

Afghanaid

Dry Spell Assessment in Ghor Province – Afghanistan



April 2018

Acronyms

CDCs	Community Development Councils
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
IDP	Internally Displaced People
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
ACF	Action Against Hunger
ANDMA	Afghanistan National Disaster Authorities
DAIL	Directorate of Agricultural, Irrigation and Livestock
DRRD	Directorate of Rural Rehabilitation and Development
DOWA	Directorate of Women Affairs
KII	Key Informant Interview
LWS	Lal wa Sarjangal

Executive Summary

Following a dry spell over the winter period of 2017-2018, Afghanaid detected early warning signs of livelihoods under stress due to drought conditions in its operating area in Ghor province. To determine the potential impact of the drought on the population, Afghanaid carried out an assessment in Ghor from 19th to 24th April 2018, which was led by the organisation's M&E Manager and an M&E Coordinator. The purpose of this assessment was to analyse the extent of the drought situation in Ghor province, to identify the immediate needs and most effective assistance strategies, and to identify strategies to build resilience for recovery. This assessment used key informative interviews, focus group discussions and direct observation.

Precipitation decreased by 52%¹ this year from its standard 300mm in Ghor, which affected Harirod river basin, and there is a decrease of 70% in river water level which has severely affected agriculture and livestock in the province. According to ANDMA, 80% of the population in 6 districts (Feroz Koh, Taiwara, Saghar, Dulaina, Tolak and Charsada) and 70% of the population in an additional 4 districts (Pasaband, Lal wa Sarjangan, Dawlatyar and Shahrak) have been affected, and their situation is expected to worsen as the year goes on. Women, children and the elderly will be most severely affected.

The assessment found a reduction of cultivated fields, for both rain-fed and irrigated land crops; some are completely damaged and others partially by dry conditions. The wheat seedlings and pasturelands are also partially or completely desiccated. Animals have lost weight leading market prices to dropped by 50% and there is 50-60% reduction in milk production.

ANDMA has recorded 640² families moving to Feroz Koh (centre of province) since last year, who have registered as IDPs for emergency response.

The total population of Ghor province based on population registration records is 713,660³, and the findings of this and other assessments indicate that at least half of the total population is in significant need of food assistance in next 6 months. The situation is communicated and reported to the central government and in response received only 7,182⁴ metric tons of wheat from Kabul while the need for the mentioned population is 33,123⁵ MT wheat. Consultations with different government departments indicate that there is no specific plan to meet emergency needs and build resilience for recovery by the Government of Afghanistan. The expectation of communities and Government departments are from International NGOs and donor communities to respond.

¹ The data and percentage provided by DAIL during the provincial monthly meeting

² The number of IDP families are identified, registered and supported by ANDMA

³ The population of Ghor is provided through an official letter by ANDMA

⁴ The 7182 Metric Ton wheat is confirmed by ANDMA in meeting on 22-04-2018

⁵ The required metric ton wheat is provided by ANDMA through an official letter

ANDMA with the support of UNICEF provided 250 IDP households with emergency food items and Afghanaid provided 86 IDP household with non-food items. CRS⁶ has conducted an assessment of the drought in Bamyan, Daykundi, Ghor and Herat covering 7 districts but no activity has begun yet. ACF is working to develop coping mechanism in food security and malnutrition providing messages to the farmers on how to overcome the situation.

Introduction

Assessment Coverage

A needs based assessment covering 11 villages of Lal wa Sarjangal and Feroz Koh districts of Ghor province was conducted by Afghanaid M&E Team. The assessment intended to achieve below objectives:

1. Gather evidence of the impact of the drought to inform donor priorities.
2. Identify the most effective assistance strategies, both to meet immediate needs and to build resilience for recovery.
3. Identify the districts, communities, and population groups which are most severely affected in order to design assistance strategies that channel aid to those most in need.

Methodology

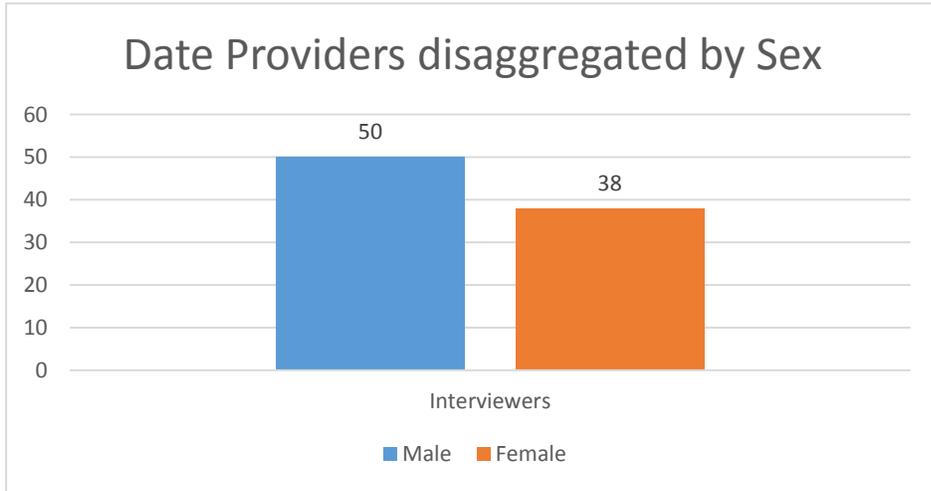
A mixed assessment design was employed for the dry spell assessment, which included conducting 20 in-depth interviews with community residents including IDPs and animal sales market, 5 FGD with CDCs and 8 Key informant interviews with government departments including ANDMA, DAIL, DRRD, District Governor of Lal wa Sarjangal, Harirod river basin, DoWA and representatives of NGOs each (CRS and ACF) in Ghor Province. The qualitative data collected through focus group discussions is complementary to the quantitative data collected through the interviews by Afghanaid M&E team and some interviews with communities through data collectors of ACF. The data collection team used a probability sampling method, random stratified sampling approach and multi-stage stratification was done. The M&E team of Afghanaid also used secondary information of reports developed by other NGOs and media.

