



Afghanistan Food Security Monitoring Bulletin (AFSMB) Round 6



Jointly Prepared by:

- the Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) Unit of WFP Afghanistan.

- the Vulnerability Analysis Unit of MRRD

- the Central Statistics Office (CSO)

Issued: Dec, 2008

Overview

The information gathered relates to the following indicators:

- Food Consumption Scores
- Caloric Intake/Value
- Food Expenditure
- Food Sources
- Cereal Availability/Balances
- Rainfall and Snowfall
- Market Prices
- Asset Ownership
- Coping Strategies

Highlights

- This food security monitoring exercise was conducted using information from interviews of 1,616 households in 34 provinces (month 10 of the 2007/2008 NRVA data), in addition to various secondary sources.
- A limited set of vulnerability indicators were selected to provide an update on the food security situation and the food price increase impact in vulnerable areas.
- Current FSMS data suggests that:
 - On average **35%** of households eat below their **daily requirement**. This is a **5 %** increase from the NRVA 2005 and it is similar to the FSMS bulletin Round 5.
 - Overall, **43%** of the sampled households are characterized by poor **food consumption score**.
 - **Sixty eight percent** of Afghan households have poor **food access**, **21** percent have average food access and **11** percent have good food access.
 - Households in west central part of the country spent more than **75%** of their incomes on food, while the **average national proportion of income spent on food is 67%**.
 - Production of cereals in 2007/2008 is estimated at **3.9** million tones, of which wheat is **2.8** million tones (**72%**). Compared to 2007, overall reduction in wheat production is estimated at **36%**, with **68%** reduction in rain-fed wheat and **20%** in irrigated wheat.
 - On average **64%** of households have less than **4 assets**.
 - **General inflation** (food and non food) increase by 42.3% compare to the same months last year.
 - Between September and November 2008 the **average prices of wheat flour decreased by 3%**.
 - The **terms of trade** between wage labour and wheat in all major markets have decreased by an average of **39 percent**.
 - Unusual high food price and drought were the most commonly reported shocks experienced by sampled households.
 - Reduction of food quality and quantities, purchasing on credit and reduced discretionary expenditure were the main coping strategies across the country.

North:	Faryab, Jawzjan, Sari-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:	Hirat, Farah, and Bagdhis
East:	Nangarhar, Laghman, Kunar, and Nuristan
Northeast:	Baglan, Kunduz, Takhar, and Badakshan

Background/Overview:

The Food Security Monitoring System (FSMS), part 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), and with support from the Central Statistics Office (CSO) and WFP Headquarters.

The primary source of information for the current FSMS Bulletin is the National Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (NRVA) 2007/2008.

Methodology:

For the current Bulletin we have used the NRVA 2007/08 which has been formed by the household questionnaire. The household questionnaire consists of the following 20 sections; the first 15 responded by the male head of household or male respondent, and the last five by the female members of the household:

1. Household Roster
2. Housing and Utilities
3. Livestock
4. Agriculture
5. Assets and Credit
6. Education
7. Disability
8. Sources of Household Income
9. Labor and Migration of HH Members
10. Cash/Food for work
11. Migration out of HH and Remittances
12. Household Expenditures
13. Household Shocks and Coping Strategies
14. Final Male Section- Demobilization, Literacy
15. Food Consumption in last 7 Days
16. Iodized Salt, Avian Flu, HH Expenditures
17. Number of Children Born and Marriage Information (for married women 49 years or less)
18. Recent Births (for women with children born after August 2005)
19. Immunizations (for children under 5 years)
20. Women's Activities

Sampling:

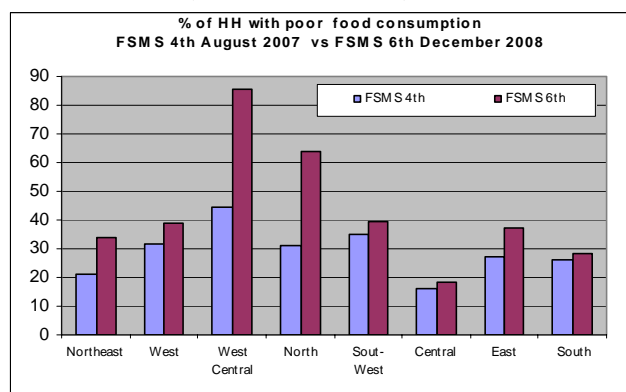
In the NRVA 2007/08, 2,600 Primary Sampling Units (PSUs) in rural and urban areas have been used, with eight families in each selected. The sample thereafter was divided into 12 months.

Overall Findings:

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

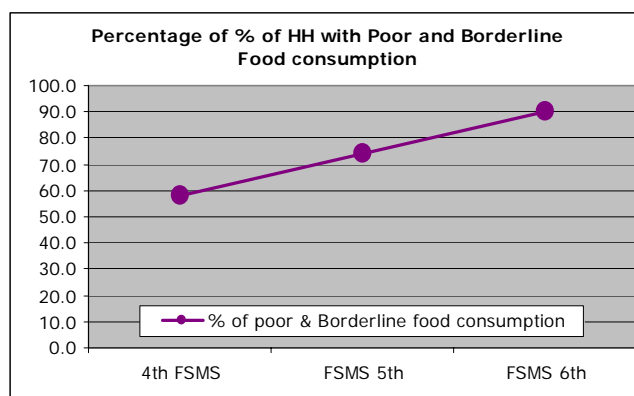
Category	Province
1	Significantly Improved
2	Slightly Improved Hilmand
3	No Changes Baghlan, Bamyan, Daikindi, Farah, Ghazni, Hirat, Kabul, Kandahar, Laghman, Nangarhar, Nimroz, Nuristan, Paktika, Panjsher, Parwan and Uruzgan
4	Slightly Deteriorated Badakhshan, Badghis, Balkh, Faryab, Ghor, Jawzjan,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

1. Food consumption score¹: Overall, **43%** of the sampled households are characterized by poor food consumption score. The highest percentages of households with poor and borderline food consumption score are found in the west central and north parts of the country have significantly deteriorated (50% of HH) compared to the FSMS Round 4 (August 2007). In the northeast, west and east it has slightly deteriorated (25 to 35% of HH), whereas in the



south and center it remains unchanged, (see map 1).

