



Afghanistan Food Security Monitoring Bulletin (AFSMB)



Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) Unit of WFP and Vulnerability Analysis Unit of MRRD

Issued: February 2007

Overview

The information gathered related to the following indicators:

• Food Consumption Scores

• Food Expenditure

• Food Aid

• Cereal Availability/
Balance

• Coping Mechanisms

• Shocks

• Migration

• Food Source

• Rainfall and Snowfall

• Market Prices

• Water Security

Summary and Recommendations

- This food security monitoring exercise makes use of information from field visits to 38 districts plus a variety of secondary sources.
- A limited set of vulnerability indicators were selected to provide an update on the food security situation in those districts which were relatively vulnerable and fall within the food insecure category.
- In general terms, the food security situation of populations facing extreme food insecurity has not worsened since the last FSMS (May/June 2006). A slight improvement has even been observed in some areas. An exception is Faryab province where there is a high reliance on food aid. The same consistency applies to the populations determined to be at risk of food insecurity in the UN Joint Appeal of July 2007.
- The reasons for the stable food security situation include: impact of targeted food aid, increase of labour mitigation programmes, diversification of income sources and coping mechanisms used by the families.
- An estimated 1.9 million ¹ people are at risk and this will remain at least until the main 2007 harvest (May-July 2007).
- Additional food assistance is needed in Faryab, Samangan, and Kandahar provinces to help food insecure households through the March to May hunger period.
- Over the next few months attention should be given to:
 - a) Improve the selection criteria and the rotation of beneficiaries at local level.
 - b) Orient food for work programs closely with the cycle of labor demand for agricultural activities.
 - c) Strengthen the dialogue among the implementing partners and the 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:	Nanharhar, Laghman, Kunar, and Nuristan
Northeast:	Baglan, Kunduz, Takhar, and Badakshan



¹ Sources: United Nations and Government Joint Drought Appeals

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 in Rome.

Methodology

FSMS findings are based on the household questionnaire. Twelve household interviews were conducted in each community/village. The questionnaires included modules on:

1. Household member movements
2. Income activities
3. Programme participation
4. Water security
5. Household Shocks & Coping Strategies
6. Food Consumption
7. Expenditures.

Sampling

FSMS has been implemented in 38 districts interviewing 2,173 rural and 600 urban households. Districts were selected on the assumption that they will be sensitive to changes in the water or food security² situation. For the District selection, two data sets were used - kilocalorie consumption, dietary diversity findings of the National Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (NRVA) 2003 and the findings from the 2004 drought survey of 14 northern provinces conducted by Government³.

Within the selected districts, the same villages and households were visited as those surveyed in the 2005 NRVA to track changes in food security over time - where the NRVA represents the baseline/starting point.

Overall Findings,

Changes in the food security situation in Afghanistan (FSMS findings compared to NRVA 2005 findings) are described as follows (see map 10 and table 1):

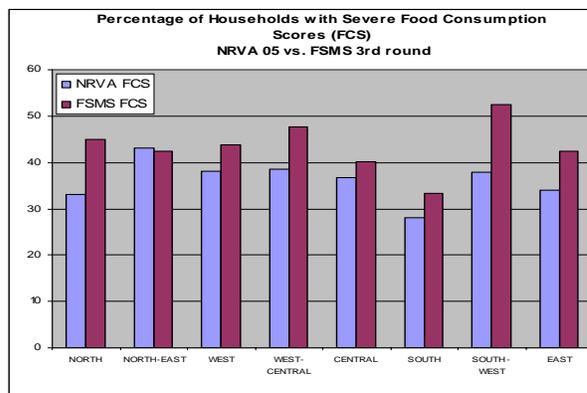
Category	Province
1 Significantly Improved	
2 Slightly Improved	Kapisa
3 No Changes	Bamyan, Hilmand, Kabul, Khost, Kunduz, Laghman, Logar, Nangarhar, Nimroz Paktika, Paktia, Parwan, Sar-i-pol and Wardak
4 Slightly Deteriorated	Badakhshan, Balkh, Baghlan, Badghis, Daikundi, Farah, Ghor, Hirat, Jawzjan, Kandahar, Kunar and Takhar
5 Significantly Deteriorated	Faryab and Samangon
6 No Data available	Ghazni, Panjsher, Nuristan, Urozgan and Zabul

² Visit <http://210.5.243.213/geonetwork/srv/en/vamsie.main> or contact Ahmadshah.Shahi@wfp.org, Wahida.azizi@wfp.org and Amanullah.assil@mrrd.gov.af for details

³ Ministries of Irrigation, Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, Rural Rehabilitation and Development, Urban Development and Planning and Interior.