Assessment Data Providers:

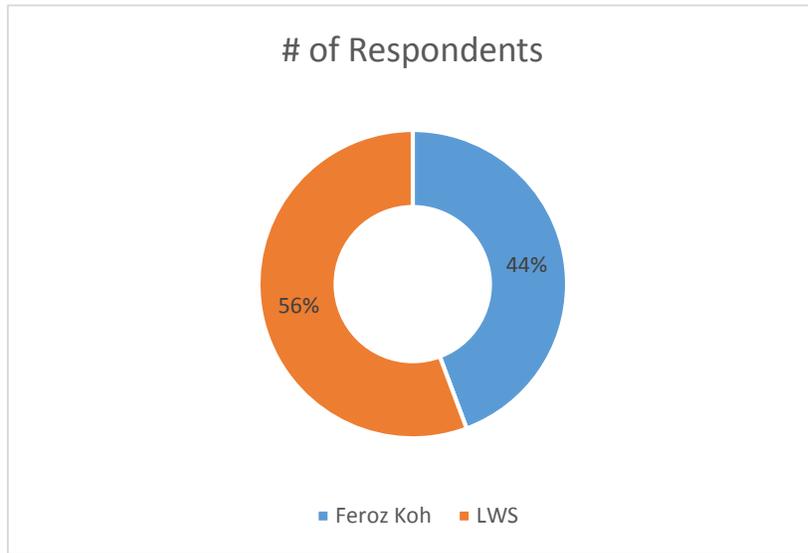
The assessment was conducted in Lal wa Sarjangal and Feroz Koh district, where 28 interviews and 5 FGDs were conducted with community residents, different government departments and NGOs working in the sector. Out of the total number of interview and FGD respondents 52% (50) were male while the remaining 43% (38) respondents were female. The below diagram represents these figures.

