



Afghanistan Food Security Monitoring Bulletin (AFSMB)



Vulnerability Analysis Unit of MRRD, Central Statistics Office (CSO) and the Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) Unit of WFP Afghanistan

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Overview

The information gathered relates to the following indicators:

- Food Consumption Scores
- Caloric Intake
- Food Expenditure
- Food Sources
- Cereal Availability/ Balance
- Rainfall and Snowfall
- Household perceptions of the economic situation
- Market Prices
- Asset Ownership



Summary and Recommendations

- This food security monitoring exercise was conducted using information from field visits to 127 districts plus various secondary sources.
- A limited set of vulnerability indicators were selected to provide an update on the food security situation and the Winter Impact in the vulnerable areas.
- Current FSMS data suggests that 37% of Afghan households do not meet their minimum daily kilocalorie intake, which is 9% greater than the findings in the 2005 NRVA. Based on this the estimated number of people currently at risk is 8.5 million.
- Fifty-Two percent of the households were classified as having a borderline¹ (25%) and poor food (27%) consumption score. Daykundi and Bamyan show the highest incidence of people with poor food consumption, followed by Badghis, Nimroz, Hilmand, Panjshir and Kunduz provinces.
- A greater proportion of household expenditure is on food items. The proportion of expenditure on food is highest in the north (86%).
- Cereal production in 2007 is estimated at 5.6 million MT, which is 26% more than in 2006.
- Additional food assistance is recommended in Kunduz, Farah, Ghor, Bamyan, Kandahar, Daikundi, Logar, Panj Sher and Nangarhar provinces to help food insecure households to meet their minimum food requirements.
- Over the next few months attention should be given to:
 - a) Improving the selection criteria and the duration of food needs at the local level.
 - b) Orienting food for work programs closely with the cycle of labor demand for agricultural activities.
 - c) Strengthening the dialogue among implementing partners and local authorities in the program selection and implementation process.

North:	Faryab, Jawzjan, Sar-i-Pul, Balkh, and Samangan
Central:	Kabul, Parwan, Panjsher, Kapisa, Logar and Wardak
South:	Paktya, Paktika, Khost, and Ghazni
South-West:	Kandahar, Daikunde, Zabul, Hilmand, Urozgan and Nimroz
West- Central:	Ghor, and Bamyan
West:	Herat, Farah, and Bagdhis
East:	Nangharhar, Laghman, Kunarha, and Nooristan
Northeast:	Baglan, Kunduz, Takhar, and Badakshan

¹ Based on the household diet composition three food consumption score (FCS) groups (poor 0-21 FCS, borderline 21.5 - 35 FCS and good food consumption >35 FCS) was created.

Background/Overview:

The Food Security Monitoring System (FSMS) of the Early Warning/Monitoring system has been developed and conducted in partnership with the Vulnerability Analysis Unit (VAU) of the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD), with support from the Central Statistics Office (CSO) and WFP Headquarters (HQ).

Primary sources of information for the current food security monitoring system bulletin is the spring 2007 household consumption survey.

Methodology:

For the current FSMS we have used the household consumption survey which is being formed by the household questionnaire. Twelve household interviews were conducted in each community/village. The questionnaires included modules on:

1. Household register
2. Household Expenditures
3. Housing
4. Housing Facilities
5. Assets & Credit
6. Household perceptions of economic situation
7. Communication Facilities and costs
8. Food Consumption

Sampling:

Households consumption survey sampling

Winter Impact	Rural	Urban	Kuchi	Total
Severe	504			540
Medium	492	504		1,140
Lite	504	504		1,332
Total	1,500	1,008	504	3,012

Household consumption survey (HCS) has been implemented in 127 districts interviewing over 1,500 rural, 1,008 urban and 504 Nomad (Kuchi) households. For the purposes of the sampling we considered the rural and urban domains by winter impact, creating five analytical domains (areas) because there are no high impact urban areas.

As the analytical domains for this spring sample cover a much wider geographical area than the 45 analytical domains used in the 2005 NRVA, it was decided for the purposes of this sampling to increase the minimum number of households per analytical domain from the 350 used for the 2005 summer NRVA to 500 for the household consumption survey. There are 42 Primary Sampling Units (PSUs) per analytical domain, 504 households per domain.

Twelve households per PSU Sampling interval work calculated to ensure 42 PSUs per analytical domain. As can be seen, there are no urban

PSUs in the high winter impact category and only 57 urban PSUs in the moderate winter impact category.

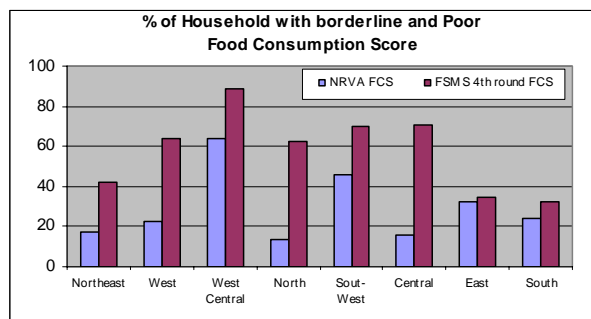
Overall Findings:

Changes in the food security situation in Afghanistan (FSMS findings compared to 2005 NRVA findings) are described as follows. (see map 7 and table 1)

