



AFGHANISTAN



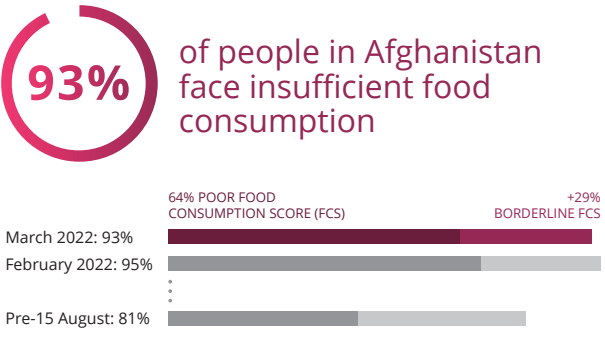
World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

Afghanistan Food Security Update

Round Seven: March 2022

Humanitarian assistance is stemming the rise in hunger. But this is not enough.

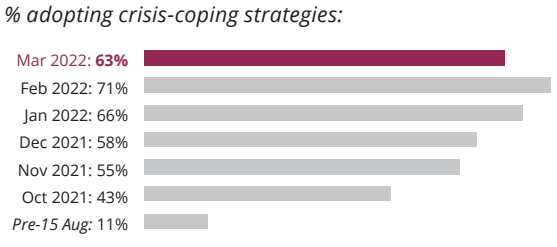


Humanitarian assistance is reaching more people with each passing month. One in five households (21 percent) reported receiving humanitarian food assistance in March – mostly from UN/NGOs – which is a notable increase from the previous months. In some regions, this assistance reached as many as two in five households (43 percent in West).

This assistance is driving down severe food insecurity in several regions (Hirat, Kabul, Northeast and Southeast). Families which did not receive humanitarian assistance in these regions did not see improvements in severe food insecurity levels.¹

But this is not enough; the number of people facing insufficient food consumption remains alarmingly high. Only 7 percent of people reported having enough to eat in March. This is a slight improvement of 2 percentage points on the previous month, likely driven by a rise in food assistance, as well as some easing on access to income and markets. However, the situation still remains far worse than in pre-15 August.

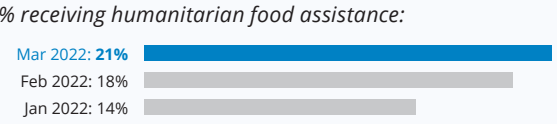
People are still taking drastic measures.



People continue turning to drastic measures to feed their families. Six out of ten families (63 percent) are resorting to crisis coping strategies. This is an improvement from the previous two months, but is still six times higher than 15 August.

Households of person/s with disabilities continue to be disproportionately impacted, and are turning to drastic measures to put food on the table (74 percent) far more than other households.

Humanitarian assistance is vital.



Incomes continue to drop, though at a slightly slower pace. In March, 63 percent of income-earning households reported a significant decrease in income. While this is high, it is a slight improvement from the 84 percent in February. These improvements were most pronounced among the small business, transport and skilled labour markets. Furthermore, 7 percent of income-earning households saw an increase in incomes.

FURTHER FINDINGS

The severity of hunger now varies with education levels.² For families with lower and primary education, severe food security is high (69 percent and 56 percent respectively), but this has improved compared to February.

Hunger is cutting across urban-rural divides, and is affecting both groups substantially

Indicative data suggest that female-headed households are struggling the most,³ with 97 percent facing insufficient food consumption. Far more of these households are also turning to drastic measures compared to male-headed households (27 percentage points more).

Hunger is cutting across urban-rural divides, with both groups equally affected. Urban families are doing only marginally better, with 92 percent facing insufficient food consumption compared to 94 percent of rural families. Both groups saw improvements in severe food insecurity levels in March.

Most of household income is still being spent on food (83 percent), leaving little to spare for other essential survival needs. Households with lower education levels are spending a higher proportion of income on food than those with higher education levels.

The top concern is still around losing jobs, while worries about food shortages dipped slightly (1.5 percentage points). Worries slightly shifted to areas such as getting sick and education disruptions (1 percentage point increases).

Market access improved in the past month, but 19 percent of households still faced challenges in accessing markets. This is an improvement from February (26 percent), but still worse than in December 2021 (3 percent) and January 2022 (17 percent).

Diets have shrunk since pre-15 August.⁴ 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	1.2 days down from 1.3
FRUITS	PROTEINS	DAIRY
0.3 days down from 1.9	0.3 days down from 0.8	0.3 days down from 0.7

Sample population at a glance:⁵

- Male-headed households: 96 percent
Female-headed households: 4 percent
- Average household size: 10.7 members
- Urban households: 48 percent
Rural households: 52 percent
- Households reporting having a member/s with disability: 20 percent
- Level of education of the head of the household:
 - Lower education: 44 percent
 - Primary education: 18 percent
 - Secondary education: 11 percent
 - Post-secondary education: 25 percent
 - Islamic school education: 3 percent

This factsheet updates Afghanistan's food security situation based on seven rounds of data collected via telephone surveys across 34 provinces between 19 July 2021 and 3 April 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; the seventh round is from 5 March to 3 April. 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 still requires US\$ 1.4 billion for the rest of the year.

