



AFGHANISTAN

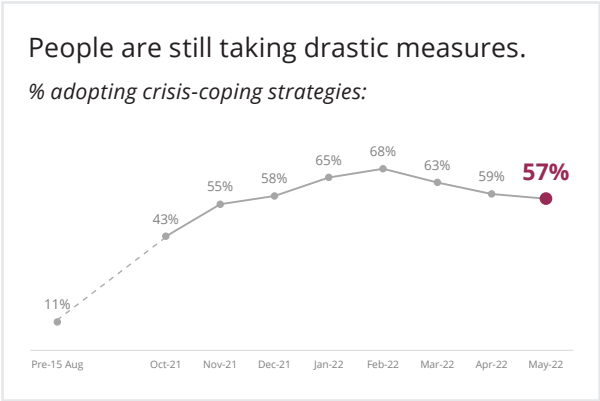
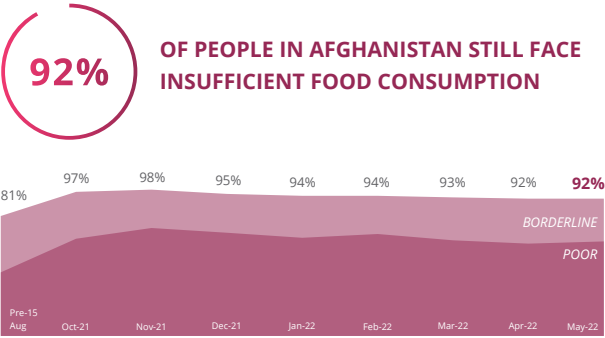
World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

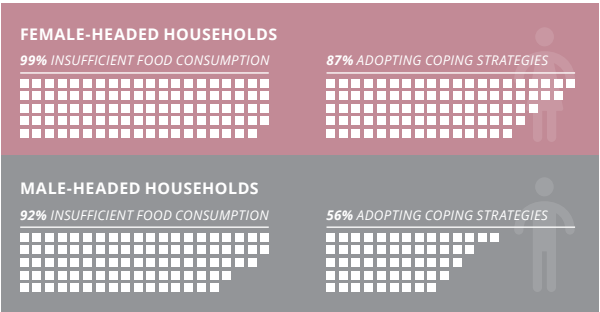
Afghanistan Food Security Update

Round Nine: May 2022

The prevalence of hunger in Afghanistan remains among the highest worldwide.



Female-headed households are struggling more.³



Hunger levels continue to stagnate at alarming levels. For nearly nine months, over 90 percent of the population have faced insufficient food consumption. Despite marginal improvements, coinciding with further humanitarian food assistance and the end of winter, Afghanistan still faces the highest prevalence of insufficient food consumption globally.¹

A concerning number of people are still turning to drastic coping strategies. Gradual improvements have been observed each month since February for the wider population. However, female-headed households are still largely relying on coping strategies (87 percent), with no clear trend of improvement for nearly nine months.

As food prices rise, even more household income is being spent on food. Households are now spending 87 percent of their income on food - up from 85 and 83 percent in April and March respectively. This comes as prices for key commodities are rising, with wheat flour rising 4 percent and cooking oil rising by 8 percent in the month of May. The cost of WFP's food basket has already risen by 17 percent since December 2021. In particular, households with lower education levels are spending a higher proportion of income on food than those with higher education levels.

With millions of people facing income instability, food could fall even further out of reach. Incomes deteriorated in May,² with 50 percent of households experiencing a decrease in income (compared with 41 percent in April). This comes amid rising anxieties around income; nearly half of households reported job losses as their main concern, and half of households were also unable to access the healthcare they needed due to a lack of money.

The food security situation is at further risk due to the effects of the conflict in Ukraine. Rising costs, longer procurement lead times and immense funding shortfalls are forcing many organizations to prioritize assistance among already vulnerable groups.

FURTHER FINDINGS

Female-headed households are suffering disproportionate levels of hunger, with 99 percent now facing insufficient food consumption amid growing restrictions on women and girls. As a further sign of concern, *severe* food insecurity levels for female-headed households deteriorated in May (from 69 to 82 percent), and the gap with male-headed households widened to over 32 percentage points. Far more of these households are also turning to drastic measures compared to male-headed households (25 percentage points more).

