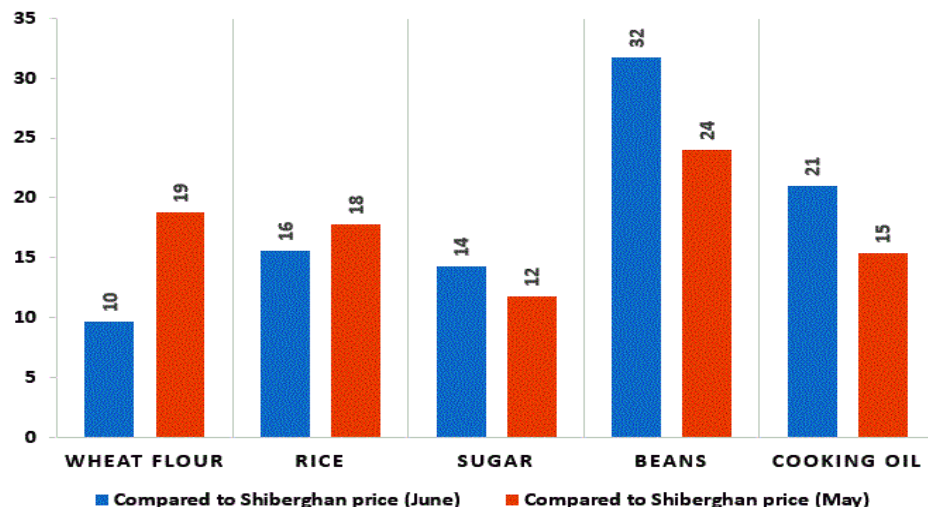
The assessment took place only in **Darz Ab** district of Jawzjan province to which access by humanitarian agencies is limited.



Food Prices

Food prices in Darz Ab district have increased over the past month due to limited supply food commodities to Darz Ab market as a result of the insecurity. Currently food prices in Darz Ab district are higher compared to Shiberghan district market.

Figure 1: Percentage difference in prices compared to prices in Shiberghan market



Source: The source for Shiberghan price data is the Ministry of Agriculture (MAIL)

Figure 2: Average retail prices (per kg-Lit) in Darz Ab and Shiberghan district markets*

District Name	Wheat flour	Rice	Sugar	Beans	Cooking Oil/Lit
Darz Ab Prices (July)	29	91	60	127	81
Shiberghan Prices (June)	26	79	53	96	67
Shiberghan Prices (May)	24	77	54	102	70

* All prices are in AFN per Kg-Lit

** The **Terms of Trade (ToT)** between wheat flour and casual labour is a proxy indicator for **household purchasing power**, which shows the quantity of wheat flour that can be purchased with the wage earned from one day of casual (unskilled) labour.

Market Functionality

Among all the districts of Jawzjan province, **Darz Ab** market is the only one faced with significant food shortages due to limited supply from Shiberghan district as result of insecurity. The reduced supply has resulted in price increases and thus, most of people in Darz Ab are experiencing a decline in their food security situation.

In terms of response analysis, as the market of Darz Ab district doesn't have the ability to respond to the current demand, providing a cash response is not appropriate for these people. However, additional assessment of the affected population is recommended.

Livelihoods and additional information

Terms of Trader (ToT)**

There are casual labour opportunities currently available but the inability to travel to the workplaces appears to be problematic due to the conflict and insecurity thus limiting access to work. The reported labour/wheat flour ToT in Darz Ab district is reported to be 8 kgs/1 day of work. However, the availability of the casual labour work opportunities is very limited, at around 0-1 days per week which is less than other districts in the province. This is worrying as not only are households unable to find work, but when they do, the income earned buys them less food than it would in other parts of the province.

Livelihoods: The main livelihood activities of the people in this district are agriculture and livestock.

Food Source: The majority of people in Darz Ab district are relying on purchase to access their food.

Cultivation Method: Most of the lands cultivated in Darz Ab district are irrigated but due to insecurity, limited people have access to their lands for cultivation.

Improved Seeds: Farmers in Darz Ab district have limited access to improved seeds mainly due to less availability and high prices of seeds in the markets.

Animal Diseases: Raising livestock is an important livelihood activity. However the respondents indicated that livestock are affected by various diseases but the veterinary clinics are also not functioning due to the conflict.

Destruction of houses: The recent ongoing conflict has destroyed more than 200 houses in the district.