



**AFGHANISTAN**

**World Food Programme**

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# Afghanistan Food Security Update

Round Six: February 2022

**The food security situation remains alarming, with no signs of improving.**



The spillover effects of the situation in Ukraine threaten to deepen the crisis in Afghanistan, as prices surge and supply chains falter. In February, prices for several key commodities in Afghanistan were already some 40 percent higher than in June 2021. Additional price hikes would push food even further out of reach.

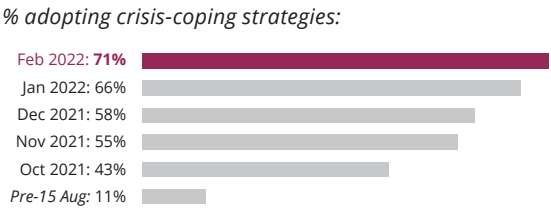
This comes as an unprecedented proportion of people (95 percent) still face insufficient food consumption. As the harsh winter months have worn on, families have seen little respite, with this figure stuck at 95 percent or higher since late August 2021. The latest month saw a slight spike in the most severe level of food insecurity (an increase from 67 to 70 percent).

With each passing month, these pressures push new waves of people to drastic measures to feed their families. Seven out of ten families (71 percent) are resorting to crisis coping strategies – a 5 percentage point increase from the previous month and a sevenfold increase since 15 August.<sup>1</sup> The number of people resorting to four or more strategies continues rising (increasing from 60 to 66 percent), as has the number of parents restricting their own meals just so their children can eat (increasing from 66 to 70 percent).

Households of person/s with disabilities are disproportionately impacted, and are turning to drastic measures to put food on the table (85 percent) far more than other households.

Shrinking incomes leave people with few choices. In the latest month, more income-earning households (85 percent) have reported a significant decrease in income. Worse still, rising numbers of households were forced to brave the entire winter month of February with no income earned at all (increasing from 18 to 21 percent).

## People are turning to drastic measures



*Coping strategies employed at least once a week:*

- 92** percent are consuming less preferred food
- 82** percent are limiting portion sizes
- 80** percent are borrowing food

## FURTHER FINDINGS

**The little income which remains is being spent on food.** A rising proportion of household income is now spent on food (increasing from 80 to 85 percent), leaving little to spare for other essential survival needs.

**Market access worsened for a second consecutive month.** As heavy snowfall and rain blocked roads in February, 26 percent of households reported being unable to access markets in the previous two weeks, a deterioration compared with 3 percent in December 2021 and 17 percent in January 2022.

**Indicative data suggest that female-headed households** are struggling the most,<sup>2</sup> with nearly 100 percent facing insufficient food consumption. Far more of these households are also turning to drastic measures (82 percent) than male-headed households (70 percent).

**Households of person/s with disabilities are facing higher rates of food insecurity and more are turning to drastic measures**

**Hunger continues cutting across socioeconomic divides.** While households of all education levels are badly impacted, the past month has seen a deterioration in overall food security especially for those with lower and primary-educated heads (to 97 percent).

**Demand for health services has outstripped access.** In February, 78 percent of households reported requiring access to health services in the last two weeks, an increase from 55 percent in November. But access to healthcare remains consistently low, with around 41 percent facing access challenges, up from 39 percent. This is increasingly due to a lack of money (89 percent), or due to long distances to hospitals (9 percent).

**Concern about food shortages has risen sharply.** While worries about job losses remain the top concern (44 percent), concern about food shortages has moved from the fourth highest top concern in January, to the second highest in February (24 percent).

**Diets have shrunk since pre-15 August.<sup>3</sup> In seven days, the average household now consumes:**

STAPLES	VEGETABLES	PULSES
7.0 days up from 6.9	1.3 days down from 1.8	1.0 days down from 1.3
FRUITS	PROTEINS	DAIRY
0.3 days down from 1.9	0.3 days down from 0.8	0.2 days down from 0.7

### Sample population at a glance:<sup>4</sup>



Male-headed households: 96 percent  
Female-headed households: 4 percent



Average household size:  
10.4 members



Rural households: 48 percent  
Urban households: 52 percent



Households reporting having a member/s with disability: 21 percent



Level of education of the head of the household:

- Lower education: 44 percent
- Primary education: 12 percent
- Secondary education: 7 percent
- Post-secondary education: 27 percent

*This factsheet updates Afghanistan's food security situation based on six rounds of data collected via telephone surveys across 34 provinces between 19 July 2021 and 4 March 2022. The first round is from 19 July to 15 August 2021; the second round is from 21 August to 22 October 2021; the third round is from 23 October to 21 November 2021; the fourth round is from 22 November to 31 December 2021; the fifth round is from 3 January to 2 February 2022; the sixth round is from 3 February to 4 March 2022. Since 21 August 2021, panel surveys are conducted for 80 percent of respondents in each round. Results are weighted to ensure socio-demographic representativity. The questionnaire was updated on January 3 to include questions on income sources, income changes, and remittances.*



## WFP Response

WFP aims to meet the food and nutrition needs of more than **23 million people** in 2022.

To meet the task at hand, WFP requires US\$ 220 million per month.

Learn more at this [scale-up factsheet](#) and the [latest updates](#).

1. Changes over the last month refer to comparisons between the fifth round of surveys (3 January to 2 February) and the sixth round of surveys (3 February to 4 March).

2. The findings for female-headed households are indicative due to a small sample size.

3. Comparisons of diets are between the first round of surveys (19 July to 15 August) and the sixth round of surveys (3 February to 4 March).