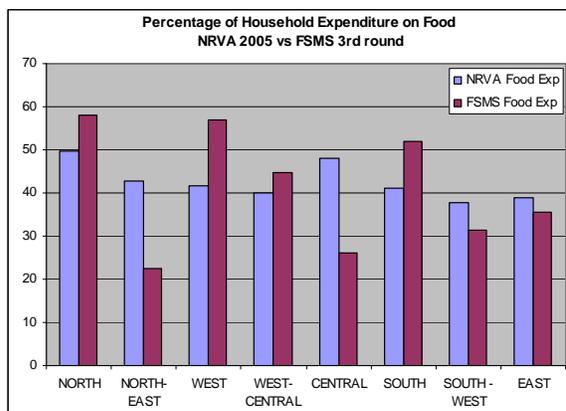
Main Findings,

• **Food consumption score**⁴: Findings indicate that the food consumption score in the southwest, north, west central and east of the country has significantly deteriorated (40 to 50% of the household) compared to the 2005 NRVA. In the south and central it has slightly deteriorated, whereas in the northeast it remains unchanged.



The food consumption score is slightly improved in the west (see map 1).

• **Food Expenditure**: Overall a greater proportion of household expenditure is on food items. Northeast and central region data shows a significant decrease (25%) in the percentage of household expenditure on food, while in the north, south and west families are spending



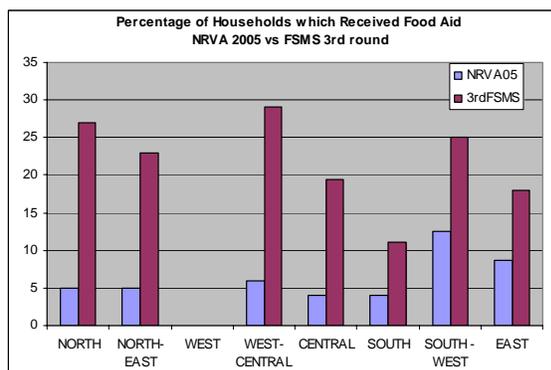
significantly higher (55%) ratios of their income on food (see map 2).

• **Food Aid**: Food aid programmes have been used throughout Afghanistan to help relieve the impact of natural disasters, food insecurity and poverty. They provide an alternative to cope with environmental and social shocks.

20% of households in the FSMS sample indicated that one or more household members worked on one or more food aid programmes (food for work, relief food distribution, school feeding, institutional feeding, etc).

⁴ **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

Of those that participated in such programmes, the average percent of participating men was 9%, women 6%, adults 2%, children 18%, women and children 10%, men and children 8% and every one 4% (see map 3).



• Cereal Availability/Balance

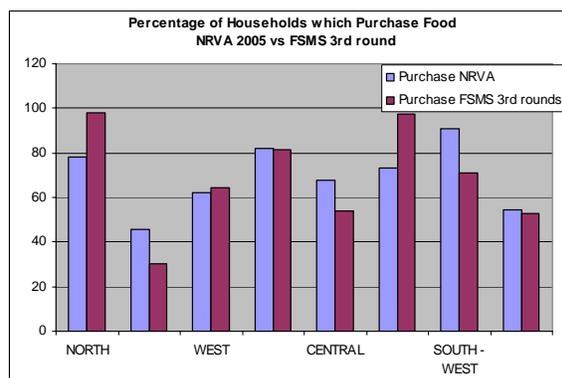
Cereal is the most important item in the Afghan diet. Afghanistan is deficit in cereal production even in a good agricultural year. About 60-80% of the cereal deficit in the country is covered through commercial import and the rest is either food aid or uncovered deficit. An effective agricultural sector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

According to current information from the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food (MAAHF), the total production of wheat at the national level is estimated at 3.36 million MT, reflecting an overall yield reduction of 22% compared to last year. The yield reduction is 55% for rain-fed wheat.