Category	Province
1 Significantly Improved	
2 Slightly Improved	
3 No Changes	Kabul, Laghman, Paktya, Sar-I-Pol, Khost, Takhar And Zabul
4 Slightly Deteriorated	Badakhshan, Daikindi, Ghazni, Hilmand, Jawzjan, Kunduz, Nangarhar, Nimroz, Nuristan, Paktika, Parwan, Samangan, Wardak, Balkh, Farah, Ghor, Hirat, Kandahar, Kunarha, Logar, Panj Sher, Uruzgan And Baghlan
5 Significantly Deteriorated	Faryab, Bamyán, Badghis And Kapisa
6 No Data available	

Main Findings:

• **Food consumption score²:** Overall, 52% of the sampled households are characterized by a poor and borderline food consumption score. The highest percentages of households with poor and borderline food consumption score are found in the north, central and west part of the country (significantly deteriorated 30 to 40% of HH) compared to the 2005 NRVA. In the southwest, northeast and west central it is slightly deteriorated (15 to 30% of HH), whereas in the



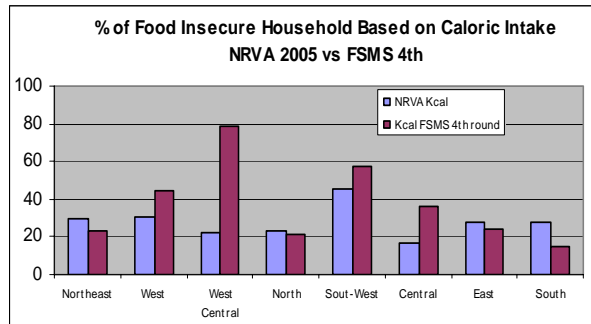
south and east it remains unchanged. (see map 1).

• **Population consuming less than minimum calorie requirements:** The Household consumption survey data indicates that 37% of households eat, on average, below their daily

² Food consumption score is calculated based on Frequencies of food consumption = number of days for which each food group was consumed during the past 7 days

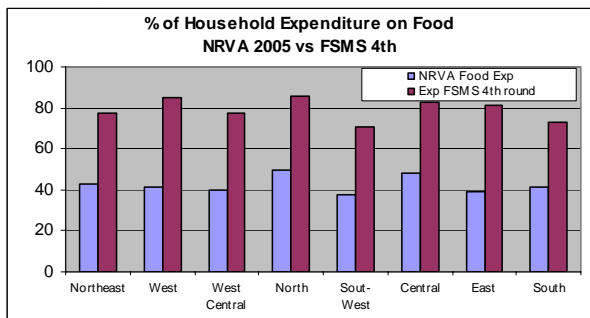
requirement; which is 9 % more than NRVA 2005.

The graph below shows that household food insecurity is significantly deteriorated in the west central part of the country. In the central, southwest and west it is slightly deteriorated. Some improvement has been noted in the south and northeast. No changes have been observed in the north, northeast and east of the country. (see map 2)



• **Food Expenditure:** Overall, a greater proportion of household expenditure is on food items. The proportion of expenditure on food is highest (86%) in north. The proportion of expenditure on food is equally high in other part of the country (from 70% to 80%).

(see map 3)



• **Cereal Availability/Balance**

Cereal is the most important item in the Afghan diet. Afghanistan is deficit in cereal production even in a good agricultural year. About 60-80% of the cereal deficit in the country is covered through commercial import and the rest is either food aid or uncovered deficit. However, a good harvest is a key to food security in predominantly rural Afghanistan.

According to current information from the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL), the total area used for cereals in 2007 is estimated at 3 million hectares. Production of cereals is estimated at 5.6 million MT, of which wheat is 4.5 million MT (80%). Thus far 2007 is considered to be a very good year for cereal production.

In 2004 and 2006 cereal production dipped considerably due to reduced rainfall in all parts of the country. The production of wheat in 2007 is estimated to be 33% higher than the production in 2006. Overall production of cereals in 2007 is estimated at 5.6 million MT, which is 26% more than in 2006.

The total cereal requirement in 2007 is estimated at 6.1 million MT, of which 4.9 million MT (80%) is wheat. Domestic production of cereals is estimated at 5.6 million MT, which means that the country will be 91% self-sufficient in food production this year. The total import requirement for cereals – including commercial import and food aid - is estimated at 526,000 MT, which includes 433,000 MT of wheat and 93,000 MT of milled rice. Around 400,000 MT is expected to come through commercial imports.

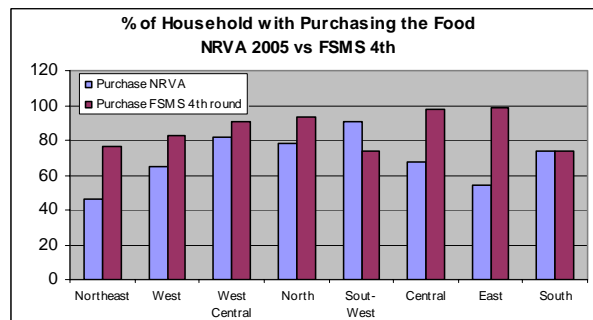
(See Table 2)

