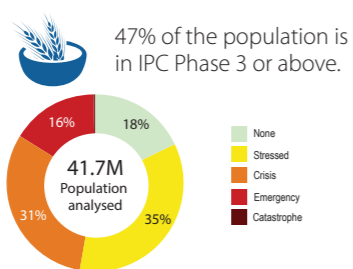


## Key Figures | Current Situation | March - May 2022

**19.7M**

A record high of 19.7 million Afghans are experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity, classified in Crisis or Emergency (IPC Phases 3 or above) between March and May 2022 (the lean season).



**5.8M**

According to UN OCHA\*\*, Some 4.4 million of these (76 %) were displaced due to conflict, whereas close to 1.4 million (24%) were displaced due to natural disasters. In 2021 alone, some 1.3 million people were newly displaced due to both conflict and natural disasters.

### Overview

High acute food insecurity persists across Afghanistan, as a combination of a collapsing economy and drought is depriving nearly 20 million Afghans of food, classified in Crisis or Emergency (IPC Phases 3 or 4), between March and May 2022 (the lean season), latest data shows. Among these are about 6.6 million people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and 13 million in Crisis (IPC Phase 3). A significant amount of Humanitarian Food Assistance (HFA) was provided, easing the food crisis for the most affected households. However, Afghanistan's food security situation remains highly concerning, exacerbated by economic decline and high food prices. With 38% of the population targeted for HFA, nearly 20 million people, representing half the country's population, are still experiencing high and critical levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phases 3 and above) between March and May 2022. Among these, about 6.6 million people are classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4), characterized by large food gaps and/or employing emergency coping strategies to access food. For the first time since the introduction of IPC in Afghanistan, Catastrophe conditions (IPC Phase 5) were detected for 20,000 people in the province of Ghor, one of the most remote, vulnerable provinces of Afghanistan and immediate action is needed to prevent further deterioration.

Between June and November 2022 (the post-harvest season), a slight improvement in food security is expected, with the number of people in IPC Phase 3 or above likely decreasing to around 19 million. However, this represents a nearly 16% increase from the same period last year (9.5 million people). Out of 19 million people, 6 million will likely be in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and 13 million in Crisis (IPC Phase 3). The number of areas in Emergency is expected to decrease in the projection period, which coincides with the post-harvest season, from 21 to 12 analytical domains. It is likely that household food access during the post-harvest season will slightly improve due to the expected harvest (although still below the average due to the La Nina climatic episode) along with the easing of sanctions on Afghanistan. This will likely facilitate a range of commercial activity in Afghanistan, decreased conflict, increased humanitarian access and planned humanitarian assistance delivery during the projection period. However, the impact of high food prices, remaining sanctions on the de facto authorities, unemployment, and a significant decrease in income and purchasing power of communities are the major impediments that avoid a considerable improvement during the post-harvest period.