The graph below shows a change of 55% in the

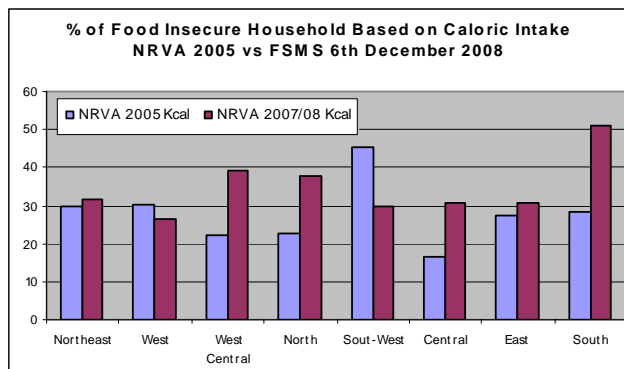


¹ **Food consumption score** is calculated based on Frequencies of food consumption = number of days for which each food group was consumed during the past 7 days
The consumption patterns (*frequency + diversity*) of households over the last seven days.
The food consumption score is created by multiplying the frequency of food items consumed in last 7 days by a weight given to specific food groups (*diversity*)

food consumption scores of the households compared to FSMS Round 4 (August 2007). The main reason behind these changes is believed to be the higher food prices and drought.

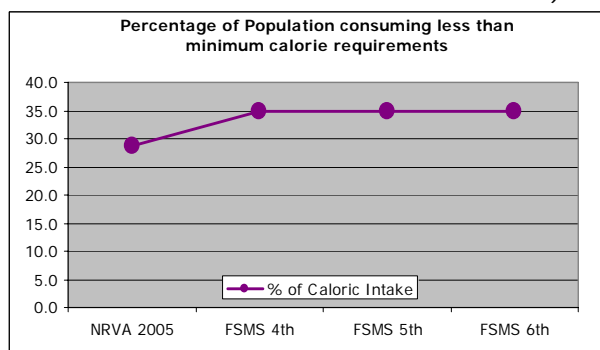
2. People consuming less than minimum calorie requirements –

The sample household data indicates that on average 35% of households eat below their daily food requirement. This is 5 % increase from the NRVA 2005 and similar to FSMS five bulletin.



Based on kilo caloric intake analysis, household food intake has significantly deteriorated (40 to 50%) in the south, west central, central, north and central parts of the country. In the east it has slightly deteriorated (10%). Some improvements have been noted in the southwest. No changes have been observed in the west and northeast parts of the country (see map 2).

The graph below shows a changing trend of 5 % in the kilo caloric intakes of households (NRVA 2005 vs. FSMS 6 “NRVA 2008 month 10 data”).



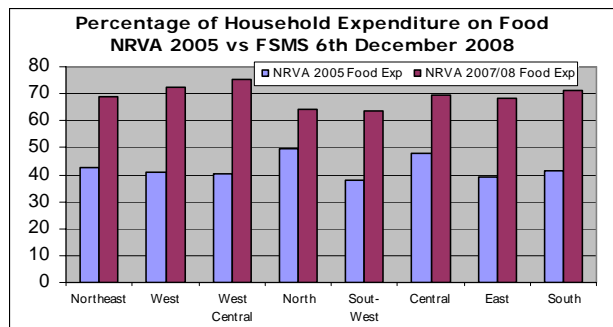
3. Food Expenditure ⁻²

Based on the share of income spent on food, the 2007/2008 NRVA month 10 data indicated that 68 % of Afghan households have poor food access, 21 percent have average food access and 11 percent have good food access.

The data also indicated that Afghan households on average spend 67 percent of their monthly income on food. However, given the importance of bread in the Afghan diet and the wheat flour price increases recorded, the share of income given to food have grown markedly in the past year - a further indication that households dependent on wage income have less capacity to purchase staple foods is the adverse change in the terms of trade.

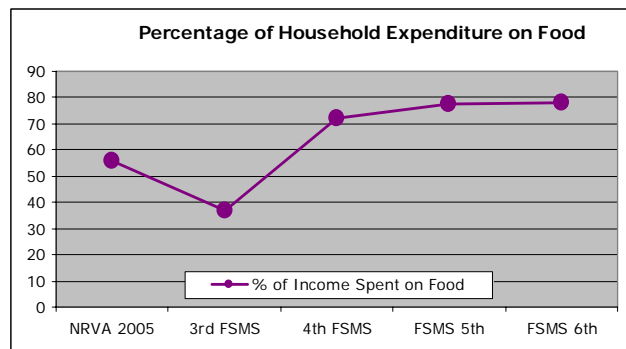
The proportion of expenditure on food is highest (75%) in the west center; however the proportion of expenditure on food is equally high in other parts of the country (from 60% to 70%) (See map 3).

The graph below shows the difference of food expenditures between NRVA 2005 and NRVA 2007/08 month 10 data. The expenditures on food have significantly increased in west center,



northeast, south east, west and east parts of the country. In the north and south west parts of the country it has slightly increased compared to the NRVA 2005 findings.

The trend data on percentage of households with spending their total income on food shows a changing of 30% compared to NRVA 2005, 50% compared to FSMS Round 3, 10% compared to



FSMS Round 4 and no changes compare to FSMS Round 5 findings.

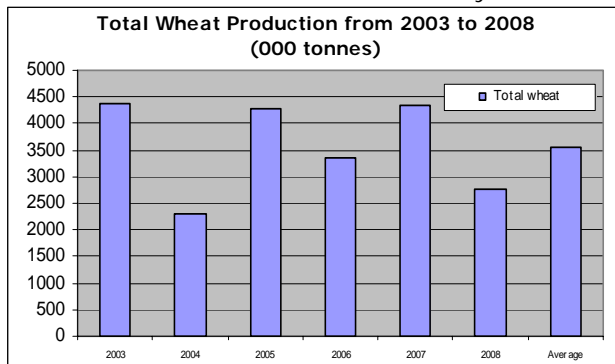
² The cut off points for the percentage of expenditure spent on food was set at:
 Good: <40 percent of expenditures spend on food
 Average: 40- 60 percent of expenditures spend on food
 Poor: > 70 percent of expenditures spend on food

4. 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 2008 is estimated at 2.75 million hectares. Production of cereals is estimated at 3.9 million tones, of which wheat is 2.8 million tones (72%). Compared to 2007, overall reduction in wheat production is estimated at 36%, with 68% reduction in rain-fed wheat and 20% in irrigated wheat. Thus far, 2008/2009 crop season is considered as poor year for cereal production³. (See Table 2)

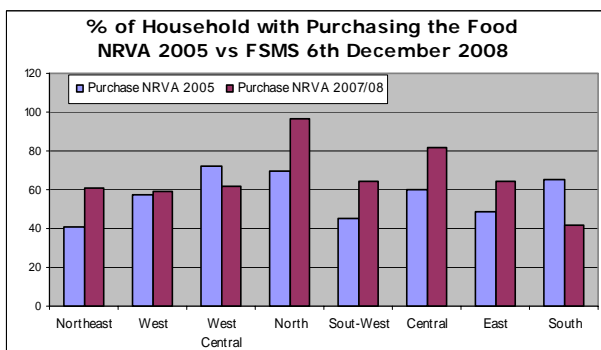
According to wheat production graph, 2003 and 2005 showed very good harvests, largely due to favorable weather conditions. In 2004 and 2006 production dipped considerably due to reduced rainfall in much of the country. Wheat production in 2007 was 33% higher than 2006. Due to reduced early spring rainfall and less winter snow in most of the country, cereals



production in 2008 is 22 percent lower than five years average.