⁶ Dry Spell rapid need assessment report by CRS

Assessment data providers disaggregated by district and sex



Assessment data providers disaggregated by districts

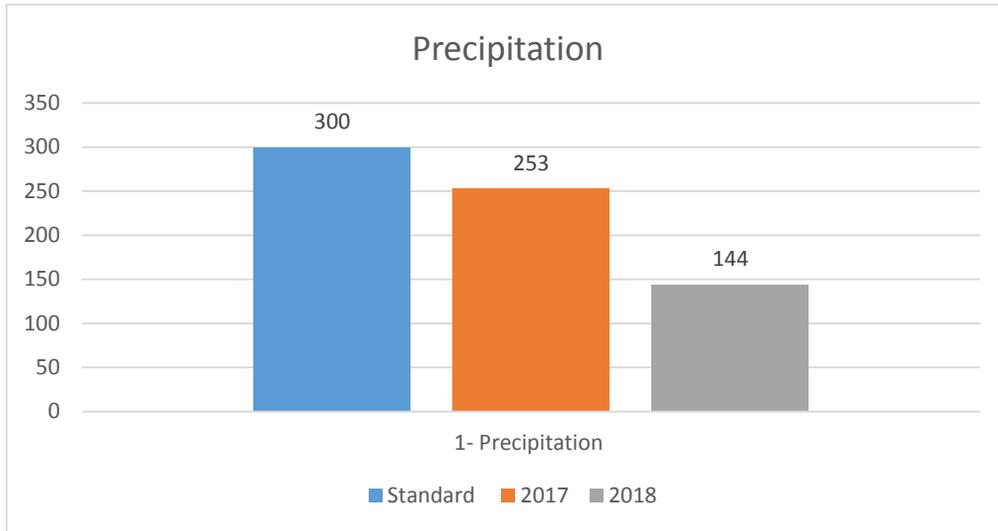


Findings of Assessment

Precipitation and Harirod River Basin

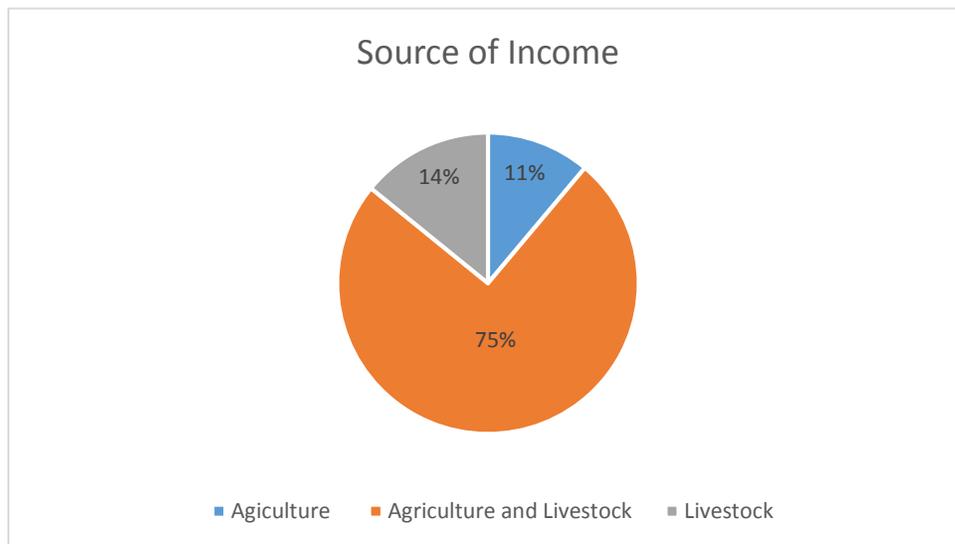
The findings of meeting with DAIL and Head of Harirod river basin department indicates that the standard precipitation is 300 mm in Ghor but last year it was 253 mm and this year it is 144 mm which shows 52% decrease in standard precipitation. The only water resource in the province at

the moment is Harirod river basin and the precipitation has also impacted Harirod River. The river water is reduced to 70%.⁷



Agriculture and Livestock

Ghor province is a mountainous province and 90% of the population is engaged in agriculture and livestock. The collected data indicates that 11% respondents are involved in agriculture activities, 74% respondents have access to both agriculture and livestock and 14% respondents confirmed that they only have livestock. The findings show that agriculture is decreased to 70% as most of the lands are rain-fed and the precipitation in 2018 is decreased causing huge impact on agriculture and livestock.



⁷ % are provided by Harirod River basin department

This has also impacted the livestock rearing as there is now lack of pasture lands for grazing. The findings also indicate that the prices of animals are decreased 40-50%⁸; price of a sheep was AFN.8000 and now it is between AFN.4000-5000, and livestock owners are worried if the situation continues to be the same they will lose all their livestock. The estimated number of livestock in Ghor province is 151,666.

Furthermore, the collected data indicates that 89% of respondents confirmed their income from agriculture and livestock but only 11% percent are primarily dependent on livestock.

Affected Families

The findings of meeting with ANDMA:

1. The first category⁹ districts with more than 80% population at risk

S.No	Districts	# of Families	Total Population	# of affected families	Loss of Livestock	Cut and sale of trees
1	Feroz Koh	27,650	165,900	22,120	80%	50%
2	Taiwara	14,491	86,950	11,593	80%	50%
3	Saghar	5,343	32,062	4,275	80%	50%
4	Dulaina	6,165	36,995	4,932	80%	50%
5	Tolak	6,990	41,940	5,592	80%	50%
6	Charsada	4,661	29,967	3,729	80%	50%

2. The second category districts with more than 70% population at risk

S.No	Districts	# of Families	Total Population	# of affected families	Loss of Livestock	Cut and sale of trees
1	Pasaband	16,480	98,881	11,536	60%	40%
2	Lal wa Sarjangal	18,341	110,050	12,839	60%	40%
3	Dawlatyar	5,366	32,200	3,757	60%	40%
4	Shahrak	12,050	72,300	8,435	60%	40%

⁸ The prices of livestock's are taken from animal sale livestock markets by M&E team

⁹ The ranking of districts are provided by ANDMA through an official letter

Recommendations and Way forward:

1. Immediate response

- Immediate food assistance to the first category districts identified by ANDMA, IDPs and the farmers who are dependent on rain-fed lands that have not been cultivate due to insufficient rainfall.
- Immediate assistance to the livestock owners whose animals lost market value due to non-availability of pasturelands for grazing fodder.
- Immediate response to 640 IDP families who are displaced by drought.
- Immediate response to the most vulnerable in first category districts such as pregnant women, lactating mothers, infants and young children, and elderly people.

2. Long term solution: Drought recovery assistance

- Providing people with Food for work (FFW), providing people with cash for work (CFW) activities.
- Improvement of irrigation systems (constructing diversion dams)
- Provision of drought resistance crops to farmers.
- Awareness for farmers on varieties of crops which needs less water for cultivation.
- Providing coping mechanism/emergency response including WASH, nutrition, health, NFI and education.

Conclusion

The Afghanistan assessment and different reports published by INGOs and government shows the drought is gradually affecting Ghor province. From the total population of Ghor 713,660 people, based on the official documents at least 51% are in serious need of food who require emergency services immediately and drought recovery assistance in mid-term.