### Key Drivers

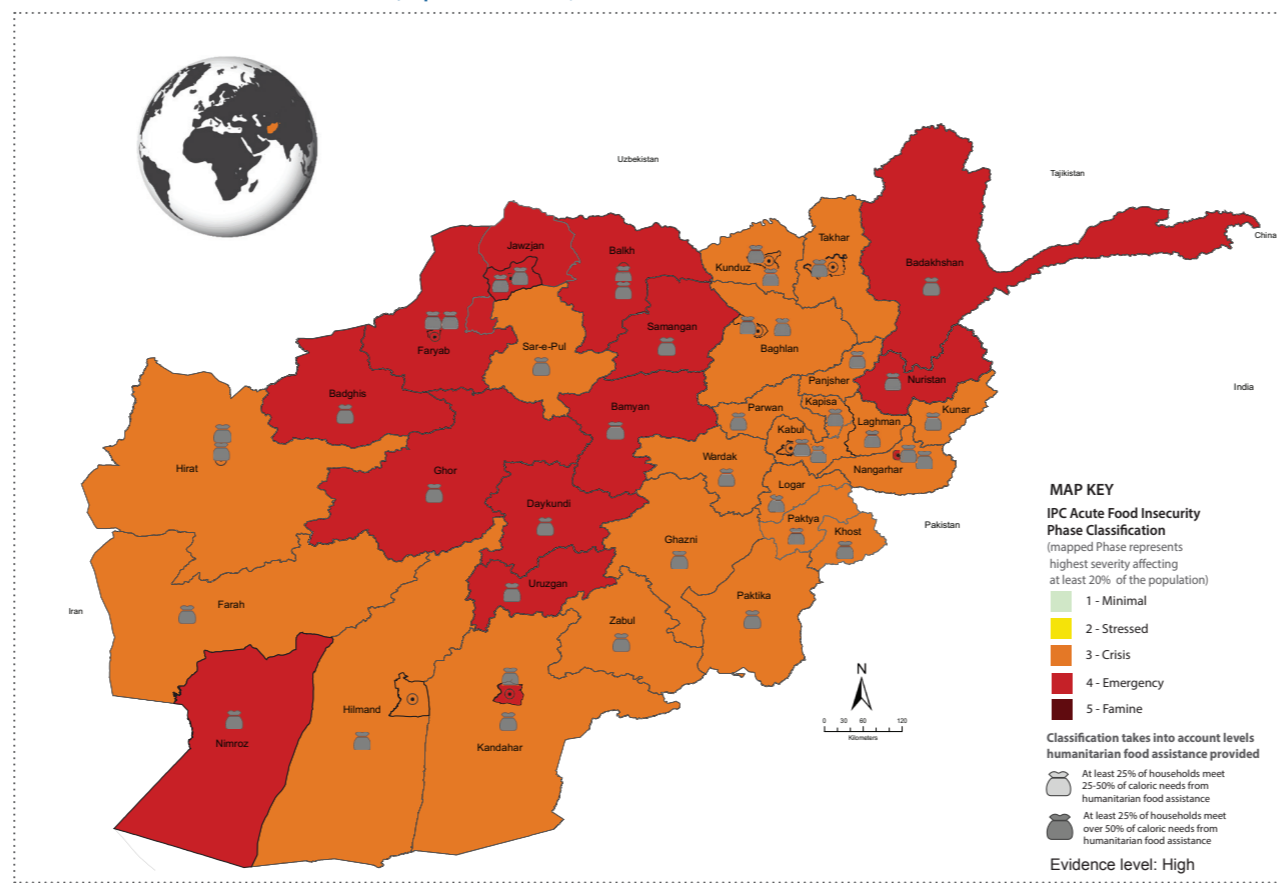
**Economic Decline:** Rapid reduction in international grant support, loss of access to offshore assets, disruption to financial linkages and impact of the Ukraine crisis have led to a major contraction of the economy, increasing poverty and macroeconomic instability as well as leading to high unemployment and high food and agricultural input prices.

**Drought:** Below-average cumulative precipitation during the wet season (2021 - 2022) accompanied with high agriculture input costs (seed & fertilizers) resulted in a reduced level of winter wheat cultivation, which would likely result in a 7 to 13 percent reduction in the expected wheat harvest compared to the long-term average.