Forecasted Area and Production of different Cereals in 2007

Crop	Area ('000 ha.)	Yield (MT/ha.)	Production ('000 MT)
Irrigated wheat	1,071	2.690	2,878
Rain-fed wheat	1,395	1.150	1,606
All wheat	2,466	1.820	4,484
Milled rice	170	3.250	370
Maize	137	2.628	360
Barley	236	1.568	370
Overall	3,009		5,584

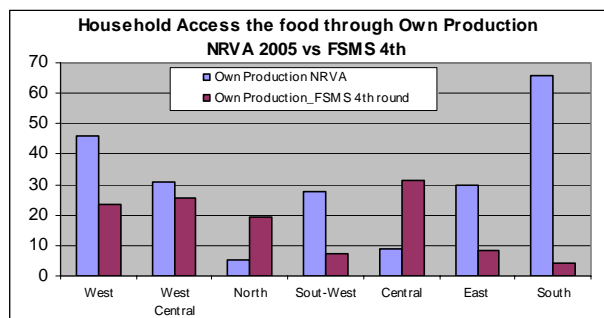
• **Food Sources:**

1. **Purchase** - The graph below indicates that there is a slight increase in purchasing of food items in the northeast, central and east of the country, whilst in the southwest there is a small decrease in the percentage of households getting their food through purchases. No changes have been observed in

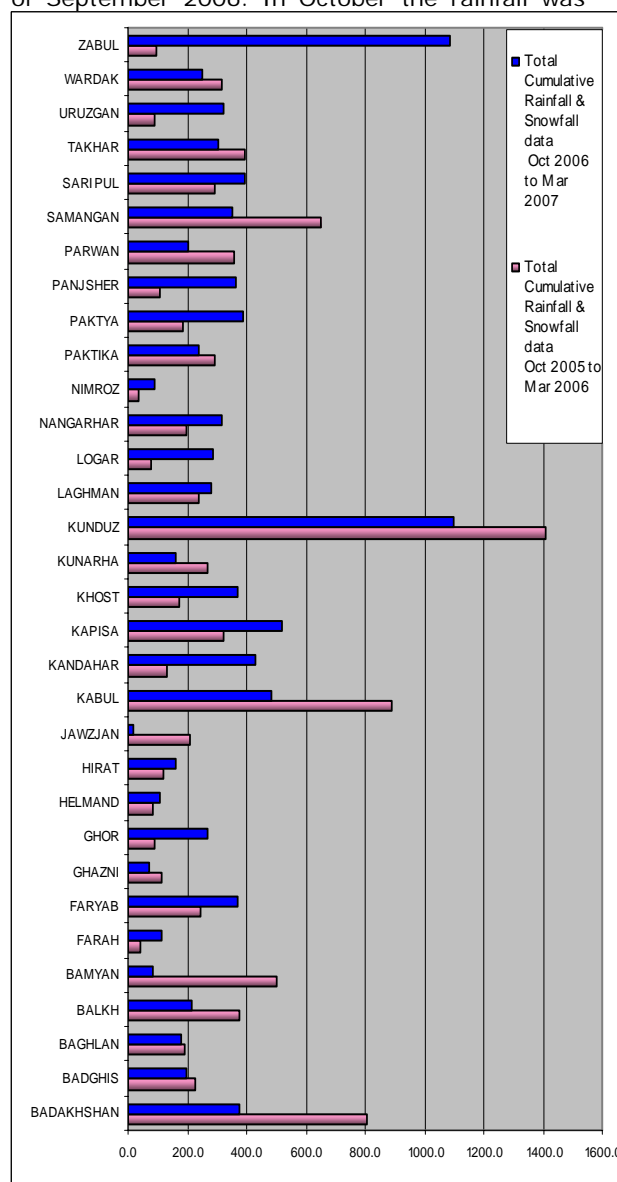


the remaining regions. (see map 4)

2. **Own production** - A sharp decline in own production is observed in the east, south, southwest and west of the country. Agricultural production has deteriorated slightly in west central regions. A slight increase has occurred in "own production" as the main source of food in the north and central part of the country. (see map 4)



• **Rainfall and Snowfall:** The rainfall for the 2006/2007 crop season started in the earlier part of September 2006. In October the rainfall was



higher than in October 2005 in virtually all parts

of the country. The amount of rainfall in October was also higher than the long term average (LTA) in all parts of the country, except Baghlan, Jawzjan and Samangan.

Rainfall data received for the west, southwest and northwest regions are especially favorable this year. In November, the rainfall was higher in virtually all regions except Bamyán, Kandahar and Ghor provinces. In Kabul, Faryab, and Ghazni snow started in November, reflecting overall good prospects in these areas in the future months. The exceptional snowfall and heavy rainfall, coupled with the onset of the spring melt, caused serious avalanches, floods and landslides.

