AFGHANISTAN

WFP World Food Programme

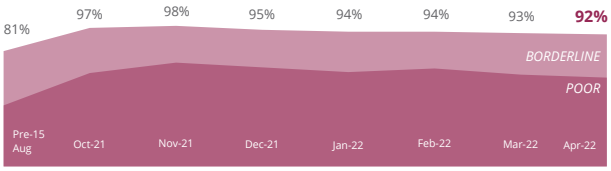
SAVING LIVES CHANGING LIVES

Afghanistan Food Security Update

Round Eight: April 2022

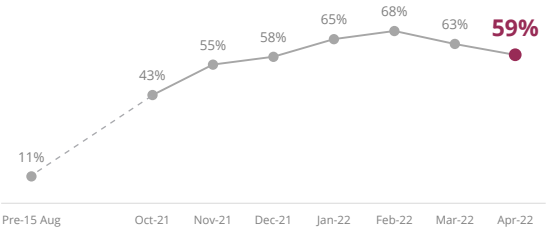
Humanitarian assistance is keeping hunger from rising further. But more is still needed.

92% OF PEOPLE IN AFGHANISTAN STILL FACE INSUFFICIENT FOOD CONSUMPTION

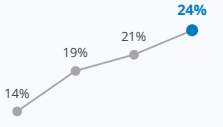


People are still taking drastic measures.

% adopting crisis-coping strategies:



Humanitarian reach has grown



% receiving humanitarian food assistance:

Jan-22 Feb-22 Mar-22 Apr-22

Humanitarian assistance continues to reach more people with each passing month. Nearly a quarter of all households (23 percent) reported receiving humanitarian food assistance in April – mostly from UN/NGOs – indicating an increasing trend over the months. In some regions, this assistance reached almost two in five households (West and Southeast).[1]

Severe food insecurity levels have dropped slightly in the last month. In particular, severe food insecurity levels have dropped more sharply in Hirat, Central Highlands, West, and South.[2]

The vital humanitarian assistance is under threat from the effects of the conflict in Ukraine as prices surge and supply chains falter. The rising costs of food rations, longer procurement lead times, and funding shorfalls will negatively impact on the provision of assistance.

This assistance must be maintained, as the number of people facing insufficient food consumption remains alarmingly high. In April, 92 percent of people reported not having enough to eat. This is a slight improvement from the start of 2022, likely driven by the 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.

Reliance on coping strategies remains high. Six out of ten families (59 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.

Incomes appeared to stabilize for over half of households who reported no change or an increase in income between March and April. Fewer income-earning households reported a significant decrease in income; this proportion dropped from around two thirds of households in March to around one third in April. Furthermore, 12 percent of income-earning households reported an increase in income in April.

01 June 2022

FURTHER FINDINGS

Indicative data suggest that female-headed households continue to struggle the most,[3] with 98 percent facing insufficient food consumption. Far more of these households are also turning to drastic measures compared to male-headed households (25 percentage points more).

Households of person/s with disabilities also remain disproportionately impacted, and are turning to drastic measures to put food on the table (70 percent) far more than other households (56 percent).

Female-headed households have far higher levels of hunger than other households

Hunger continues cutting across urban-rural divides, with both groups equally affected. Urban families are doing only marginally better, with 93 percent facing insufficient food consumption compared to 92 percent of rural families. Both groups saw improvements in severe food insecurity levels in April.

The severity of hunger varies with education levels.[4] For families with lower and primary education, severe food insecurity is particularly high (68 percent and 53 percent respectively).

Most of household income is still being spent on food (85 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 increased (by 7.8 percentage points).

Market access is fluctuating month-on-month, with 20 percent of households facing challenges in accessing markets. This is an improvement from February (28 percent), but still worse than in December 2021 (3 percent), January 2022 (17 percent), and March 2022 (19 percent).

Diets have shrunk since pre-15 August.[5] In seven days, the average household now consumes:

STAPLES	VEGETABLES	PULSES
7.0 days up from 6.9	**1.6** days down from 1.8	**1.1** days down from 1.3
DAIRY	**PROTEINS**	**FRUITS**
0.4 days down from 0.7	**0.4** days down from 0.8	**0.2** days down from 1.9

Sample population at a glance:[6]

Male-headed households: 95 percent
Female-headed households: 5 percent

Average household size:
10.4 members

Urban households: 54 percent
Rural households: 46 percent

Households reporting having a member/s with disability: 22 percent

Level of education of the head of the household:
- Lower education: 47 percent
- Primary education: 15 percent
- Secondary education: 10 percent
- Post-secondary education: 26 percent
- Islamic school education: 2 percent

This factsheet updates Afghanistan's food security situation based on eight rounds of data collected via telephone surveys across 34 provinces between 19 July 2021 and 3 May 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.