Households with person/s with disabilities remain disproportionately impacted, with 67 percent still turning to drastic measures to put food on the table. While this has improved each month since February, it remains higher than for other households (55 percent).

Households with person/s with disabilities are facing especially high levels of hunger

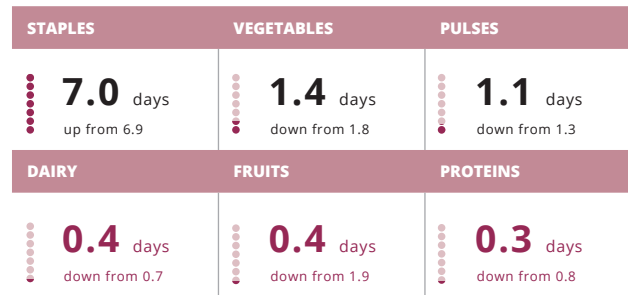
Hunger continues cutting across urban-rural divides, with both groups equally affected at 92 percent facing insufficient food consumption. Both groups saw increases in severe food insecurity levels in May.

The severity of hunger varies with education levels.⁴ For families with lower and primary education, severe food insecurity is particularly high (69 percent, and 55 percent respectively).

Market access is fluctuating month-on-month, with 24 percent of households facing challenges in accessing markets. This is worse than in December 2021 (3 percent), January 2022 (17 percent), March 2022 (19 percent) and April 2022 (20 percent), but a slight improvement from February (28 percent).

The top concern is still around losing jobs; nearly half of households reported this as their greatest concern (45 percent, up from 42 percent). Meanwhile, worries about food shortages decreased (by 8.2 percentage points).

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



Sample population at a glance:⁶



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



Average household size:⁷
10.7 members



Urban households: 56 percent
Rural households: 44 percent



Households reporting having a member/s with disability: 20 percent



Level of education of the head of the household:

- Lower education: 42 percent
- Primary education: 17 percent
- Secondary education: 9 percent
- Post-secondary education: 30 percent
- Islamic school education: 2 percent

This factsheet updates Afghanistan's food security situation based on nine rounds of data collected via telephone surveys across 34 provinces between 19 July 2021 and 5 June 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	ROUND 9 (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	4 May - 5 June 2022