Overall, the cumulative rainfall and snowfall data from October 2005 to March 2006 was lower than October 2006 to March 2007 in the north, northeast and west central regions, whilst the cumulative rainfall recorded at the same time was higher in the south and southwest. In the east it remained unchanged. (see map 5)

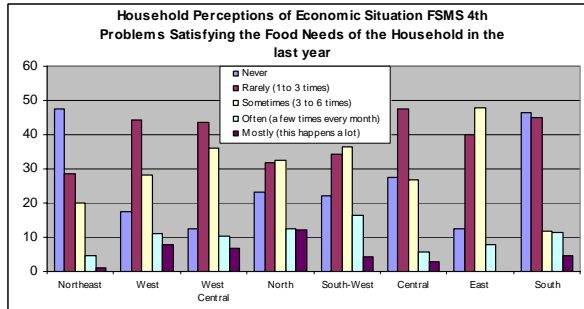
Market Prices: In July 2007 market prices for wheat ranged from a low – US\$190/MT – in Hirat in the west, to the high – US\$ 500/MT – in Faizabad (due to a shortage in the market in the northeast). In comparison to the prices in July 2006, there seems to be an overall increase in prices, most notably in Faizabad (92%), Gardez (19%) and Kandahar (15%). Across the north and west of the country, wheat prices decreased by approximately 19% in Mazar-i-Sharif and 5% in Hirat compared to July 2006.

NA=Data Not Available

Area	Markets	Retail Wheat Prices July 2007 (US\$/MT)	Percent change from July 2006 -% = % decrease +% = % increase
South, East & Centre	Kandahar	230	+15%
	Jalalabad	240	+9%
	Kabul	270	+8%
	Gardez	250	+19%
	Nilli	340	NA
West & North	Hirat	190	-5%
	Maimana	270	+8%
	Mazar-I-Sharif	210	-19%
	Faiazabad	500	+92%

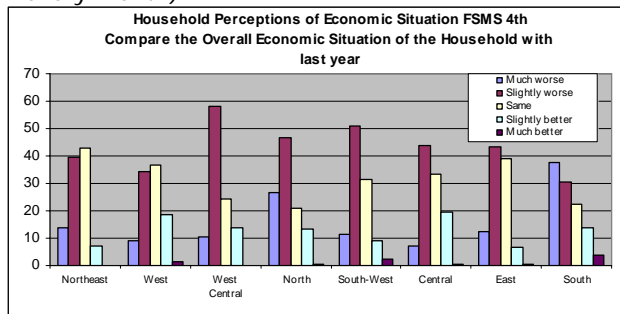
- **Household perceptions of economic situation:**

A. In the spring household consumption survey households were asked how they compare the overall economic situation with last year. Most respondents pointed out “slightly worse” 30% (lowest in the south) to 60% (highest) in the west central. Around 40% of the households in the northeast and east stated no changes, whilst 35% in the south answered that the economic situation of their households became much worse. Less than 20% across the region confirmed slightly better.



In the household consumption survey households were also asked how often in the past year they encountered problems satisfying the food needs of the households.

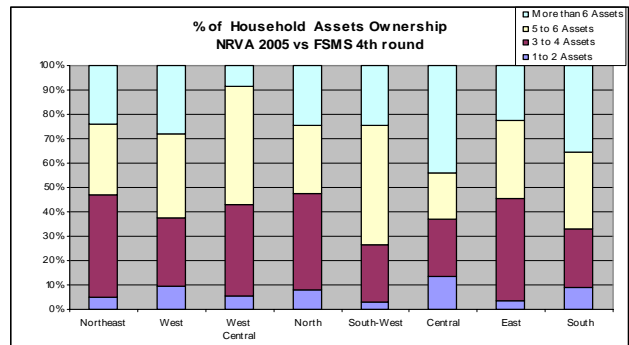
Thirty to fifty percent of the households in all regions stated they rarely (1 to 3 times) faced problems in satisfying the food needs of their households. In the northeast and south, 45% households said never. Less than 15% of interviewed households came back with “mostly” (this happen a lots) and “often” (a few times every month).



- **Household assets:** Respondents were asked about ownership of assets. The responses were then grouped into four categories based on the number of assets that the households owned: 1 to 2 assets, 3 to 4 assets, 5 to 6 assets and more than 6 assets. Asset ownership grouped in the four categories is shown on the chart for the 8 regions in the country.

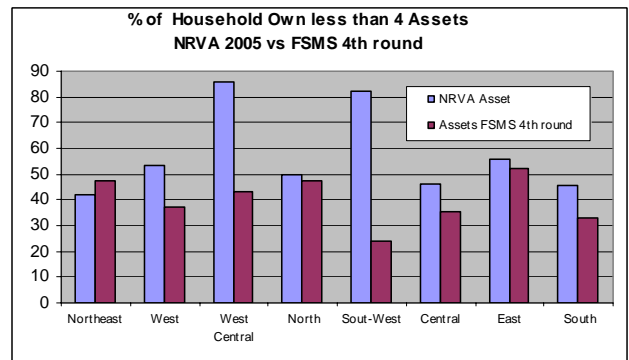
The survey revealed that most (45%) of households have more than 6 assets in the central region, 50% of household have 5-6 assets in the southwest and west central, while another significant proportion (40%) has only 3-4 assets in the northeast, west central, north and east of

the country. A meager 10 to 15 % of the households have 1-2 assets in the west central.



Typical households tend to have less than four assets from the list consisting of mattresses, radios, bicycles, livestock, etc.