5. Food Sources -

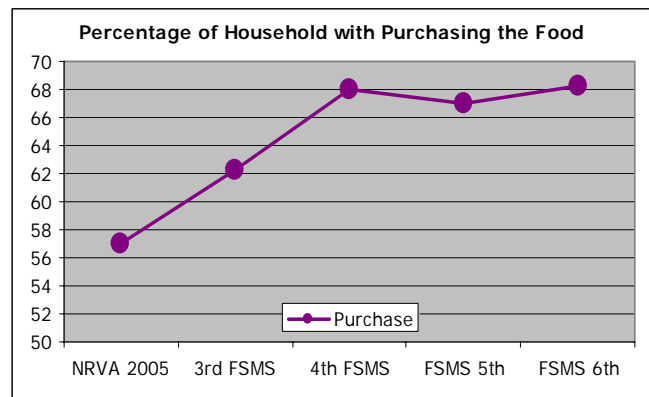
5.1 Purchase - The graph below indicates a significant increase in purchasing of food in the north, central and northeast part of the country,



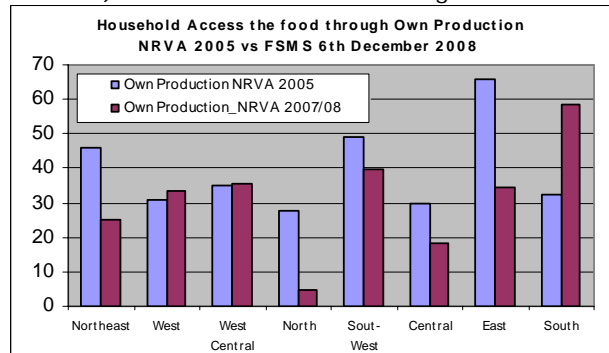
³ Source MAIL

whilst slight increase in the east and south west. In the west central and south there is a small decrease in the percentage of households getting their food through purchases. No changes have been observed in the remaining regions of the country (see map 4).

The trend data from the NRVA 2005 compared to NRVA 2007/2008 shows a 20% increase in household purchases. Purchases of food are similar to the 4th and 5th rounds of the FSMS, which was conducted in August 2007 and March/April 2008, respectively.

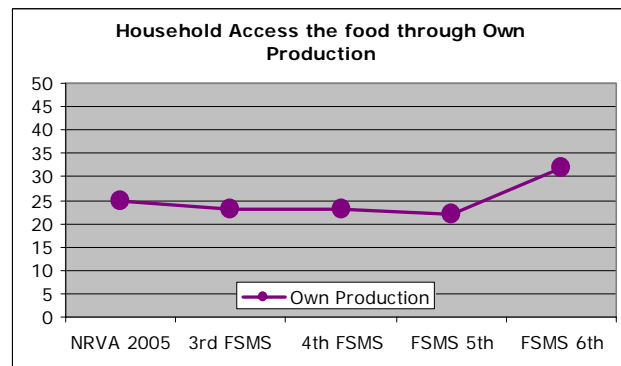


5.2 Own production - A sharp decline in own production is observed in the north, east and northeast parts of the country. A slight increase has been noticed in own production (main source of food) in south east and central regions.



The west central and west remained unchanged. Some improvement in own production has been noticed south part of the country.

The chart below shows 22% deterioration in the food access of the household through own

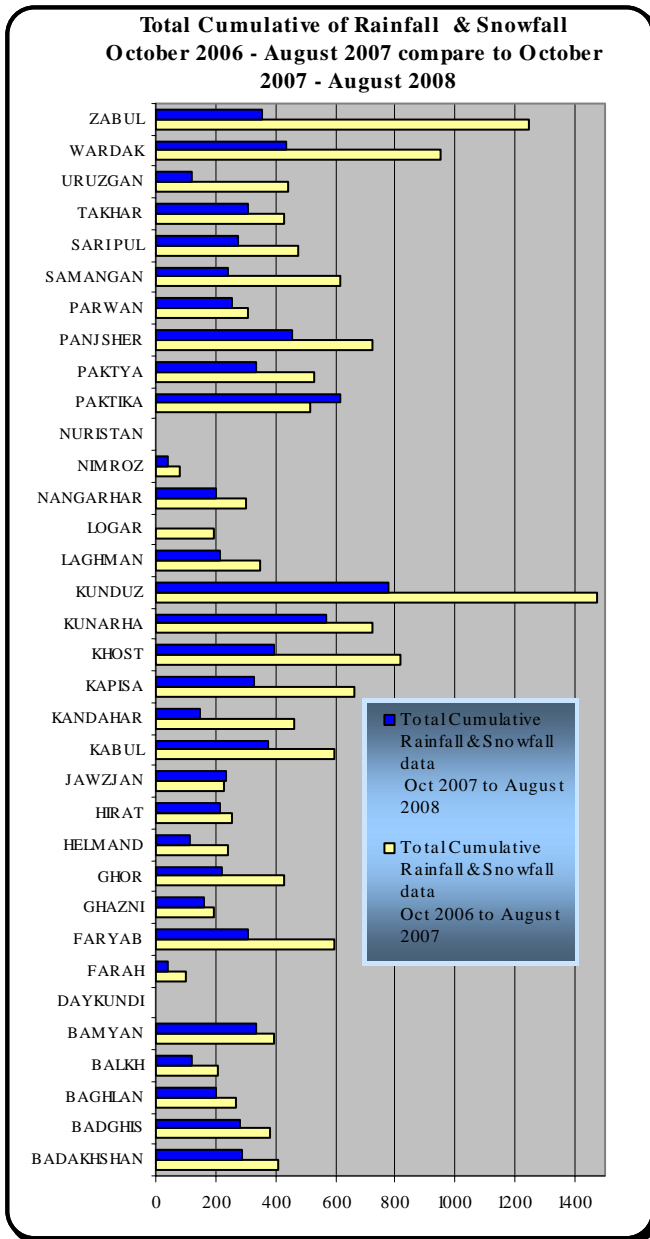


production compared the findings of the NRVA 2005 findings. (see map 4).

6. Rainfall and Snowfall – 4

The weather condition this year (2008) was generally adverse for the winter and spring growing crops. The accumulated rainfall was below normal in most parts of the country. Weather condition was also been generally unfavorable to the staple crops.

Comparison of rainfall data for the year (Oct 2007 to August 2008) shows, generally, the rainfall was lower compared to last year (Oct 2006 – August 2007) except Paktika and Jawzjan where the rainfall was slightly higher.



4 Source:
1 - Rainfall & Snowfall data (United States Geological Survey (USGS) - Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, & Afghan Meteorological Authority (AMA) of Ministry of Transport (MoT).
2 - Analysis by WFP VAM.