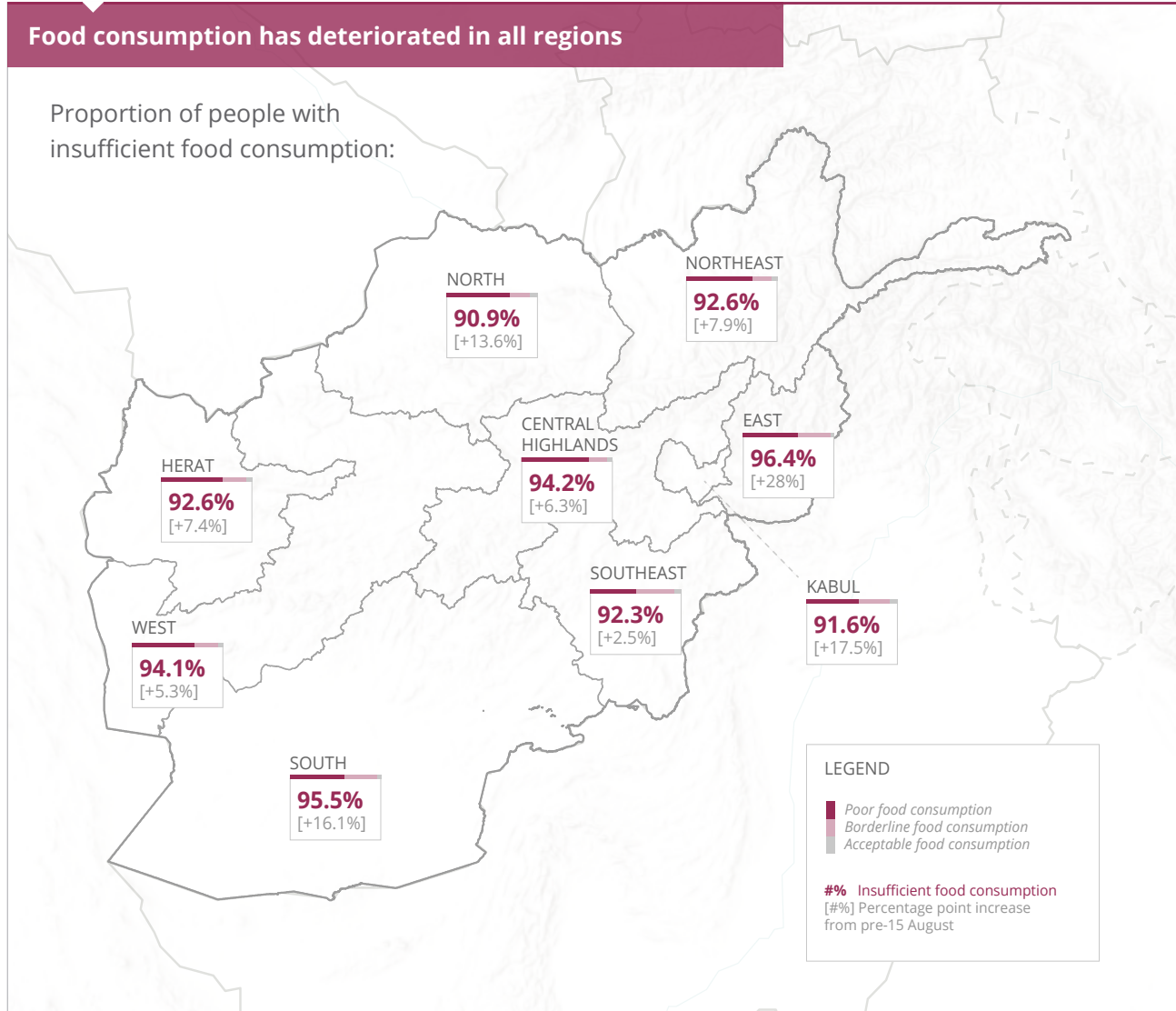
Learn more at this [scale-up factsheet](#) and the [latest updates](#).

FOOD CONSUMPTION AND COPING STRATEGIES, AFGHANISTAN

Round 7: March 2022

Food consumption has deteriorated in all regions

Proportion of people with insufficient food consumption:



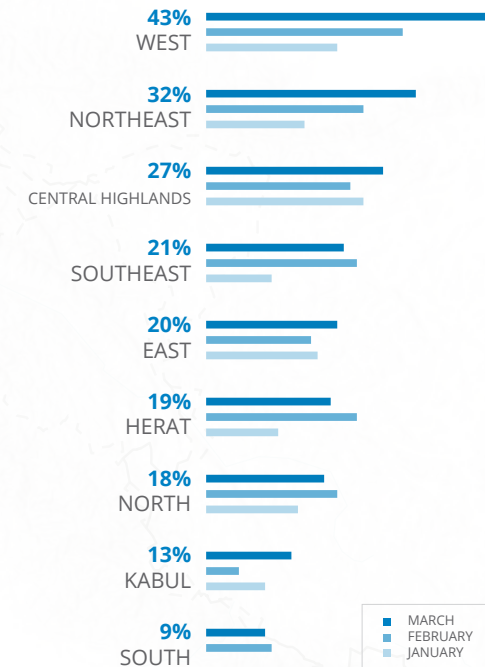
LEGEND

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

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

Proportion of people receiving humanitarian food assistance

(March 2022, with January and February comparisons)



January 2022 data for South region is unavailable.

The designations employed and the presentation of material in the map(s) do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever of WFP concerning the legal or constitutional status of any country, territory or sea area, or concerning the delimitation of frontiers. Comparison points for pre-15 August represented here have been adjusted slightly from previous published rounds due to revised weights for new questions, which have been applied for more detailed disaggregation of data.