The survey revealed that most (80%) of households reported to have less than 4 assets in the west central and southwest parts of the country. In the remaining parts of the country only 40 to 50% of households have less than 4 assets. The graphs below show that the assets ownerships is significantly increased in the west central and southwest part of the country in



comparison to the 2005 NRVA findings. Whilst in the rest part of the county there are no significant changes. (see map 6)

Table 1 Overall finding:

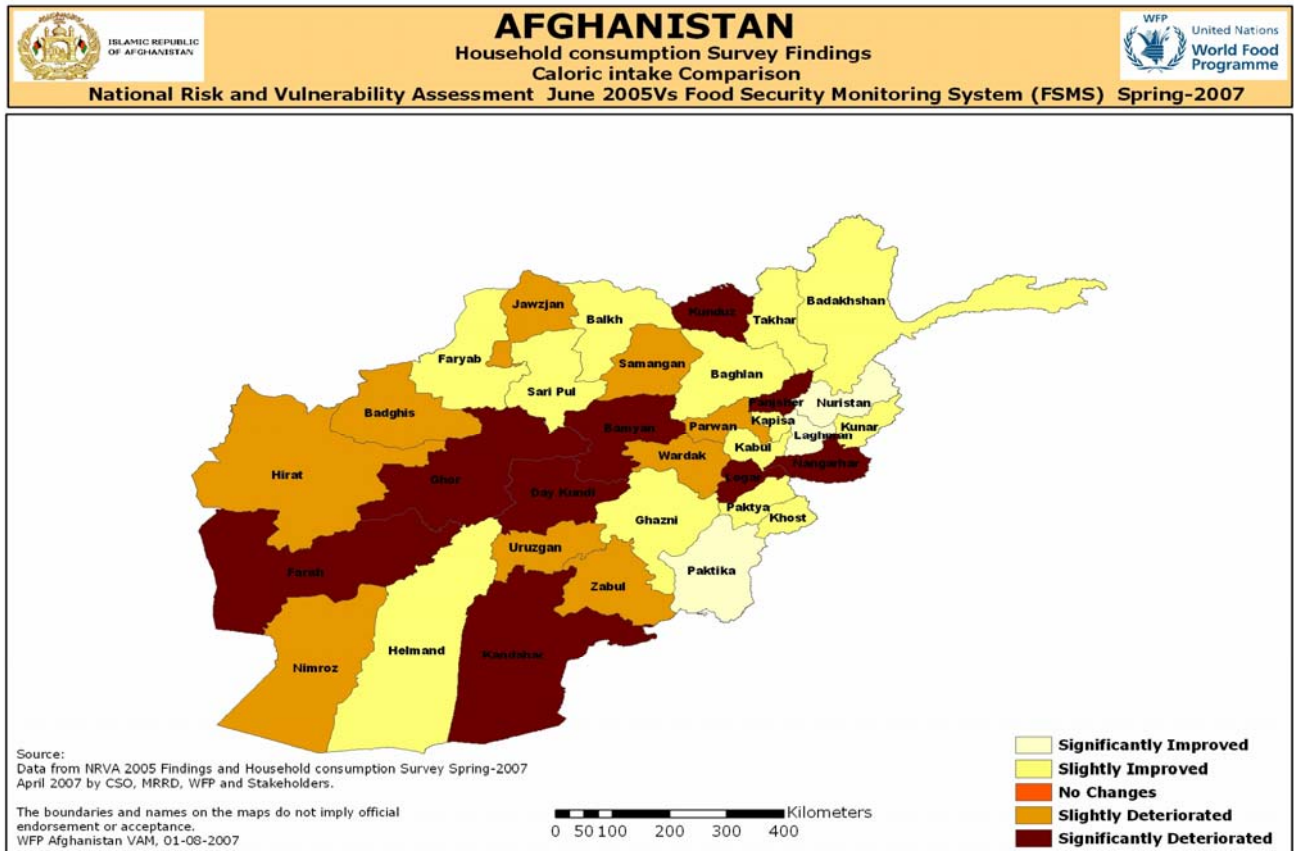
Provinces	Rainfall & Snowfall compression Oct 2005 to Mar 2006 vs. Oct 2006 to Mar 2007	Production of Wheat in 2006 vs. 2007	Caloric intake	Expenditure	Food Consumption Score	Purchase	Own Production	Assets	Overall ranking
BADAKHSHAN	4	1	2	4	4	5	2	2	4
BADGHIS	4	2	4	5	5	5	2	3	5
BAGHLAN	3	2	2	4	2	5	2	4	3
BALKH	4	2	2	4	5	4	3	3	4
BAMYAN	5	4	5	5	5	5	3	1	5
DAIKINDI	6	2	5	5	4	4	3	1	4
FARAH	1	2	5	4	5	4	3	1	4
FARYAB	2	2	2	5	5	5	3	3	5
GHAZNI	4	4	2	3	5	4	3	5	4
GHOR	1	2	5	4	4	3	4	1	4
HILMAND	2	2	2	4	5	1	5	1	4
HIRAT	2	2	4	5	4	4	3	3	4
JAWZJAN	5	1	4	4	5	4	3	2	4
KABUL	4	2	2	2	5	5	3	3	3
KANDAHAR	1	2	5	5	4	4	3	1	4
KAPISA	2	5	2	5	5	5	2	5	5
KHOST	1	2	2	5	3	5	2	3	3
KUNARHA	4	2	2	5	3	5	1	4	4
KUNDUZ	4	2	5	5	5	2	3	4	4
LAGHMAN	3	5	1	4	1	3	3	1	3
LOGAR	1	2	5	5	5	3	3	4	4
NANGARHAR	2	2	5	5	5	5	2	3	4
NIMROZ	1	2	4	4	5	1	5	1	4
NURISTAN	6	5	1	3	2	4	3	3	4
PAKTIKA	4	2	1	4	1	1	5	2	4
PAKTYA	1	2	2	4	3	1	5	2	3
PANJSHER	1	4	5	3	5	3	3	5	4
PARWAN	4	4	4	2	5	5	2	3	4
SAMANGAN	4	1	4	4	5	5	2	2	4
SAR-I-POL	2	1	2	4	5	5	1	5	3
TAKHAR	4	1	2	4	3	5	2	4	4
URUZGAN	1	3	4	3	4	5	5	1	4
WARDAK	4	2	4	4	5	5	1	1	4
ZABUL	1	2	4	3	1	5	3	1	3

