



AFGHANISTAN

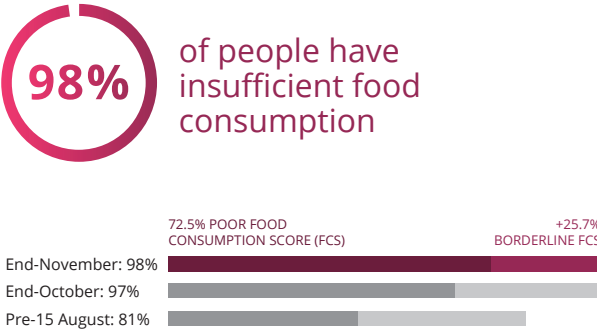
World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

Food Security Update

8 December 2021

The food security situation continues to deteriorate.



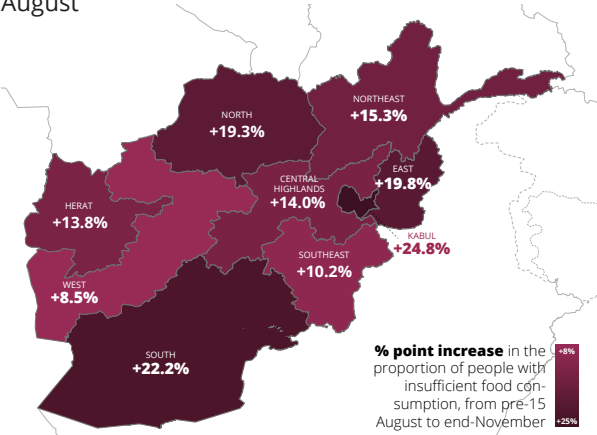
As of end-November, 98 percent of the population have insufficient food consumption. This is an alarming increase of 17 percentage points compared with before 15 August.

The past month saw a spike in the proportion facing the most severe levels of food consumption, from 65 to 73 percent. The most pronounced increases were seen in the east (+13 percent), Kabul (+12 percent), Herat (+9 percent) and southeast (+9 percent).¹

More than half of the population (55 percent) are resorting to drastic measures to feed their families. This is a five-fold increase from before 15 August. This reliance on coping strategies is most dire in the northern, southern and western regions.

Almost seven in ten families (69 percent) did not have enough food at least once in the past fortnight. This is up from four in ten prior to 15 August. Almost all families (97 percent) attributed this to a lack of money.

Food security has deteriorated in **all regions** since 15 August

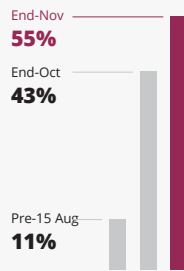


Families are barely coping

At least once a week, out of every ten households:

- 9/10** are consuming less expensive food
- 8/10** are limiting portion sizes
- 7/10** are borrowing food

% adopting crisis-coping strategies



FURTHER FINDINGS

Hunger continues cutting across socioeconomic divides and families of all education levels are badly impacted. An unprecedented 96 percent of families with a post-secondary educated household head are experiencing insufficient food consumption. This is almost equal to the 97 percent of families headed by less educated members who are experiencing the same.

The hunger crisis affects both rural and urban populations

Diets continue to deteriorate: The average household consumed animal protein and dairy a little less than once a week prior to 15 August, but now they would be lucky to access these food groups even once a month. The average consumption of pulses and fruit has dropped to less than once a week.

Overall, access to markets has improved:

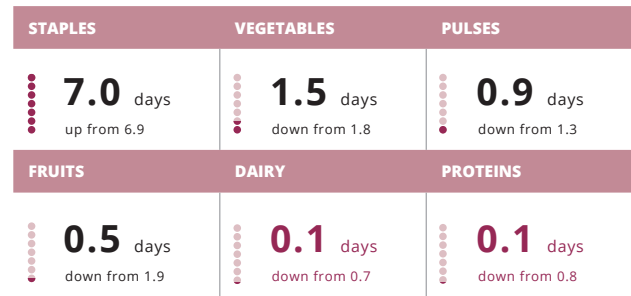
- Markets remain predominantly the place where people source their food.
- Market access has improved, with only 1 percent of families reporting challenges in accessing markets, down from 19 percent before 15 August. This improvement has been observed in all regions except Kabul where it has slightly deteriorated.

Access to health services has worsened: The proportion of families reporting access challenges has doubled from 14 to 28 percent since pre-15 August. This was mostly due to a lack of money (80 percent), or long distances to hospitals.

Concerns continue to mount for everyday citizens: In the last month, seven in ten families are worried

about losing jobs, compared to just four in ten before 15 August. This is especially pronounced in Kabul and Hirat, and overall among higher educated households. Families are also concerned about food shortages (14 percent) and rising food prices (12 percent).

Diets are shrinking.² In seven days, the average household now consumes:



Sample population at a glance:³



Male-headed households: 97 percent
Female-headed households: 3 percent



Average household size:
10.6 members



Urban households: 55 percent
Rural households: 45 percent



Level of education of the head of the household:

- Lower education: 41 percent
- Primary education: 19 percent
- Secondary education: 14 percent
- Post-secondary education: 27 percent

This factsheet updates Afghanistan's food security situation based on three rounds of data collected via telephone surveys across 34 provinces between 19 July and 21 November. The first round is from 19 July to 15 August; the second round is from 21 August to 22 October; and the third round is from 23 October to 21 November. Since 21 August, panel surveys are conducted for 80 percent of respondents in each round. Results are weighted to ensure socio-demographic representativity.



WFP Response

WFP aims to meet the food and nutrition needs of more than **23 million people** in 2022.⁴

To meet the task at hand, WFP estimates it would require US\$ 220 million per month.

Learn more [here](#).

1. Changes over the last month refer to comparisons between the second round of surveys (21 August to 22 October) and the third round of surveys (23 October to 21 November).
2. Comparisons of diets are between the first round of surveys (19 July to 15 August) and the third round of surveys (23 October to 21 November).
3. The sample population refers to the third round of surveys (23 October to 21 November).
4. Planning figures for 2022 are being revised due to an ongoing planning exercise; they are subject to change and pending approval