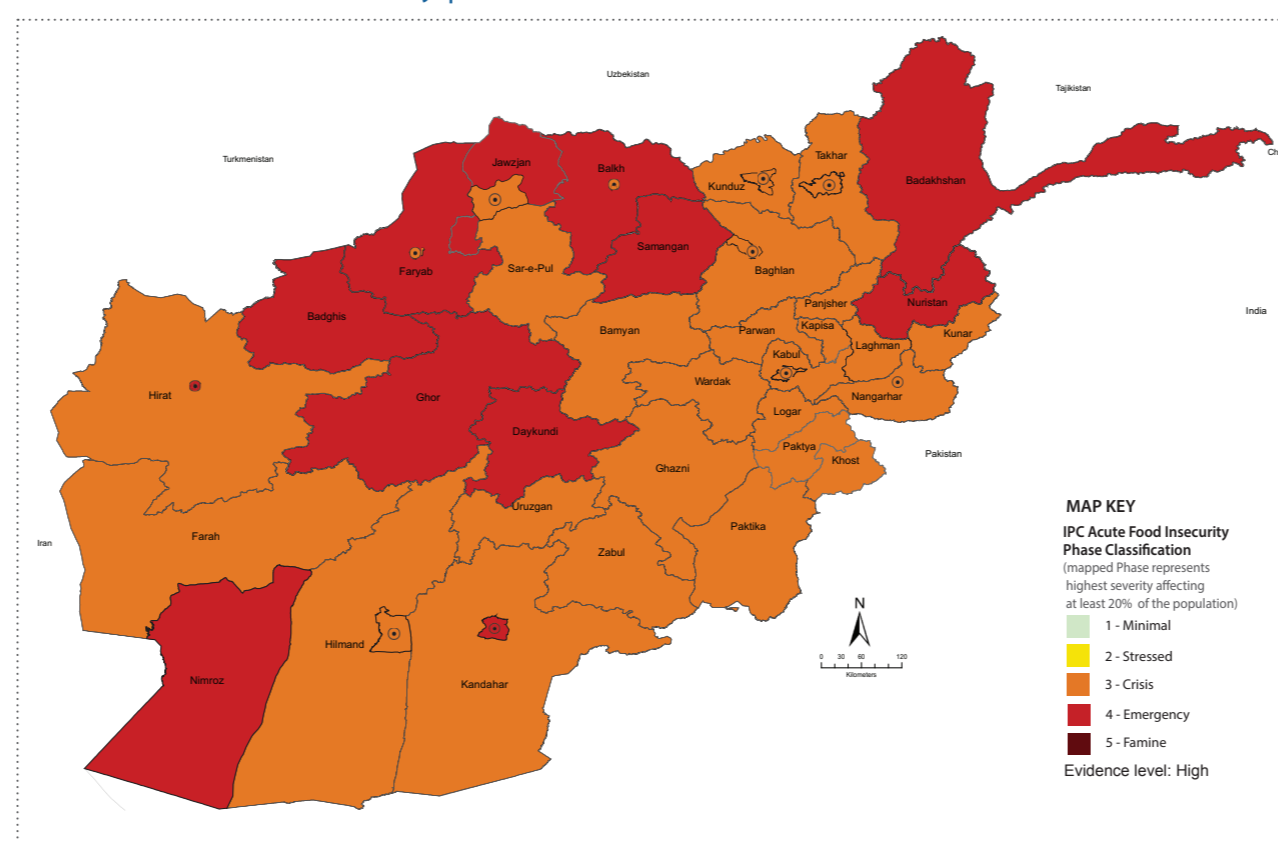
**High Food Prices:** High prices of commodities compounded by reduced incomes for 97% of the total population have negatively affected the purchasing power of people. The terms of trade of casual labor against wheat prices have fallen by 35% compared with June 2021.

**Impact of the crisis in Ukraine:** Afghanistan is typically a net importer of food and domestic production of wheat on average, and for the 2021/2022 year the cereal import requirement is expected to be 20% higher than average. The negative impacts of ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine is expected to further raise global food prices all while creating pressure on regional suppliers of wheat to Afghanistan to place export bans on food to prioritize domestic consumption.