Overall, the cumulative rainfall and snowfall data from Oct 2007 to August 2008 was significantly lower than Oct 2006 – August 2007 in Kunduz, Zabul, Wardak, Khost, Kapisa, Kandahar, Faryab, Samangan, Sari pul, Panjsher and Uruzgan provinces. Whilst the cumulative rainfall recorded at the same time was slightly lower in Badghis, Balkh, Baghlan, Bamian, Farah, Kabul, Laghman, Nangarhar, Paktia and Parwan provinces. In the rest of the country it remained unchanged.

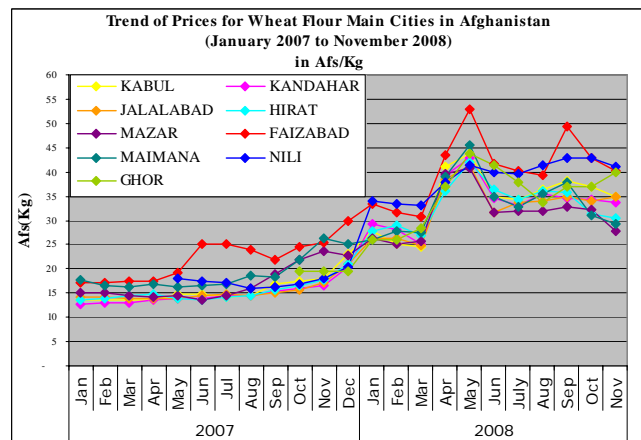
As the country's irrigation water depends to a large extent on the melting of snows that feed the river systems and irrigation schemes and which also provide necessary soil moisture in the rain-fed areas. The disastrous weather situation, especially a lack of snow resulted in a significant decline in the irrigated wheat yield. (see map 5)

7. Market Prices –

7.1 Inflation: In November 2008, general inflation based on Consumer Price Index (CPI) average stood at 42.3% compared to the same months last year. Food inflation is 60.1%, and non-food inflation at 14%.

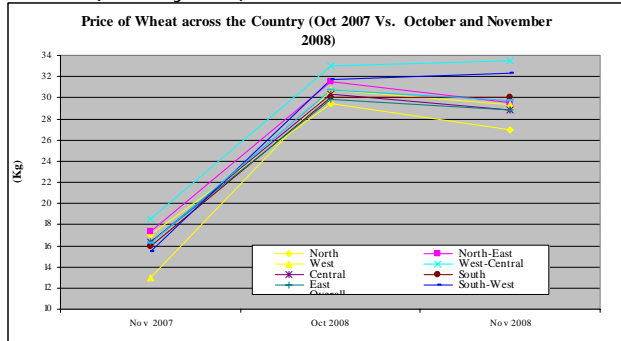
In November 2008 general inflation has decreased by 2.9% compare to October 2007.⁵

7.2 Large Urban Cities: The prices of wheat flour in most main urban markets have shown a slight decrease. Between September and November 2008 the average prices of wheat flour decreased by 4% in Nili, 8% in Ghor, 9% in Kabul, 15% in Mazar and Hirat, 19% in Faizabad and 23% in Maimana and Kandahar. However, despite the resumption of the government/WFP (Appeal) distribution of wheat to urban cities and 2008 harvest the prices of wheat still remain very high. For instance, compared to last year the same period (November 2007), the price has increased on average by 80%.



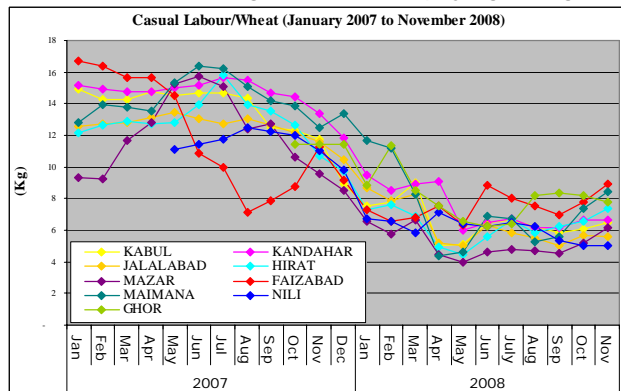
5 Sources Mail

Price of Wheat across the Country: The prices of wheat have slightly decreased in most provinces except in, Panjshir, Ghor, Badakhshan, Logar, Wardak, Paktia, Khost, Kunarah and Nimroz. Average price of wheat in November 2008 was Afs 29.7/kg, which is lower by 3.3% compared with the price wheat in October 2008. However, price of local wheat in November 2008 is still 83.3% higher than price in November 2007 (countrywide).



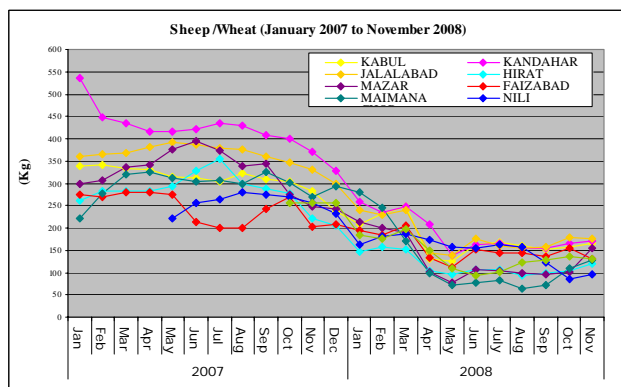
7.3 Terms of Trade (ToT):

7.3.1 The terms of trade between casual labor and wheat is a proxy for the purchasing power of those households that are mainly reliant on casual wage income. The terms of trade in all major markets have decreased by an average of 39 percent compare to November 2007. The decrease in Nili (54%), Jalalabad (52%) and Kandahar (50%) was the greatest; in Hirat, Faizabad, Mazar, Gardez, Maimana and Kabul the decrease ranged from 32 to 45 percent. Overall, this means that wage earners are paying a larger



share of their income for staple foods.

7.3.2 The terms of trade (ToT) between a sheep and kg of wheat have significantly decreased in



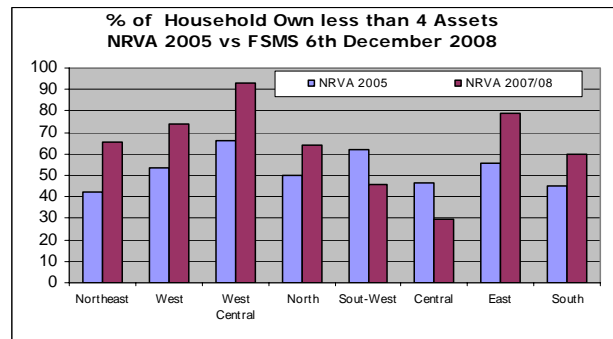
Nili (62.5), in Kandahar (54%), Maimana (52%), Ghor (49%) and Hirat and Jalalabad (46% and 47%). Other cities decrease 36% to 42%. On average in November 2008 if a household sell one sheep could only buy 141 kgs of wheat compared to selling of one sheep in November 2008 to buy 271 kg of wheat.