1 = Significantly Improved, 2 = Slightly Improved, 3 = No Changes, 4 = Slightly Deteriorated, 5 = Significantly Deteriorated, 6 = No Data

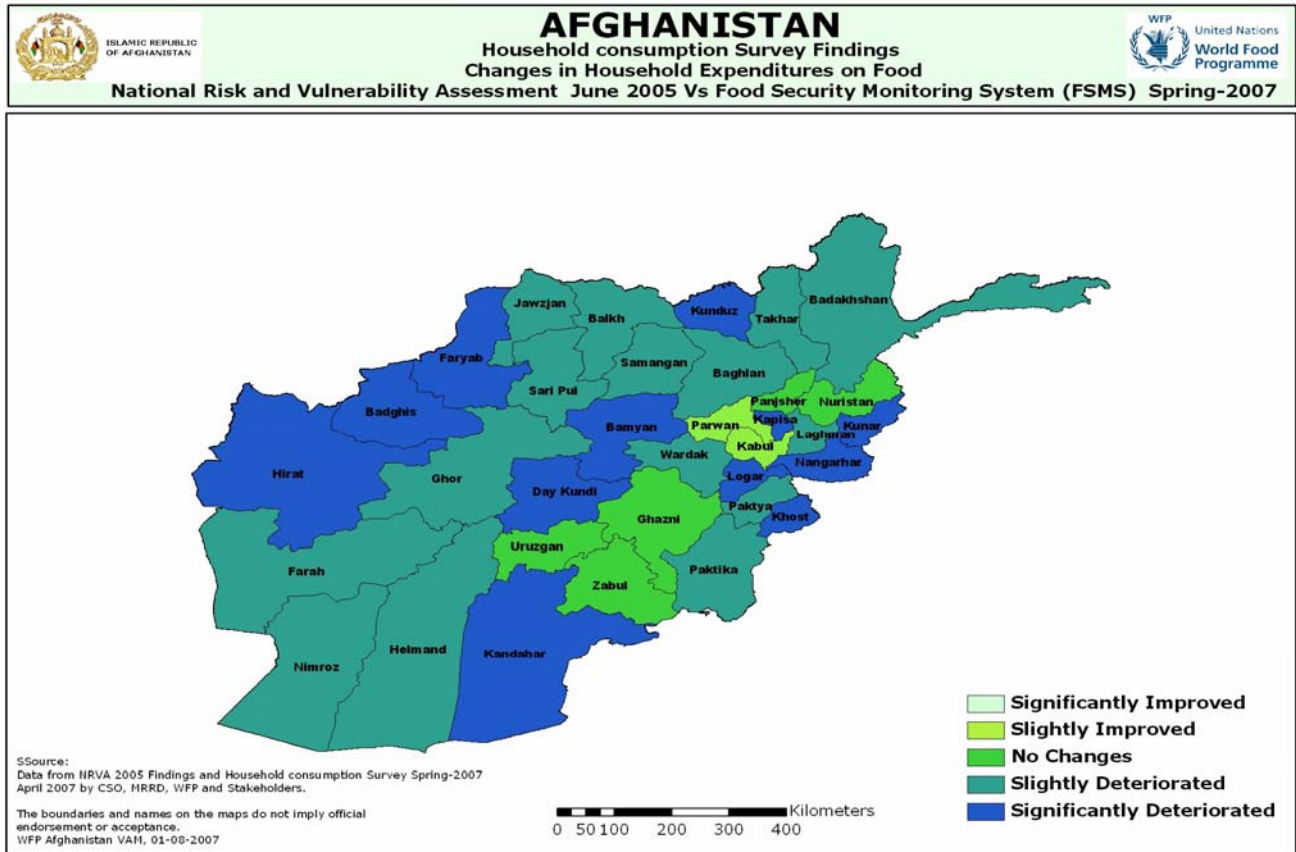
Map 1. Food consumption score



Map 2, Population consuming less than minimum calorie requirements



Map 3 Food Expenditure



Map 4, Sources of Food

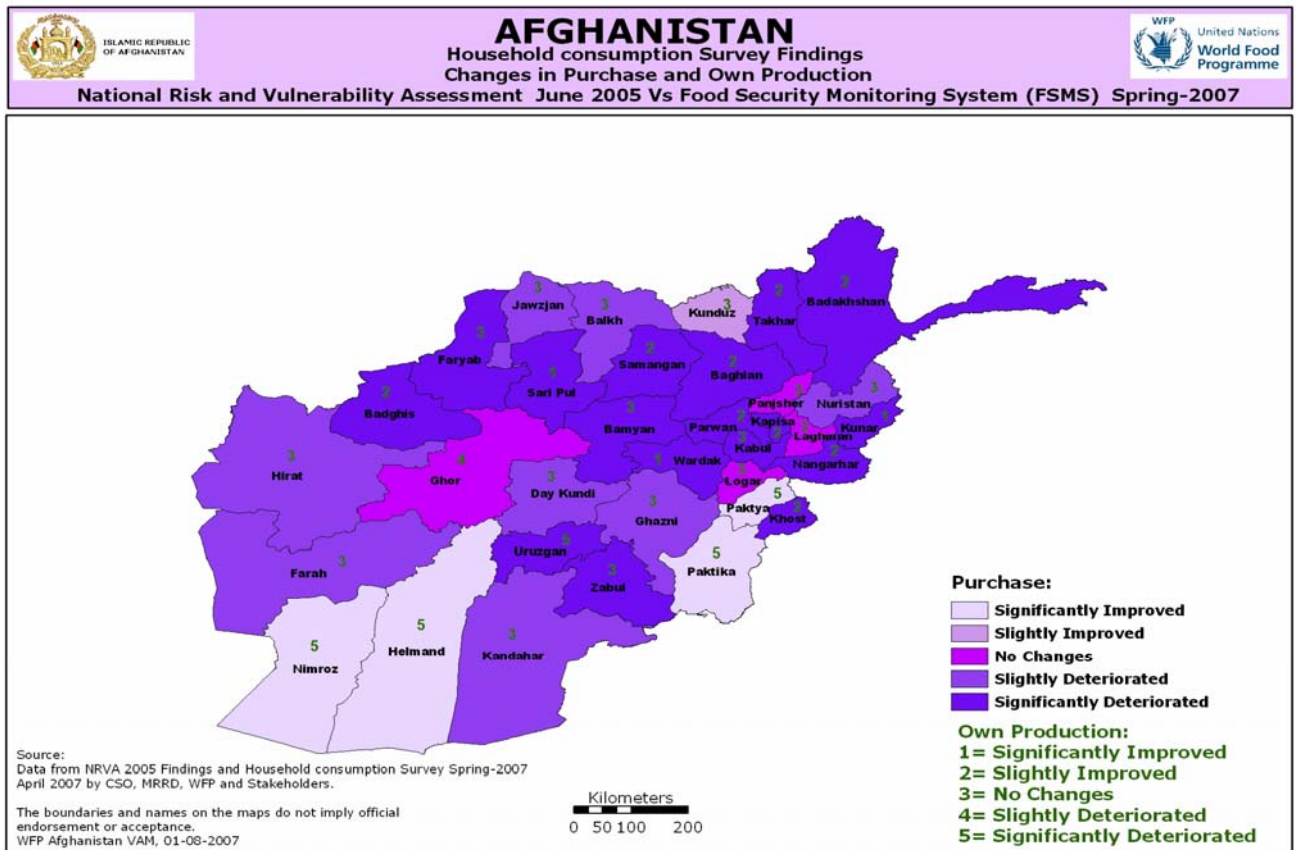


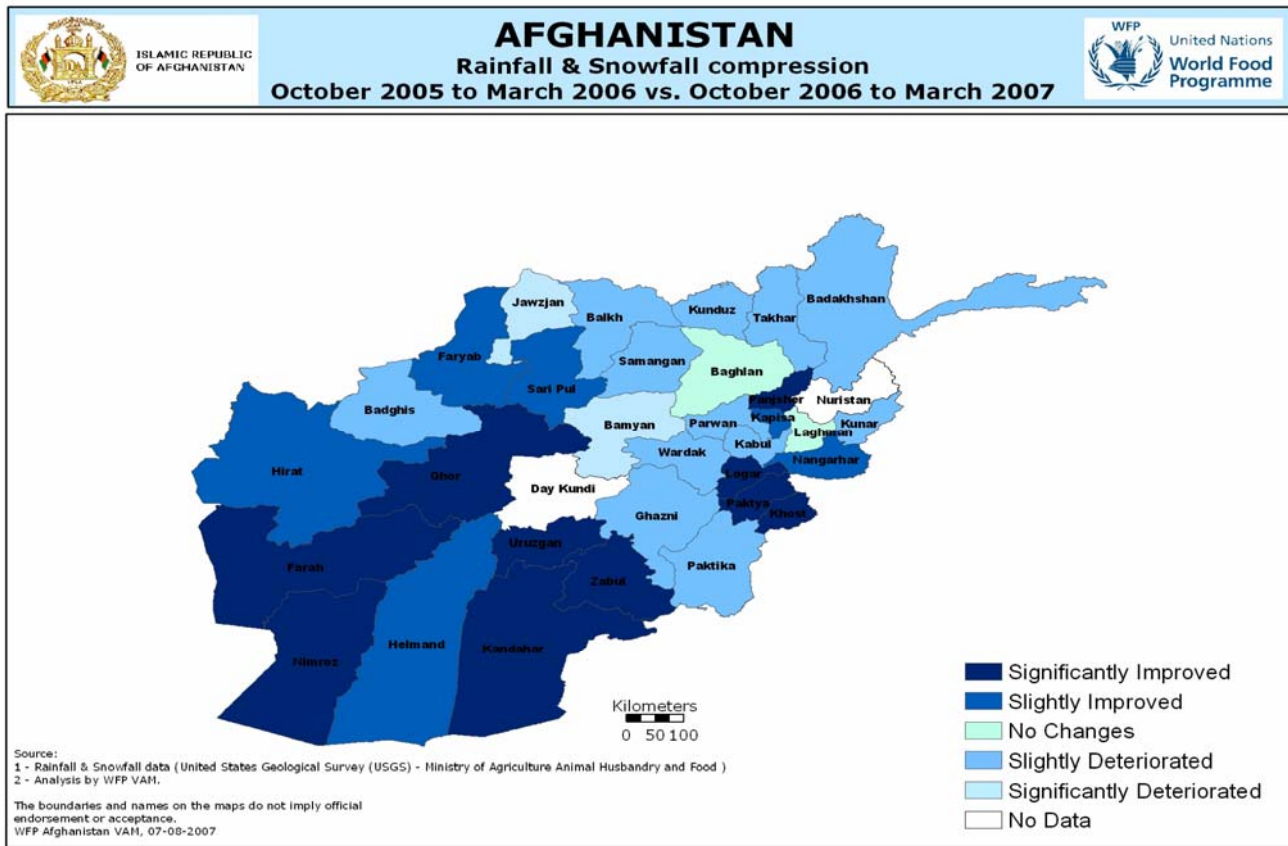
table 2 Cereal Availability/Balance

Area and Production of Wheat in 2007 by province (May 2007 Estimates)

REGION/ Province	Irrigated Wheat			Rain-fed Wheat			Total Wheat		
	Area	Yield	Production	Area	Yield	Production	Area	Yield	Production
	('000 ha)	(t/ha)	('000 MT)	('000 ha)	(t/ha)	('000 MT)	('000 ha)	(t/ha)	('000 MT)
NORTH	220	2.61	575	710	1.11	786	930	1.46	1,361
Faryab	42	2.62	110	190	1.20	228	232	1.46	338
Juzjan	50	2.62	131	110	1.10	121	160	1.58	252