## CURRENT Acute Food Insecurity | March - May 2022



## PROJECTED Acute Food Insecurity | June - November 2022



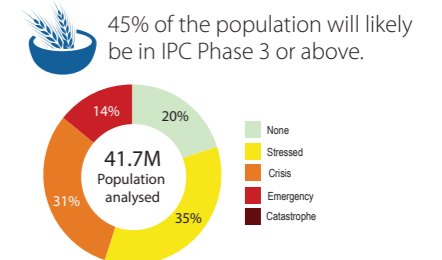
### IPC Analysis Partners



## PROJECTION: Acute Food Insecurity | June - November 2022

**18.9M**

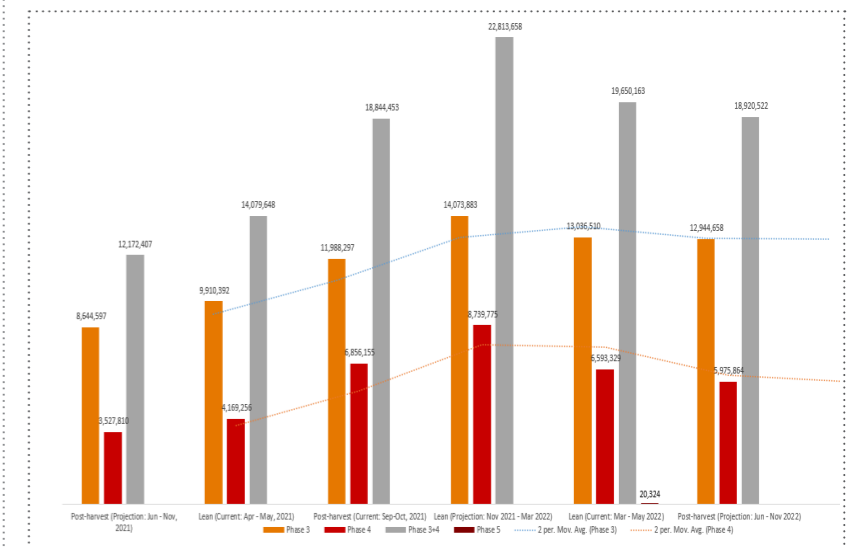
Between June and November 2022 (the post-harvest season), a slight improvement in food security is expected, with the number of people in IPC Phase 3 or above likely decreasing to around 18.9 million. The situation remains however alarmingly severe.



### Comparison with the 2021 IPC Analysis

The prevalence of people in IPC Phase 4 facing Emergency levels of acute food insecurity rose from 10% to 16% in the current period of March to May 2022, compared to the same time last year, and in the projection period from 9% to 14%. Compared to the previous IPC analysis issued in October 2021, the present analysis presents an improvement when comparing current and projection periods with the previous ones. However, it must be noted these two analyses do not cover the same agricultural seasons. Indeed, when comparing the present analysis against the IPC analysis issued in April 2021, a 13% increase of people in IPC Phase 3 or above between March and May 2022 is noted compared with the same period last year, as well as a 16% increase of people in these conditions between June and November 2022. This demonstrates that the situation has deteriorated considerably.

### Comparison of Flowminder Population Estimates, 2021-2022



### Recommended Actions



#### Humanitarian Assistance

Urgent scale-up of lifesaving food assistance is imperative for the populations classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) to prevent them from sliding into higher levels of food insecurity, including Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) for the most food insecure.



#### Livelihood Support

Scale-up of livelihood assistance for the winter wheat season, the spring season crops and vulnerable herding households are essential to prevent further deterioration of household food production capacity in rural areas.



#### Focus on Women and Children

Supporting women and children in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) is a priority intervention. Programs targeting pregnant and lactating women and children under five should be prioritised.

## Afghanistan Crisis Background and Time Series 2020-2022

Afghanistan has suffered four of the world's deadliest conflicts and recurrent natural disasters for over four decades, resulting in a protracted food crisis affecting millions of people. Food insecurity and hunger persist. Due to a combination of frequent shocks, including conflict, insecurity, population displacement, the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as natural disasters such as droughts, floods, crop pest invasions and earthquakes, millions of people do not have the resources to obtain enough nutritious food to lead healthy lives consistently.

### Conflict and Population Displacement

The country has endured over 40 years of conflict, and armed fighting continues to rage, exposing civilians, particularly women and children, to deadly daily risks, population displacement, and disease outbreaks, constraining the country's unstable economy. Internal displacement and migration have become familiar survival strategies for millions of Afghans. Rural communities have mainly migrated to nearby urban or semi-urban settlements, where security is relatively better. While these settlements may provide a haven from conflict with non-state actors, internal communal conflict over land use, lack of essential services

like electricity, water, access to latrines, education, and poor shelter conditions are vital issues. According to UN OCHA<sup>1</sup>, 4.4 million Afghans who are currently internally displaced (76%) were displaced due to conflict, whereas close to 1.4 million (24%) were displaced due to natural disasters. In 2021 alone, some 1.3 million people were newly displaced due to both conflict and natural disasters.