8. 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. Households were grouped into three categories accordingly to the number of assets that the households owned: 1 to 3 assets, 4 to 6 assets and more than 6 assets.

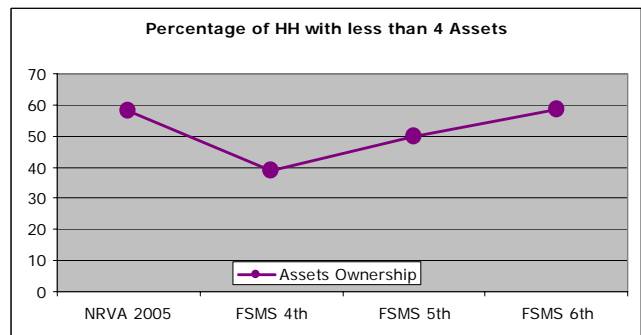
Typical households tend to have less than four assets from the list consisting of mattresses, radios, bicycles, livestock, etc.

The survey discovered that on average (64%) of households reported to have less than 4 assets.



In the west central parts of the country 90% of the households have less than four assets. In the remaining parts of the country only 30 to 75% of the households have less than 4 assets.

The graph shows a parallel with asset ownerships in the country in comparison to the 2005 NRVA findings. (See map 6)



9. Shocks and Coping strategy –

Unusual high food price was the most commonly reported shock experienced by sample households. Households had indicated the reduction of **income** for the family member as second most important shocks.

Drought was reported as shock by most households in the north part of the country.

Other significant shocks include **Loss or reduced employment for a household's member and harsh winter**.

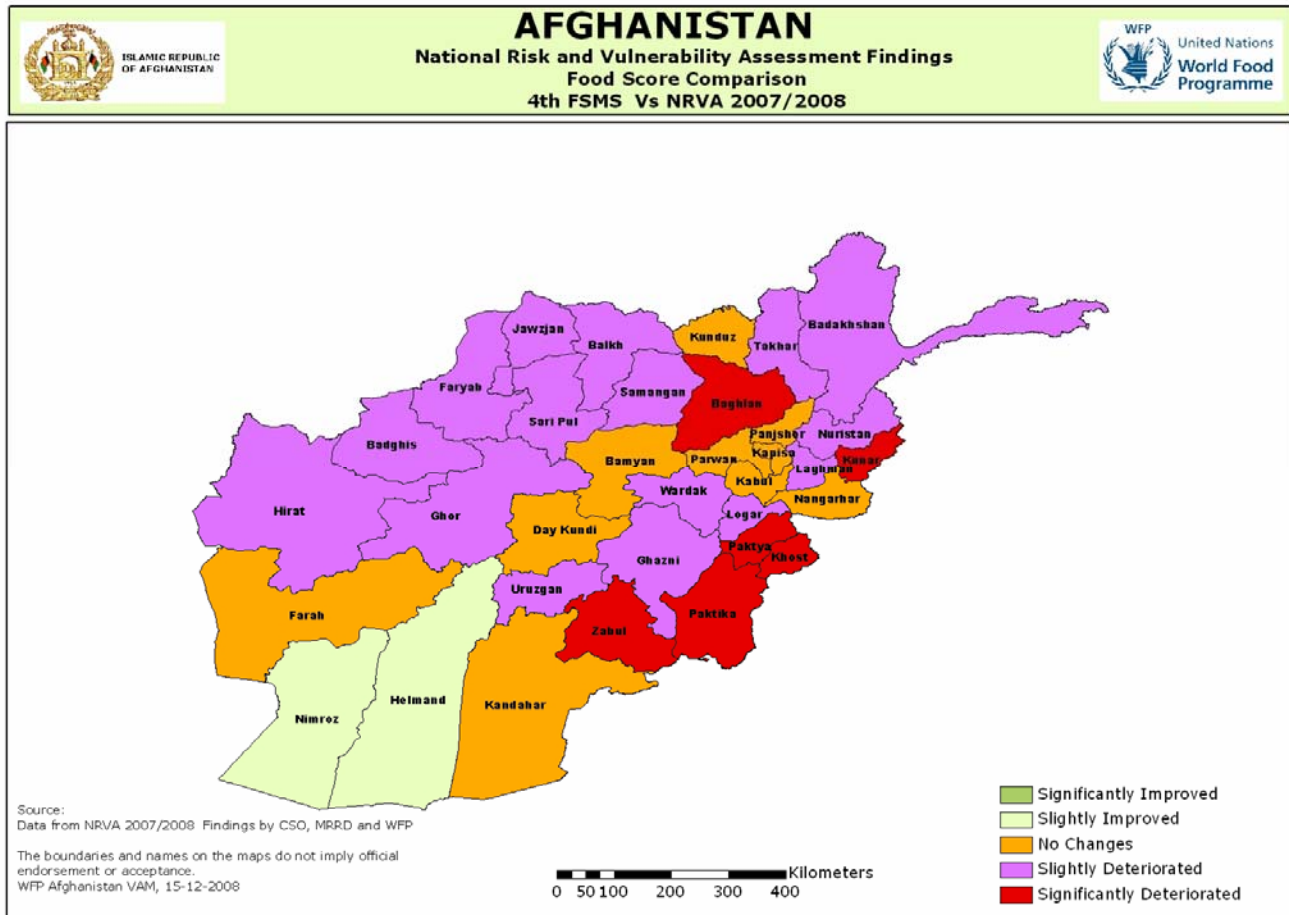
Households were then asked what measures they took in order to cope with the. 45% Households reported to have sold assets, 42% of the households mentioned loans from friends or purchasing of food on credit, reduced their dietary quality and quality to decrease spending was reported by 36% and using saving was reported by 34%.