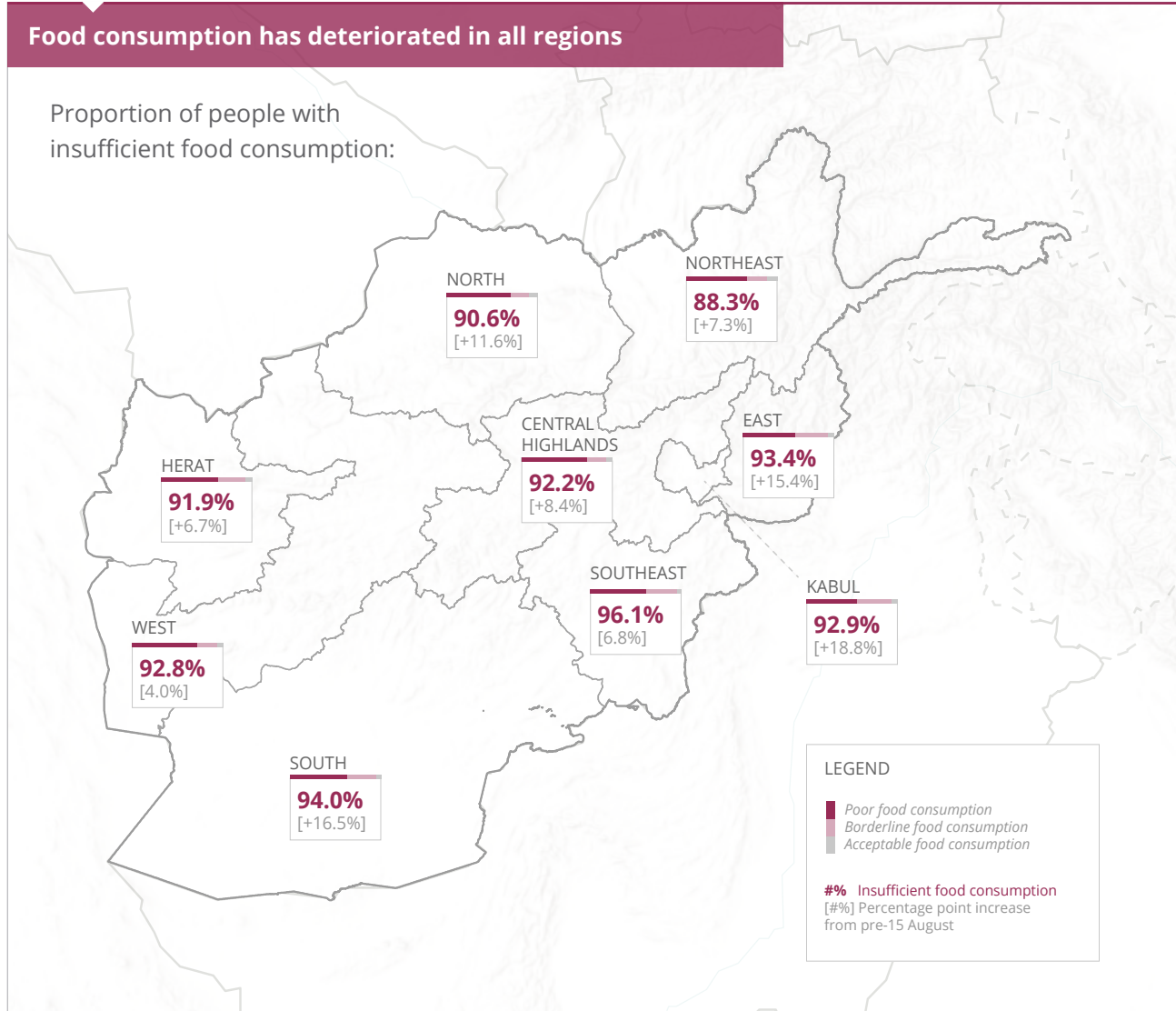
WFP Response: WFP aims to meet the food and nutrition needs of more than **23 million people** in 2022. To meet the task at hand, WFP still requires US\$ 1.2 billion for the rest of the year. Learn more at this [scale-up factsheet](#) and the [latest updates](#).

FOOD CONSUMPTION AND COPING STRATEGIES, AFGHANISTAN

Round 9: May 2022

Food consumption has deteriorated in all regions

Proportion of people with insufficient food consumption:

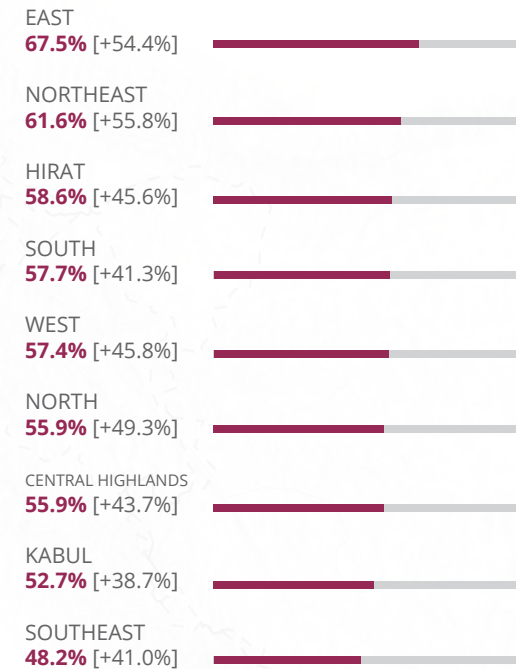


LEGEND

■ 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 2021.

1. WFP [Hunger Map](#), June 2022
 2. Changes over the last month refer to comparisons between the eighth round of surveys (4 April to 3 May) and ninth round (4 May to 3 June).
 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 ninth round (4 May to 3 June).
 6. The sample population refers to the ninth round of surveys (4 May to 3 June).
 7. Average household size refers to the average number of people permanently (at least six months) living in each household.

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 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.