### Natural Disasters

Afghanistan is prone to several types of natural disasters, including earthquakes, flooding, drought, landslides and avalanches. Earthquakes are relatively frequent in the north and northeast, often triggering landslides. Floods are common in the spring when snow begins to melt and rainfall is heavy in the south and southeast. Located in areas of high seismic activity, and given the rugged and mountainous nature of the country and the location of villages, towns and cities, there is a high propensity for widespread death and destruction whenever an earthquake, landslide, mudslide, avalanche or flood occurs. Since 2000, there have been nine major earthquakes. A national drought was officially declared in June 2021, the worst in more than three decades. Eighty per cent of the country is now suffering

from either serious or severe drought.

### Economic Decline

Afghanistan faces daunting economic challenges as the gross domestic product has fallen substantially since the 1980s due to disruption of trade and transport as well as loss of labour and capital. The country's economic growth remains impeded by conflict, insecurity and an unstable political situation. Insecurity has also suppressed business and investment freedom, with Afghanistan ranked 146th globally<sup>2</sup>. After years of slow recovery, the economy was dealt a significant blow by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has had a far-reaching impact on the country's ailing economy and food security. The COVID-19 pandemic has set back Afghanistan's economic growth by several years. It exposed structural and resource gaps in responding to unforeseen events such as pandemics. Following the political transition in August 2021, international development assistance, longer-term development projects and institutional support have been suspended. According to the World Bank<sup>3</sup>, rapid reduction in international grant support in August 2021, loss of access to offshore assets, and disruption to

financial linkages lead to a major economic contraction, increasing poverty, and macroeconomic instability. Inflation has worsened with energy prices rising by 12%, and prices for basic household goods, including food and fuel, increased substantially in the first quarter of 2022.

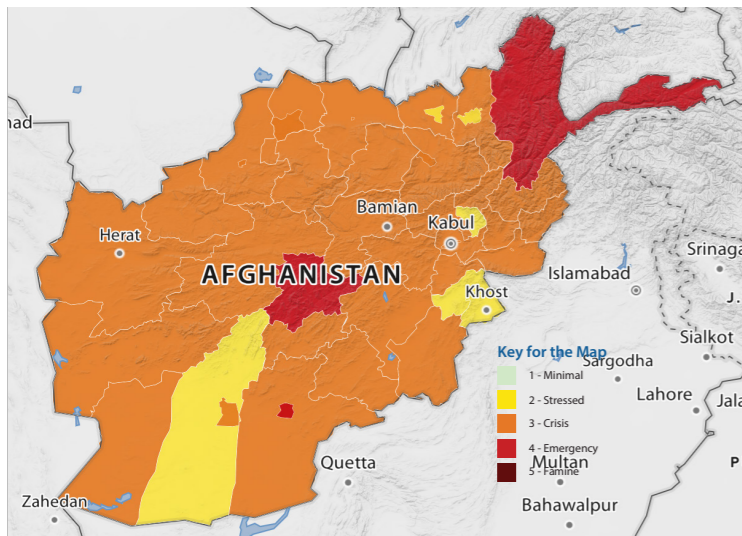
### Acute Food Insecurity

Comparing IPC analyses over the last five years indicates a deepening and widening food crisis. The number of Afghans classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse is increasing or persisting in some areas. The current March 2022 IPC analysis shows nearly half of Afghanistan's population experiencing high levels of food insecurity. This is among the highest number of food-insecure people ever recorded in Afghanistan since the first IPC analysis in 2013, and makes it the world's second-largest food crisis, in absolute terms. The complexity of the crisis in Afghanistan has reached a peak in the period covered by this analysis. The combined impact of a collapsing economy and multiple hazards have pushed the crisis to unprecedented levels, with people's ability to access food constrained like never observed before.