ROUND 1	ROUND 2	ROUND 3	ROUND 4	ROUND 5	ROUND 6	ROUND 7	ROUND 8 (Current)
19 Jul - 15 Aug (2021)	*21 Aug - 22 Oct (2021)*	*23 Oct - 21 Nov (2021)*	*22 Nov - 31 Dec (2021)*	*3 Jan - 2 Feb (2022)*	*3 Feb - 4 Mar (2022)*	*5 Mar - 3 Apr (2022)*	*4 Apr - 3 May (2022)*

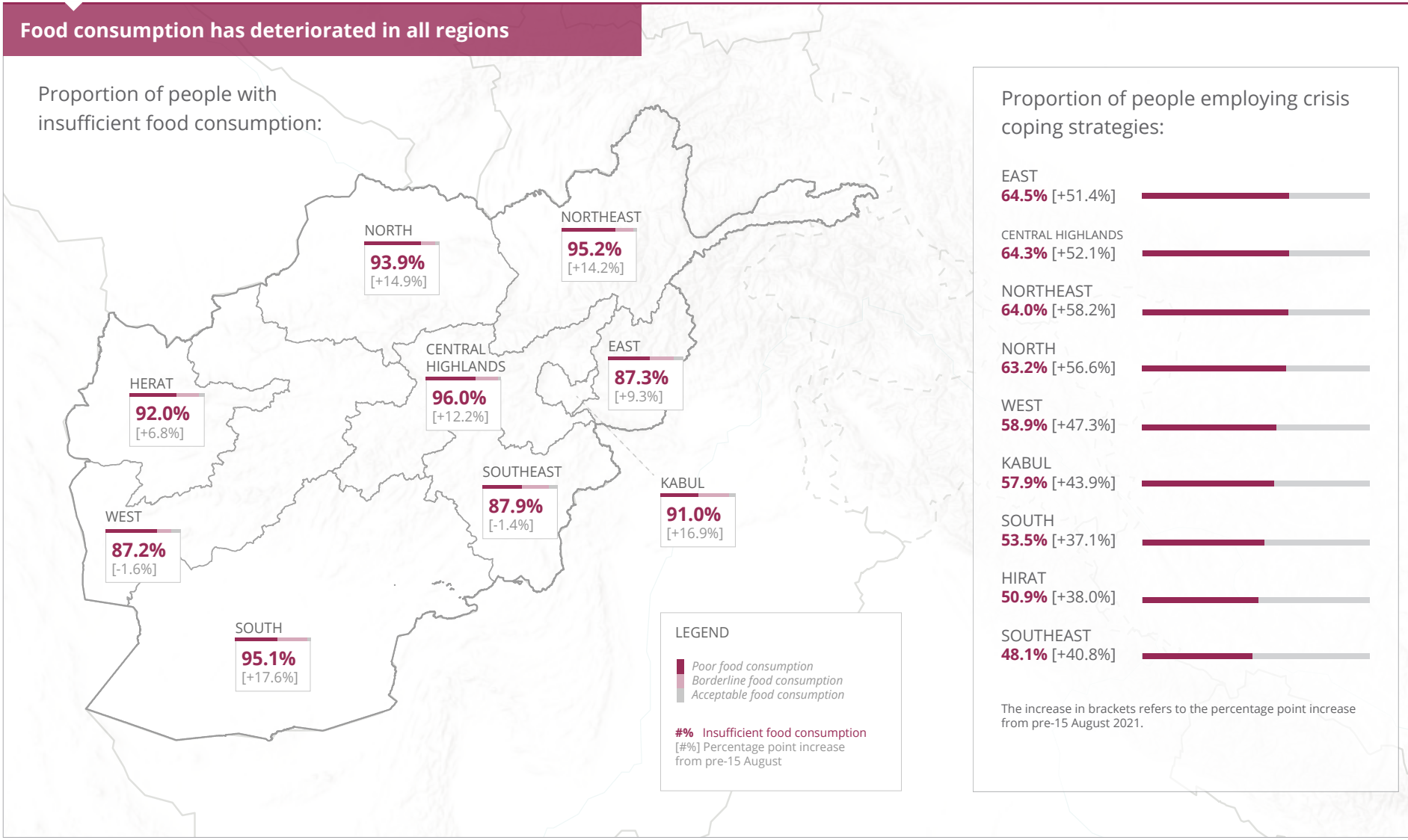
WFP Response: WFP aims to meet the food and nutrition needs of more than **23 million people** in 2022. To meet the task at hand, WFP still requires US$ 1.2 billion for the rest of the year. Learn more at this scale-up factsheet and the latest updates.

FOOD CONSUMPTION AND HUMANITARIAN FOOD ASSISTANCE, AFGHANISTAN

Round 8: April 2022

Food consumption has deteriorated in all regions

Proportion of people with insufficient food consumption:



Proportion of people employing crisis coping strategies:

EAST	**64.5%**	[+51.4%]
CENTRAL HIGHLANDS	**64.3%**	[+52.1%]
NORTHEAST	**64.0%**	[+58.2%]
NORTH	**63.2%**	[+56.6%]
WEST	**58.9%**	[+47.3%]
KABUL	**57.9%**	[+43.9%]
SOUTH	**53.5%**	[+37.1%]
HIRAT	**50.9%**	[+38.0%]
SOUTHEAST	**48.1%**	[+40.8%]

The increase in brackets refers to the percentage point increase from pre-15 August 2021.

1. Coverage data in these assessments may not match distribution figures from WFP and partners due to limitations in sampling design.
2. Changes over the last month refer to comparisons between the seventh round of surveys (5 March to 3 April) and eighth round (4 April to 3 May).
3. The findings for female-headed households are indicative due to a small sample size.
4. Education levels refer to the education level of the head of the household.
5. Comparisons of diets are between the first round of surveys (19 July to 15 August) and the eighth round (4 April to 3 May).
6. The sample population refers to the eighth round of surveys (4 April to 3 May).

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