



Afghanistan Food Security Update #2

22 September 2021

IN NUMBERS

The food security situation is deteriorating. In the past month:



95% of households do not have enough to eat



Seven in ten households have been forced to limit portions, resort to cheaper food and to borrowing food



Five in ten households have run out of food at least once in the last two weeks

US\$ 200 million urgently needed to cover needs until the end of the year.

Situation Update

Food security is deteriorating sharply in Afghanistan. Only 5 percent of Afghans now have enough to eat.

As of mid-September, 95 percent of Afghans have insufficient food consumption. This is an alarming increase of 15 percentage points compared with before 15 August. The vast majority report having insufficient money and means to buy food.

The struggle that Afghans face to feed their families is stark:

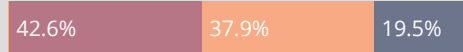
- Roughly three out of four households now limit portion sizes (almost double that prior to 15 August); many adults are eating less so their children can eat more.
- Households headed by women, on top of all they are going through, are skipping meals, and reducing their portions far more than those headed by men.
- Three out of four households are also borrowing food (76.7 percent up from 60 percent) or consuming cheaper food (74.5 percent up from 56 percent).
- Furthermore, the number of households employing three or more distress coping

mechanisms also doubled from 32 percent to 65 percent.

Hunger is cutting across educational and urban-rural divides. While 96.7 percent of households headed by less educated members are experiencing insufficient food consumption, a high number (88.4 percent) of households headed by a member with post-secondary school education are also experiencing the same. Both urban and rural families are facing insufficient food consumption (95.3 and 94.7 percent, respectively). This trend is likely to continue in the weeks to come as more jobs are lost, salaries go unpaid, and the cash liquidity crisis bites harder.

National Food Consumption Score

Pre-15 August



Post-15 August



Poor **Borderline** **Acceptable**



Further Findings

Work opportunities continue to shrink. After a decrease of 20 percent in the final week of August 2021, the first week of September saw opportunities drop another 1.8 percent, followed by a further drop of 3.6 percent in the second week of September.

Concerns are mounting for everyday citizens. Major concerns reported over the last month include fear of job losses (50 percent), food shortage (24 percent) and increase in food prices (9 percent).

Diets continue to deteriorate; the average consumption of pulses, vegetables and fruit has dropped, and is now limited to less than twice a week. Afghans consumed animal protein and dairy less than one day per week prior to 15 August; but now they would be lucky to access animal protein or dairy products once every few weeks.

Half of all households reported running out of food at least once in the past two weeks, up from 43 percent. Lack of money was the reason 95 percent of respondents said their food stocks ran out, as jobs are lost and food prices rise.

There has been no major deterioration in access to health services and markets. Currently, 13 percent of people face challenges accessing markets (down from 19 percent before 15 August), however safety and security concerns remain for the 97 Afghans who rely on markets to purchase food. Access to health services has improved slightly (13 to 11 percent), however uptake of services remain a challenge due to insufficient money (73 percent), hospital closures (11 percent) and distance from hospitals (9 percent).

Sample population at a glance (Post-15 August)



- **Household head:**
97 percent male headed households
3 percent female headed households



- **Household size:** Average of 11 members



- **Education** of the head of the household:
 - Less educated: 45.4 percent
 - Primary education: 14.5 percent
 - Secondary education: 12.4 percent
 - Post-secondary education: 27.8 percent



- **Rural vs. Urban**
42.5 percent rural
57.5 percent urban



In 7 days, the average household now eats:

Staples	7 days	●●●●●●●
Vegetables	>2 days	●●○○○○○
Pulses / fruits	≥1 day	●○○○○○
Dairy	0.3 days	○○○○○○
Animal protein	0.1 days	○○○○○○

This factsheet updates Afghanistan's food security situation based on data collected via telephone surveys across 34 provinces between 19 July and 19 September.

WFP RESPONSE

WFP is scaling up to reach a total of 14 million people (an increase of almost 5 million from 2020). Despite the volatile situation, WFP's staff, partners and trucks continue delivering assistance to vulnerable communities across the country.

Humanitarian assistance is urgently required as the country enters the annual hunger season and to preposition food in the country before the winter cuts off communities.

Dispatches (17 Aug to 16 Sep 2021)