Table 1 Overall finding:

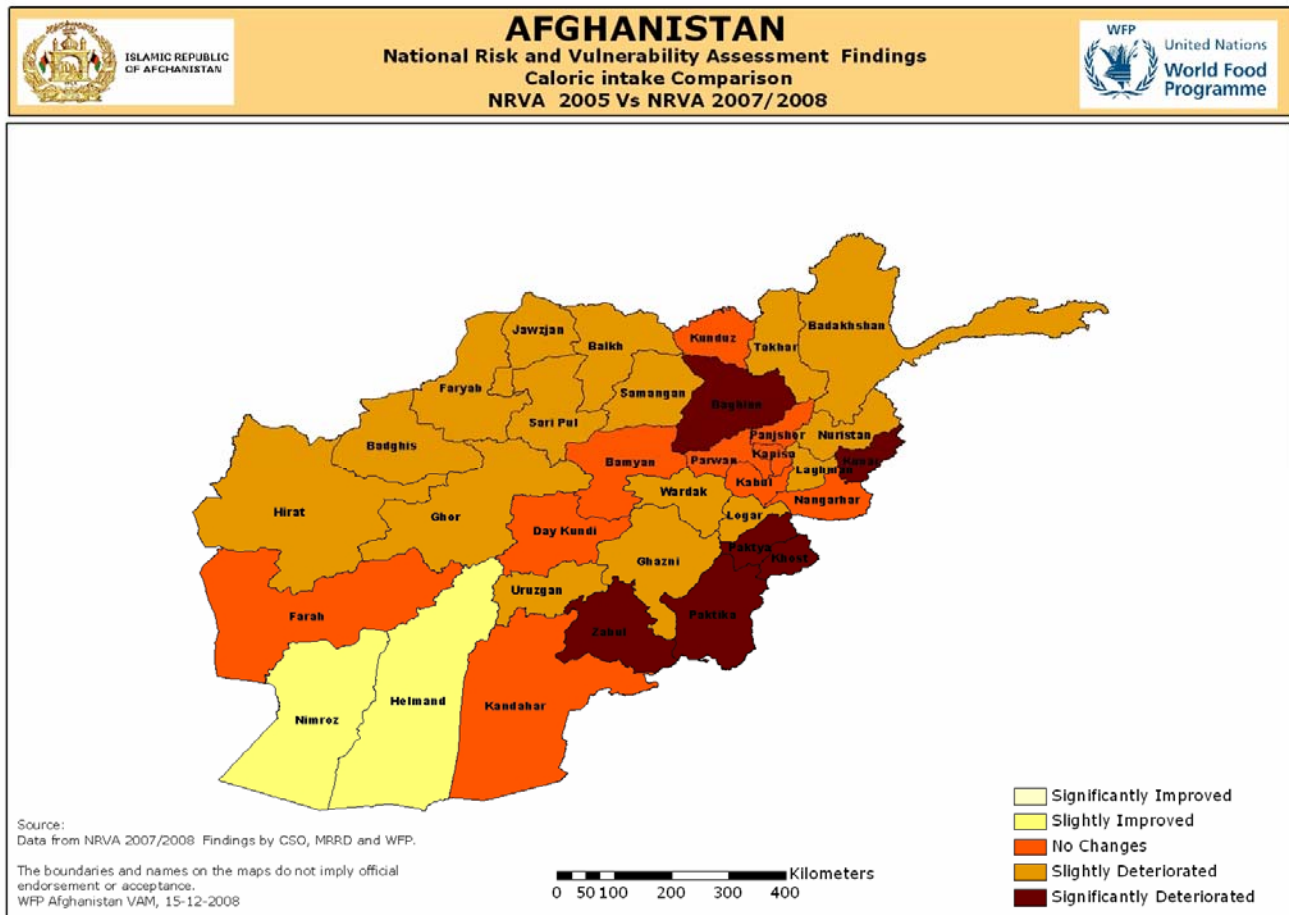
Province	Food Consumption	Purchase	Own Production	Expenditure	Caloric intake	Assets	Rainfall & Snowfall compression in % Oct 2006 to Aug 2007 vs. Oct 2007 to Aug 2008	Overall ranking
BADAKHSHAN	4	4	3	5	4	3	4	4
BADGHIS	4	4	3	5	3	5	4	4
BAGHLAN	5	4	3	4	3	5	4	3
BALKH	4	3	3	4	5	4	4	4
BAMYAN	3	3	2	5	4	3	3	3
DAIKINDI	3	4	3	5	3	2	3	3
FARAH	3	2	2	5	3	3	5	3
FARYAB	4	4	3	5	4	4	4	4
GHAZNI	4	4	2	3	4	4	3	3
GHOR	4	4	2	4	4	4	4	4
HILMAND	2	1	3	4	2	2	4	2
HIRAT	4	3	3	5	3	3	3	3
JAWZJAN	4	4	3	4	3	4	2	4
KABUL	3	4	3	3	4	3	4	3
KANDAHAR	3	3	3	4	3	3	5	3
KAPISA	3	4	4	5	4	3	5	4
KHOST	5	3	3	5	4	5	5	4
KUNARHA	5	5	5	5	4	5	4	4
KUNDUZ	3	3	3	5	3	5	4	4
LAGHMAN	4	3	3	4	3	2	5	3
LOGAR	4	3	3	5	3	2	5	4
NANGARHAR	3	3	3	5	3	3	5	3
NIMROZ	2	3	2	5	2	1	4	3
NURISTAN	4	3	2	3	2	5	3	3
PAKTIKA	5	2	2	5	3	4	2	3
PAKTYA	5	2	3	5	5	4	4	4
PANJSHER	3	4	3	3	4	5	4	3
PARWAN	3	3	3	4	3	2	3	3
SAMANGAN	4	4	4	4	4	1	5	4
SAR-I-POL	4	5	3	4	3	5	4	4
TAKHAR	4	4	4	5	3	3	4	4
URUZGAN	4	3	1	3	2	3	5	3
WARDAK	4	4	4	5	3	1	5	4
ZABUL	5	4	3	4	3	3	5	4