4. The sample population refers to the sixth round of surveys (3 February to 4 March).

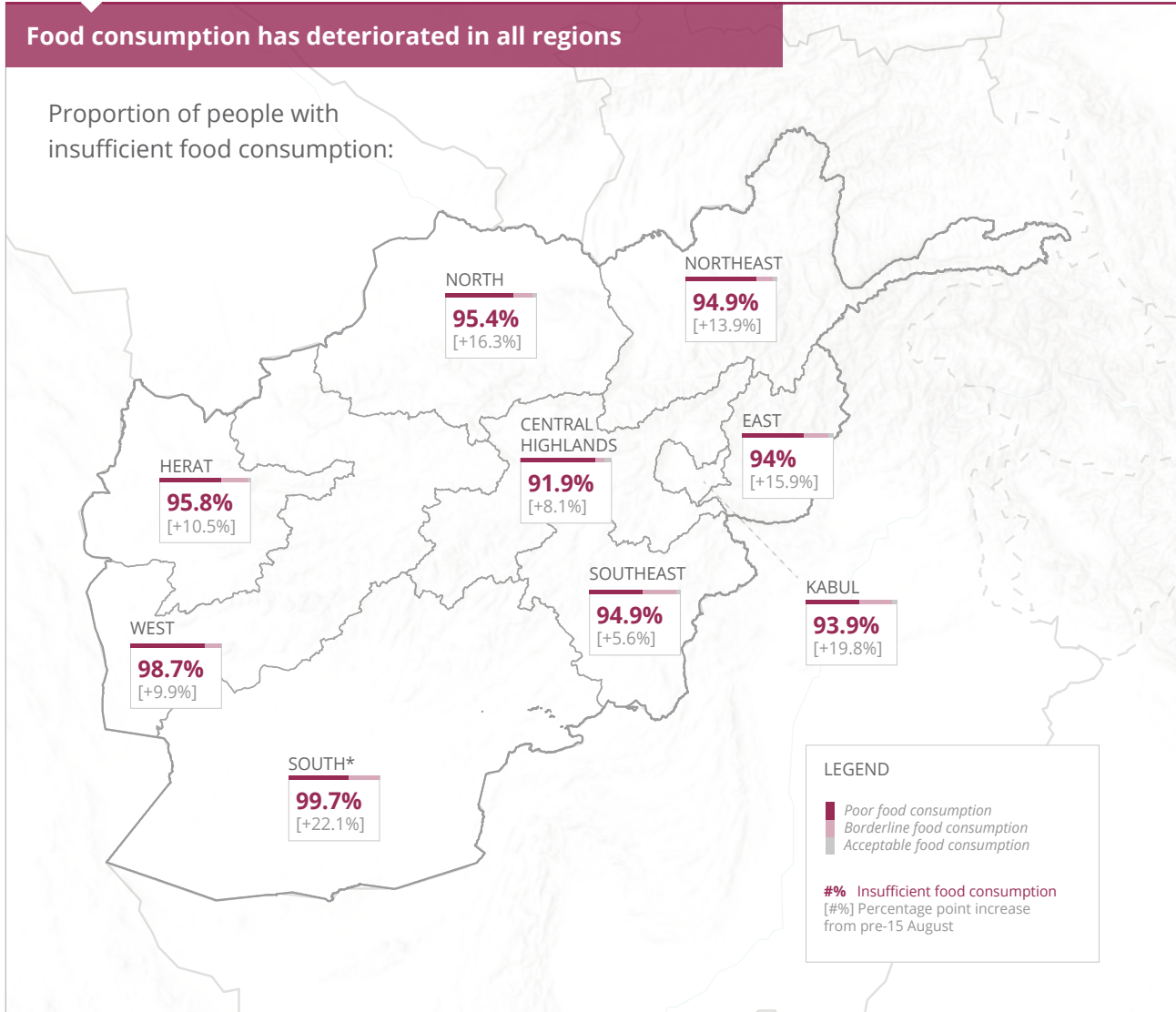
Photo Page 1: © WFP / Marco Di Laurio. Photo Page 2: © WFP / Julian Frank.

# FOOD CONSUMPTION AND COPING STRATEGIES, AFGHANISTAN

Round 6: February 2022

## Food consumption has deteriorated in all regions

Proportion of people with insufficient food consumption:

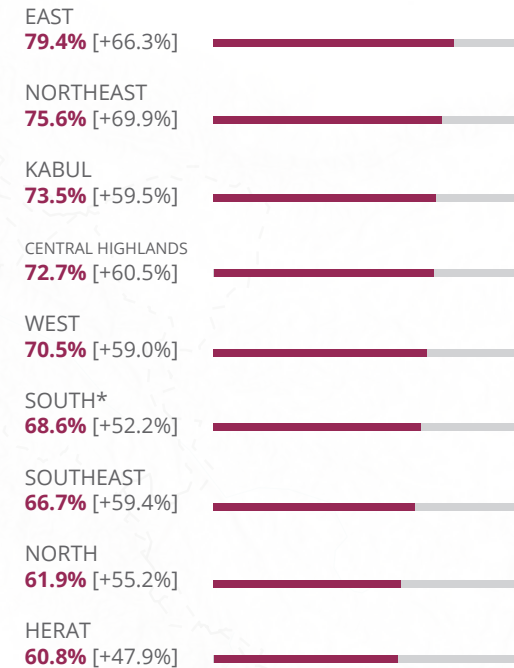


### LEGEND

- Poor food consumption
- Borderline food consumption
- Acceptable food consumption

**#%** Insufficient food consumption  
 [#%] Percentage point increase from pre-15 August

Proportion of people employing crisis coping strategies:



The increase in brackets refers to the percentage point increase from pre-15 August.

\*Data for the South region are indicative only, due to a smaller sample size