## 2020 CURRENT Acute Food Insecurity

April - May 2020

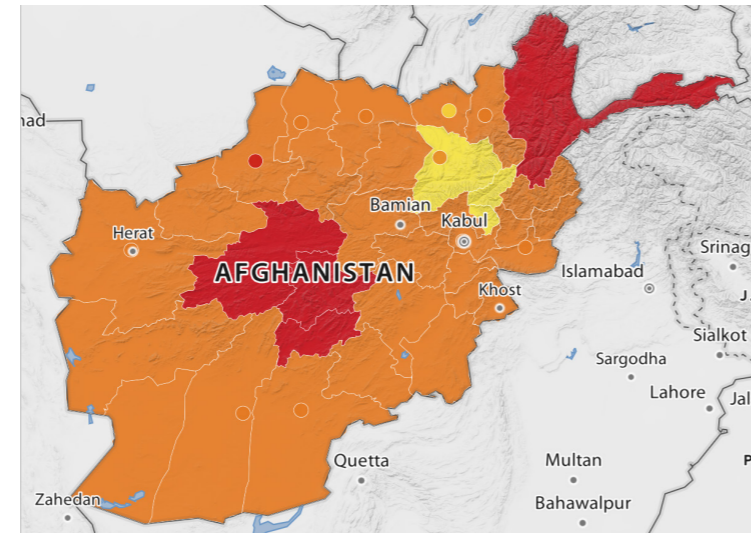
**10.9M** Over 10.9 million people (35% of the population analysed) in Afghanistan were classified in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) between April and May 2020



## 2020 CURRENT Acute Food Insecurity

August - October 2020

**11.1M** Over 11.1 million people (36% of the population analysed) in Afghanistan were classified in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) between August and October 2020



## 2020 PROJECTED Acute Food Insecurity

November 2020 - March 2021

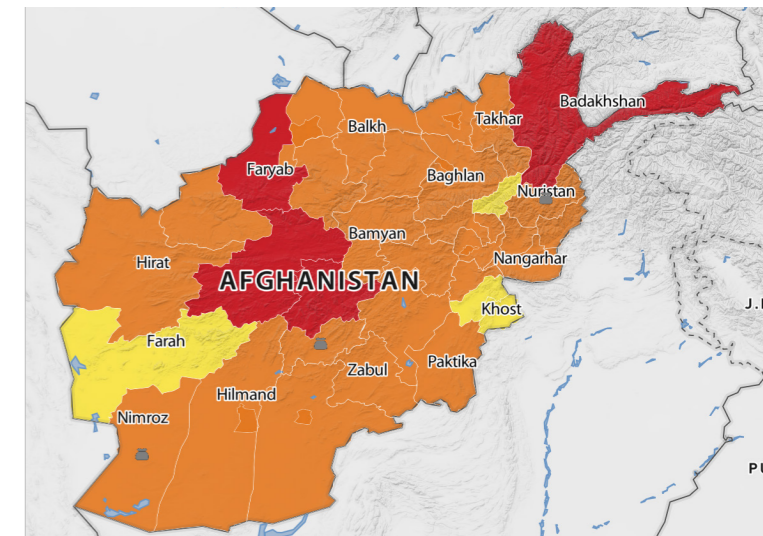
**13.1M** Over 13.1 million people (42% of the population analysed) in Afghanistan were projected to be in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) between November 2020 and March 2021



## 2021 CURRENT Acute Food Insecurity

March - May 2021

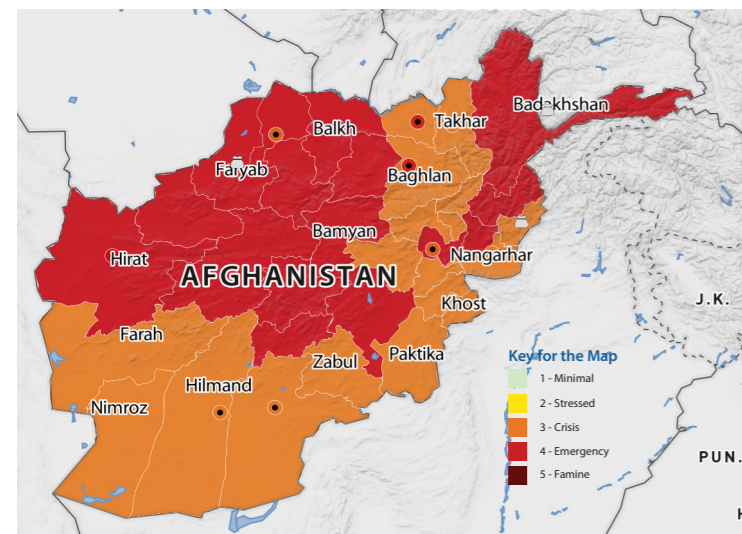
**10.9M** Over 10.9 million people (35% of the population analysed) in Afghanistan were classified in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) between March and May 2021