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

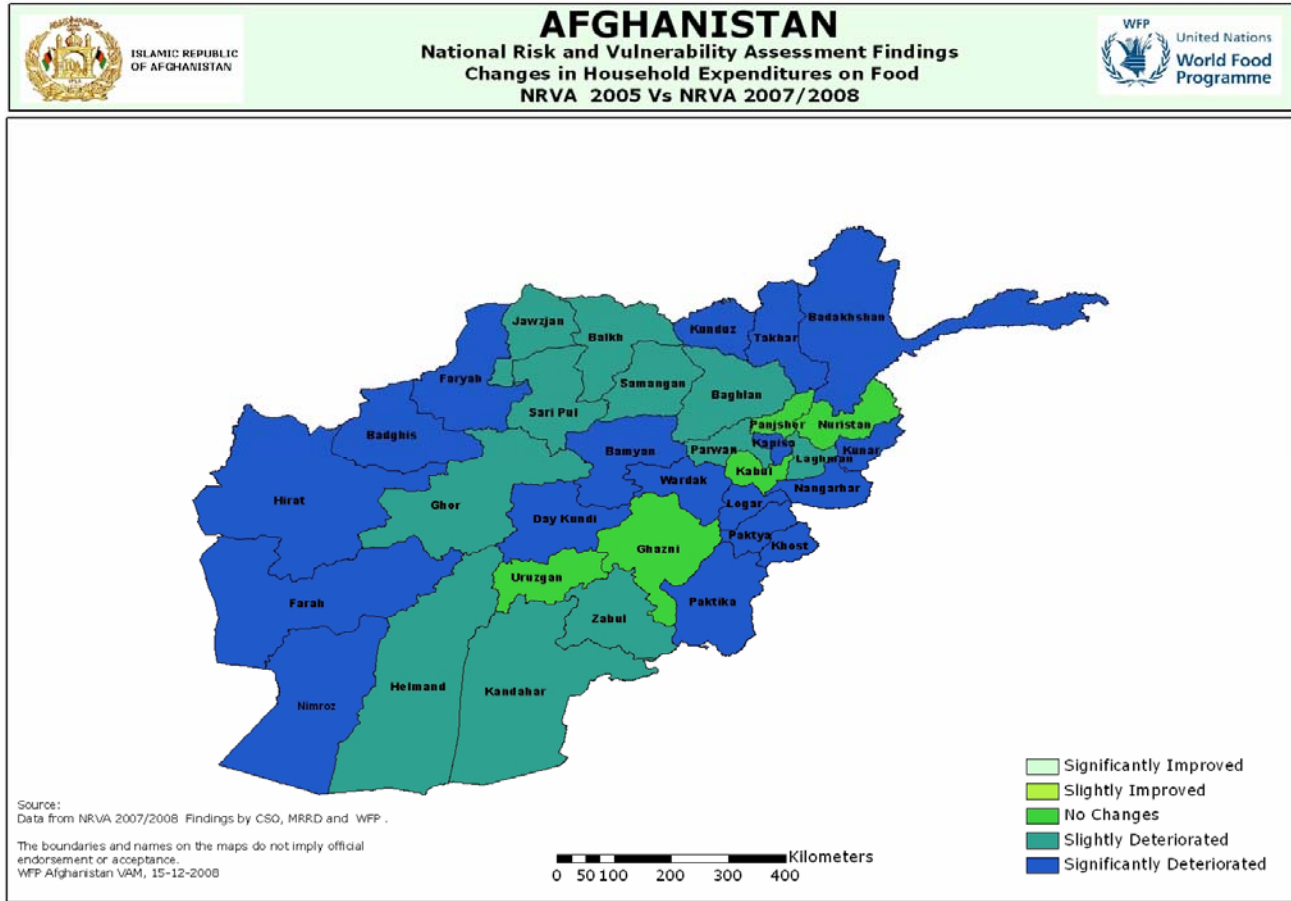
Map 1, Food Consumption Score



Map 2, Population consuming less than minimum calorie requirements



Map 3 Food Expenditure



Map 4, Sources of Food

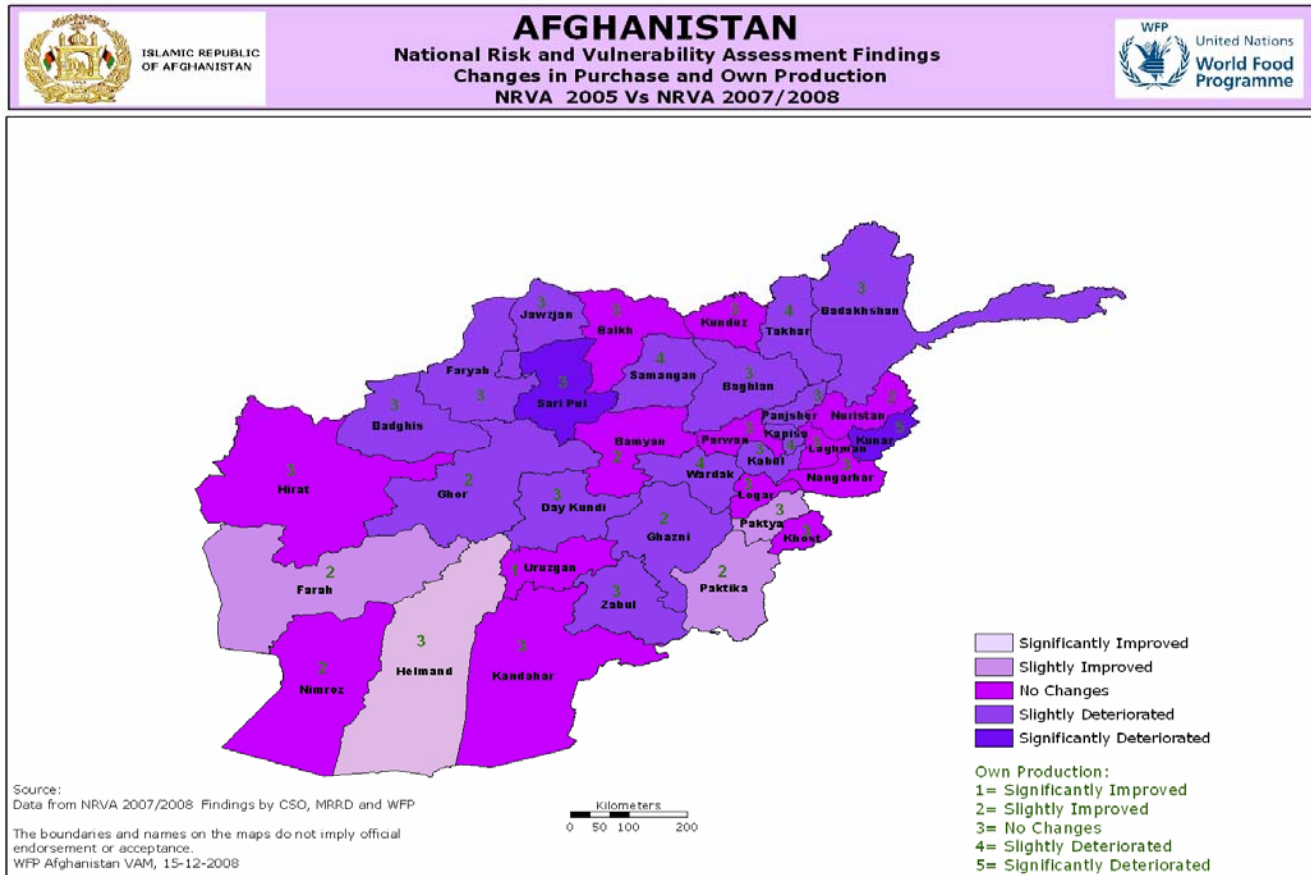


table 2 Cereal Availability/Balance

Area and Production of Wheat in 2008 by province (Preliminary Estimates; mid-May 2008)

