



### In numbers



Wheat production will likely be **28%** below the five-year average, with a deficit of **2.5 million tonnes**



**275 000 people** displaced by drought as of September 2018



**42%** of the population reported a decrease in income compared with last year



**92%** of farmers reported insufficient or no seeds for the next planting season



**48%** of pastoralists reported reduced livestock productivity and an increase in animal deaths



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FAO is committed to safeguarding food production and protecting herders' livestock to improve food security and ensure stability within the region.

### Key points

- Most households are moving to cities, distress selling livestock, reducing planting area, skipping meals or eating poor quality food. Overuse of these emergency livelihood coping techniques will compromise their ability to recover asset losses and deal with future shocks.
- Without assistance, the food security and livelihood situation will not improve and could deteriorate.
- Affected populations require urgent agricultural inputs in time for the winter planting season and livestock protection for the peak harsh winter months up to February 2019 in the main 12 drought-affected provinces.

### Planned response

- Distribute certified wheat seeds and quality fertilizer to 102 000 households (714 000 people) in December–January
- Distribute concentrated feed and de-worming to 61 200 households (428 000 people) throughout the winter
- Provide wheat seeds to 17 600 households (123 200 people) by December
- Provide livestock protection support (feed and fodder) to 142 000 households (994 000 people) by January
- Distribute nutrition-sensitive backyard vegetable kits and drought-resilient fodder crop seeds to affected households by February

### Response to date



Vaccinated 5 million small ruminants against *peste des petits ruminants* and 375 000 large ruminants against foot-and-mouth disease

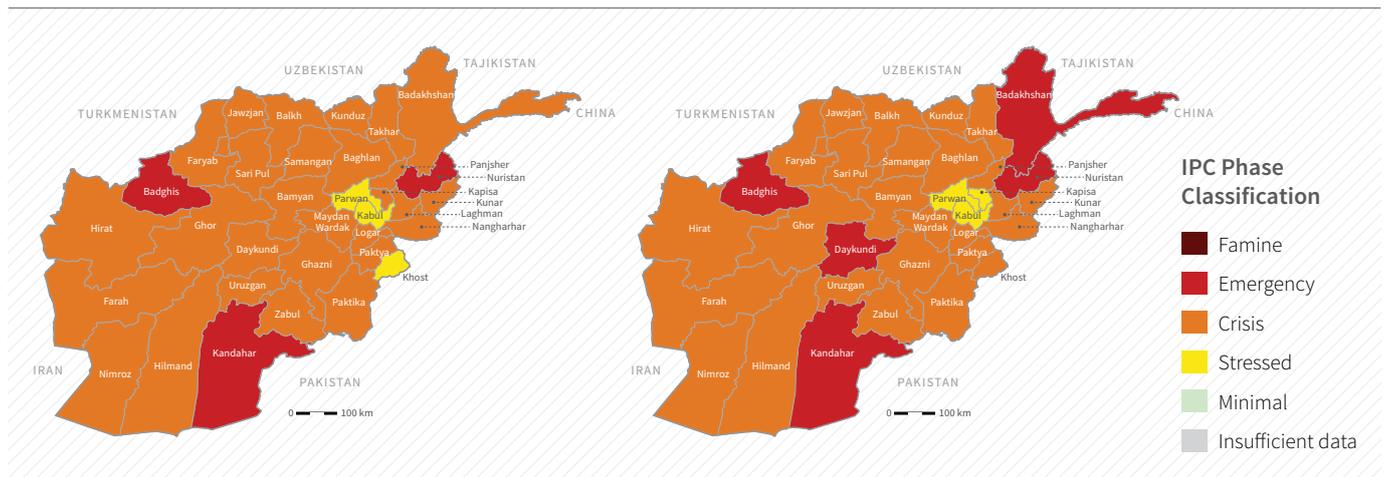


Provided livestock protection support to 4 000 households (28 000 people)

## Acute food insecurity situation – Preliminary results

(August–October 2018)

(November–February 2019)



Source: Afghanistan IPC Technical Working Group, October 2018

## Challenges facing food security and agriculture

The wet winter season is critical for agriculture and overall food production in Afghanistan. Decreases in precipitation during this period can have devastating impacts on crops and livestock. The ongoing large-scale drought occurring in the backdrop of a protracted conflict is significantly affecting the already chronically and acutely food insecure population and their livelihoods.

During the post-harvest period (July–August 2018), FAO's and the World Food Programme's joint Emergency Food Security Assessment showed that the drought was most severe in the western, northern and southern regions. Currently, 9.8 million people are facing Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3+) levels of food insecurity, of which 2.6 million are facing Emergency (IPC Phase 4) levels nationwide. Without urgent assistance, the preliminary results indicate that 10.6 million people risk becoming severely food insecure, of which 2.9 million could face Emergency (IPC Phase 4) levels.

Lack of rainfall has contributed to reduced cereal stocks in the country. Despite having just harvested, a quarter of the population reported having enough cereals to last them for less than a month. This is a significant increase from the 10 percent who reported being in the same situation last year. Crop loss throughout the last wheat-planting season and the use of seeds as food have reduced farmers' stock. With the planting season having started and only lasting a few months (October–December), farmers urgently need seeds and fertilizer to secure a harvest in 2019 or risk another season of low wheat production.

Herders have reported desiccation of extensive pastureland, resulting in reduced, poor or no fodder for livestock. This has led to a deterioration in livestock body conditions and productivity, with deaths and increased distress sales of core breeding stocks across the country. The poor production of fodder in 2017 and 2018 has increased its market price and prevented many herders from storing enough fodder ahead of the next winter.



FAO requires  
**USD 24 million**



to assist  
**1.2 million people**

### Resource partners

Belgium, Japan, Office of the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and United States Agency for International Development

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