Due to unfavorable weather conditions in 2006, the domestic production of cereal (wheat, barley, maize and paddy) for 2006 was estimated at 4.45 million MT. With 4.66 million MT of domestic availability and 5.84 million MT of utilization, the import requirement of cereals for 2006 is about 1.3 million MT (including food aid)⁵ (see table 2).

• Food Sources:

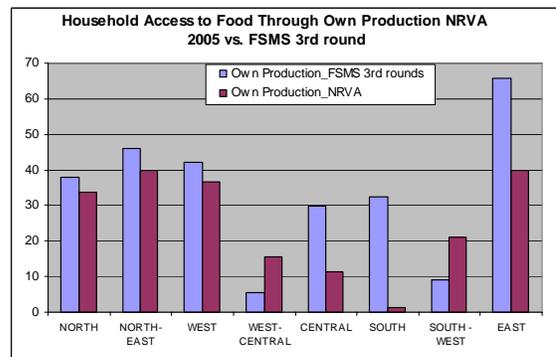
1. **Purchase** - The below graph indicates that



⁵ Source, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Marketing, Economics and Statistics Division (FAAHM) Kabul, 15 June 2006

there is a slight increase in purchasing of food items in the north and south regions, whilst in the northeast and central regions 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).

2. **Own production** - A sharp decline in own production is observed in the east, south and



central regions. The agricultural production has slightly deteriorated in the north, north east and west regions. A slight increase has been noticed in own production (main source of food) in the central and southwest regions (see map 4).

• **Shocks:** The covariate shocks occurred throughout the country after the summer harvests of 2006 which has directly impacted primary livelihood activities. Drought reduced the water availability for drinking, agricultural production, and pasturelands; late frosts and crop diseases affected production; there was also an increase in livestock disease.

More than 70% of households in the sample reported have experienced at least one covariate shock in the previous 3 months.

1. **Insecurity or violence:** was reported as a covariate shock by only 5% of the households in the sample. However, Hilmand (100%), Kandahar (20%), Khost (5%), and Kapisa (2%) reported much higher levels of insecurity or violence in the past 3 months.

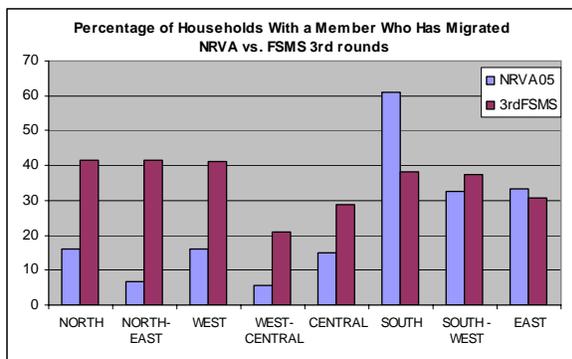
2. **Water quality/quantity:** problems exist throughout the country, most likely related to the effects of drought. Reduced water quality and quantity was the most frequently reported shock in the overall sample in all regions. Only the central region appears to be little impacted by water reductions.

3. **Flooding** was reported by sample households in Paktya (80%), Paktika (40%), Badghis (20%) and Khost (10%) provinces (see map 5).

- **Coping strategy:** The most commonly cited coping strategy used first by households when dealing with shocks was a reduction in diet (16%) quality or quantity, followed by a decrease in expenditures (15%). Other common coping strategies are use of savings or investments, loans from family/friends, migration to look for work, purchase of food on credit from traders, sale of female reproductive livestock and sale of household assets.

North region data reveals that people used coping strategies such as decrease in expenditures, loan from friends or purchasing of food on credit, whereas people in the southern region mortgaged house or land and reduced the dietary quality to decrease spending and to save money. Data from the central region showed an increase in child labour, expenditure and purchase on credit. In the west-central and the west households reported loans from family/friends. The northeast region reported reduction in quality of food and spent savings or investments (see map 6).