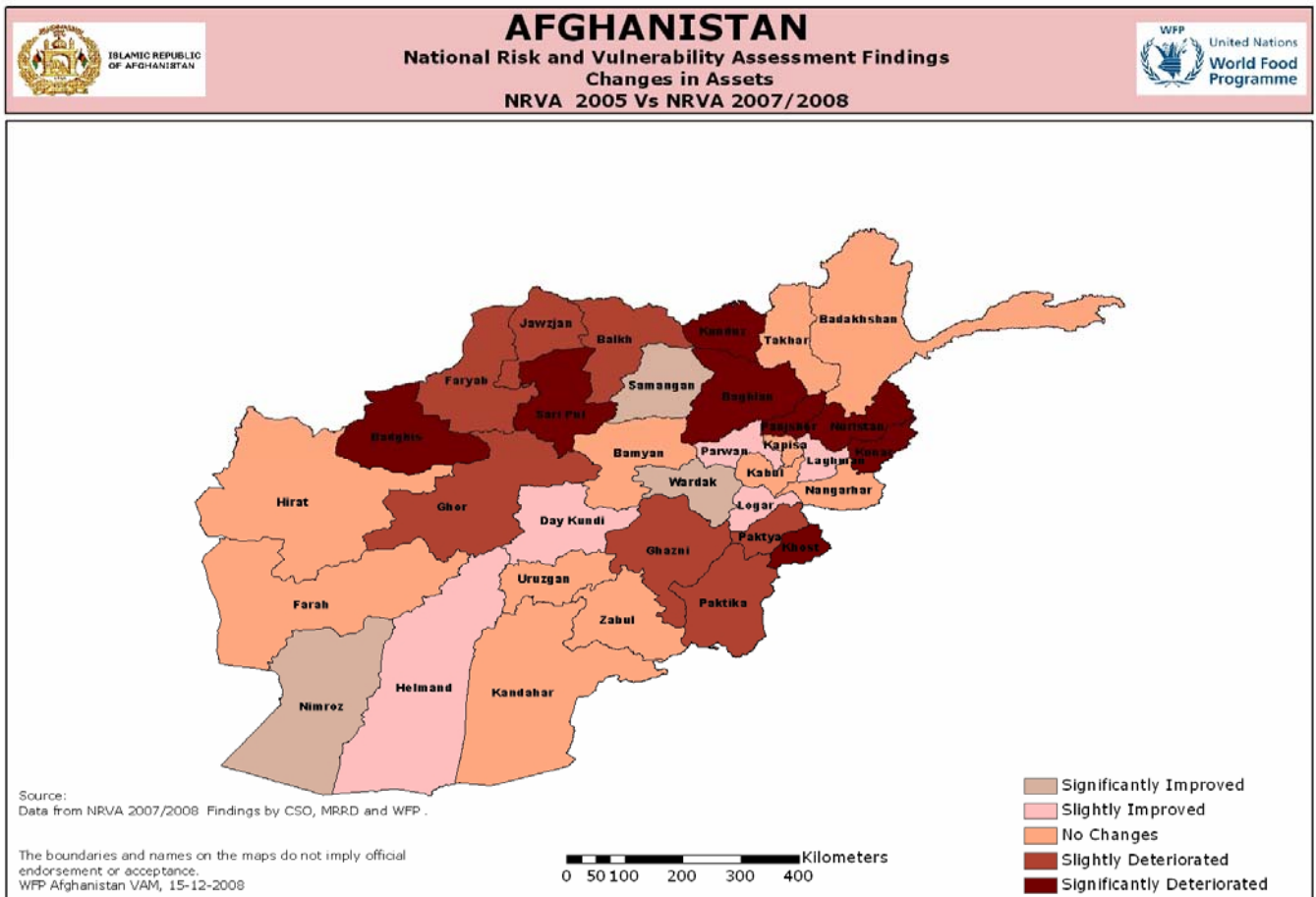
REGION/ Province	Irrigated Wheat			Rainfed Wheat			Total Wheat		
	Area	Yield	Production	Area	Yield	Production	Area	Yield	Production
	('000 ha)	(t/ha)	('000 tons)	('000 ha)	(t/ha)	('000 tons)	('000 ha)	(t/ha)	('000 tons)
NORTH	202	2.05	414	610	0.34	209	812	0.77	623
Faryab	39	2.02	79	171	0.41	70	210	0.71	149
Juzjan	45	2.02	91	97	0.51	49	142	0.99	140
Sar-i-Pul	23	2.10	48	106	0.26	28	129	0.59	76
Balkh	82	2.07	170	125	0.26	33	207	0.98	203
Samangan	13	1.98	26	111	0.26	29	124	0.44	55
NORTH-EAST	213	2.06	438	339	0.44	149	552	1.06	587
Bughlan	52	2.18	113	74	0.33	24	126	1.09	137
Kunduz	88	1.90	167	20	0.11	2	108	1.56	169
Takhar	46	2.24	103	129	0.27	35	175	0.79	138
Badakhshan	27	2.05	55	116	0.76	88	143	1.00	143
WEST	112	1.04	116	177	0.49	87	289	0.70	203
Herat	74	0.86	64	80	0.12	10	154	0.48	74
Farah	15	1.31	20	0	0.00		15	1.33	20
Badghis	23	1.40	32	97	0.79	77	120	0.91	109
WEST-CENTRAL	29	2.41	70	35	0.43	15	64	1.33	85
Ghor	17	2.25	38	29	0.43	12	46	1.09	50
Bamyan	12	2.64	32	6	0.51	3	18	1.94	35
CENTRAL	109	3.02	329	11	0.64	7	120	2.80	336
Kabul	21	2.94	62	1	0.51	1	22	2.86	63
Parwan	23	2.70	62	2	0.64	1	25	2.52	63
Panjsher	5	2.29	11	1	0.64	1	6	2.00	12
Kapisa	9	3.18	29	0	0.00		9	3.22	29
Logar	27	3.69	100	6	0.58	3	33	3.12	103
Wardak	24	2.70	65	1	0.51	1	25	2.64	66
SOUTH	84	2.94	247	3	0.67	2	87	2.86	249
Paktya	16	3.36	54	1	0.51	1	17	3.24	55
Paktika	14	2.80	39	1	0.51	1	15	2.67	40
Khost	13	2.10	27	0	0.00		13	2.08	27
Ghazni	41	3.10	127	1	0.43	0	42	3.02	127
EAST	70	2.74	192	8	0.25	2	78	2.49	194
Nangarhar	48	2.78	133	6	0.34	2	54	2.50	135
Laghman	13	2.70	35	1	0.34	0	14	2.50	35
Kunarha	8	2.62	21	0	0.00		8	2.63	21
Nooristan	1	2.85	3	1	0.43	0	2	1.50	3
SOUTH-WEST	172	2.83	486	10	0.40	4	182	2.69	490
Kandahar	42	2.58	108	1	0.43	0	43	2.51	108
Helmand	75	3.24	243	0	0.00		75	3.24	243
Zabul	10	3.00	30	1	0.43	0	11	2.73	30
Nimroz	14	2.23	31	1	0.43	0	15	2.07	31
Uruzgan	26	2.25	59	1	0.51	1	27	2.22	60
Daikunde	5	2.93	15	6	0.43	3	11	1.64	18
TOTAL	991	2.31	2,292	1,193	0.40	475	2,184	1.27	2,767

Source: FAAHM/MAIL

Map 5, Rainfall and Snowfall



Map 6, Assets



Map 7, Overall Finding NRVA 2005 VS. NRVA 2007/2008