## 2021 CURRENT Acute Food Insecurity

September - October 2021

**18.8M** Over 18.8 million people (47% of the population analysed) in Afghanistan are classified in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) between September and October 2021



## 2022 PROJECTED Acute Food Insecurity

November 2021 - March 2022

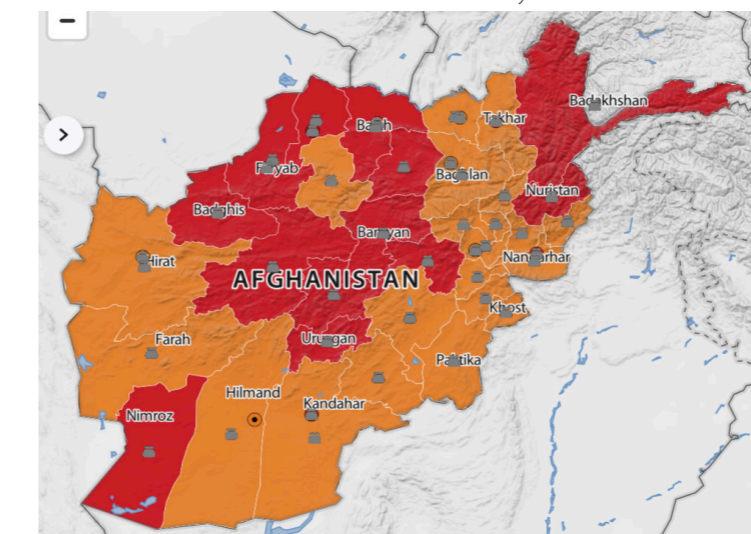
**22.8M** Over 22.8 million people (55% of the population analysed) in Afghanistan are projected to be in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) between November 2021 and March 2022



## 2022 CURRENT Acute Food Insecurity

March - May 2022

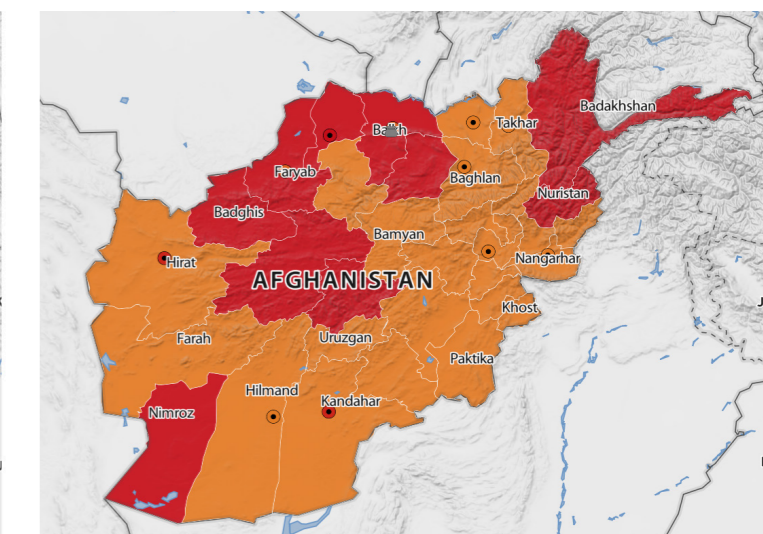
**19.7M** Nearly 19.7 million people (47% of the population analysed) in Afghanistan are classified in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) between March and May 2022



## 2022 PROJECTED Acute Food Insecurity

June - November 2022

**18.9M** Over 18.9 million people (45% of the population analysed) in Afghanistan are projected to be in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) between June and November 2022



[1] <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/afghanistan-humanitarian-response-plan-2022.pdf>  
[2] [https://www.heritage.org/index/pdf/2021/countries/2021\\_indexofEconomicFreedom-Afghanistan.pdf](https://www.heritage.org/index/pdf/2021/countries/2021_indexofEconomicFreedom-Afghanistan.pdf)  
[3] <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/afghanistan/overview#>