Sar-i-Pul	25	2.62	66	120	1.10	132	145	1.37	198
Balkh	87	2.62	228	160	1.05	168	247	1.60	396
Samangan	16	2.50	40	130	1.05	137	146	1.21	177
NORTH-EAST	220	2.64	581	352	1.23	432	572	1.77	1,013
Bughlan	54	2.80	151	80	1.25	100	134	1.87	251
Kunduz	91	2.60	237	22	1.20	26	113	2.33	263
Takhar	50	2.60	130	140	1.20	168	190	1.57	298
Badakhshan	25	2.50	63	110	1.25	138	135	1.49	201
WEST	144	2.65	381	240	1.24	298	384	1.77	679
Herat	97	2.62	254	140	1.20	168	237	1.78	422
Farah	24	2.62	63				24	2.63	63
Badghis	23	2.80	64	100	1.30	130	123	1.58	194
WEST-CENTRAL	35	2.40	84	48	0.90	43	83	1.53	127
Ghor	22	2.50	55	40	0.88	35	62	1.45	90
Bamyan	13	2.20	29	8	1.05	8	21	1.76	37
CENTRAL	111	2.86	318	15	1.27	19	126	2.67	337
Kabul	21	2.80	59	1	1.05	1	22	2.73	60
Parwan	23	2.60	60	3	1.33	4	26	2.46	64
Panjsher	6	2.60	16	2	1.33	3	8	2.38	19
Kapisa	9	3.00	27				9	3.00	27
Logar	26	3.00	78	8	1.20	10	34	2.59	88
Wardak	26	3.00	78	1	1.05	1	27	2.93	79
SOUTH	98	2.59	254	5	1.00	5	103	2.51	259
Paktya	17	3.00	51	1	1.05	1	18	2.89	52
Paktika	15	2.50	38	2	1.05	2	17	2.35	40
Khost	12	2.50	30				12	2.50	30
Ghazni	54	2.50	135	2	0.88	2	56	2.45	137
EAST	72	2.63	189	10	0.90	9	82	2.41	198
Nangarhar	50	2.62	131	8	0.88	7	58	2.38	138
Laghman	13	2.62	34	1	0.88	1	14	2.50	35
Kunarha	8	2.62	21				8	2.63	21
Nooristan	1	2.50	3	1	0.88	1	2	2.00	4
SOUTH-WEST	171	2.90	496	15	0.93	14	186	2.74	510
Kandahar	38	3.00	114	1	0.88	1	39	2.95	115
Helmand	75	3.00	225				75	3.00	225
Zabul	12	3.00	36	1	0.88	1	13	2.85	37
Nimroz	14	2.62	37	1	0.88	1	15	2.53	38
Uruzgan	27	2.62	71	2	1.05	2	29	2.52	73
Daikunde	5	2.62	13	10	0.88	9	15	1.47	22
TOTAL	1,071	2.69	2,878	1,395	1.15	1,606	2,466	1.82	4,484

Source: FAAHM/MAIL

Map 5, Rainfall and Snowfall



Map 6, Assets