Migration: Important sources of income are remittances from household members who migrate seasonally or permanently, within Afghanistan or abroad. Overall, 19% of the households interviewed have

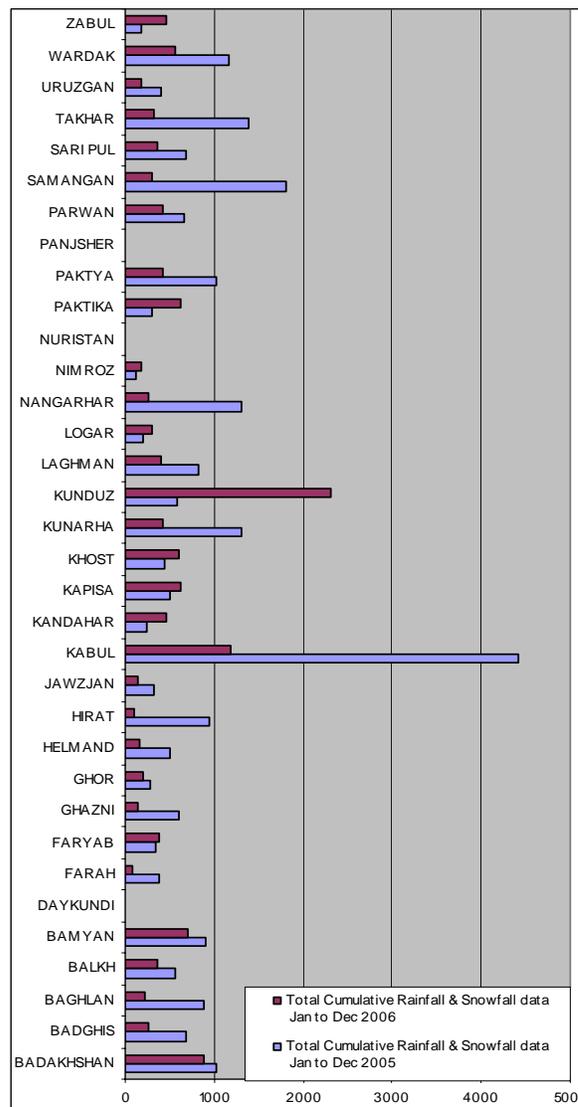


at least one migrant member. Economic migration has significantly increased in west, north and northwest, while it increased slightly in the central and west-central regions. There is also decrease in economic migration in the south in the last 3 months (see map 7).

- **Rainfall and Snowfall:** The rainfall for the current crop season started in the earlier part of September 2006. In October rainfall was better than in October 2005 in virtually all parts of the country. Rainfall in October was higher than the long term average in all parts of the country with the exception of Baglan, Jawzan and Samangan provinces. Rainfall received in the west, south-west and northwest regions are especially favorable this year.

In November rainfall was higher in virtually all regions except Bamyan, Kandahar and Ghor. In Kabul, Faryab and Ghazni snowfall started in November, reflecting overall good prospects in these areas in the following months.⁶

Overall, the cumulative rainfall and snowfall from January to December 2006 was lower than the long term average in most provinces. The cumulative rainfall recorded in January through December was higher than the average in 2005 in Kunduz, Paktika, Zabull, Kapisa and Khost provinces (see map 8).



⁶ Source: MAAHF/USGS Agromet project

• **Market Prices**

Compared to one year earlier, in January 2007 in the north, east, west and northeast, prices per MT of wheat increased (Mazar-i-sharif - 30%; Maimana - 30%; Jalalabad - 20%; and Hirat - 19%). The main reason for the increase of the price is due to inadequate rainfall and snowfall and the poor 2006 harvest.

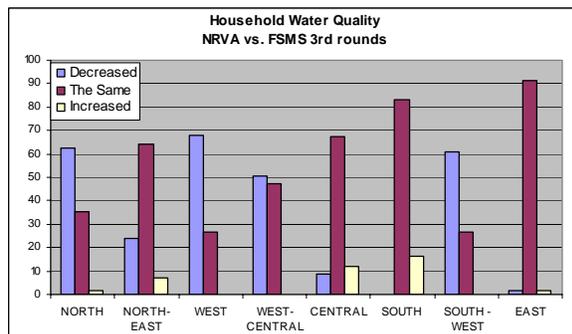
Area	Markets	Retail Wheat Prices January 2007 (US\$/MT)	Percent change from January 2006
South, East & Centre	Kandahar	230	-4%
	Jalalabad	240	+20%
	Kabul	260	+4%
	Gardez	240	NA
West & North	Hirat	250	+19%
	Maimana	300	+30%
	Mazar-I-Sharif	260	+30%
	Faizabad	300	+11%

NA = Data Not Available

• **Water security**

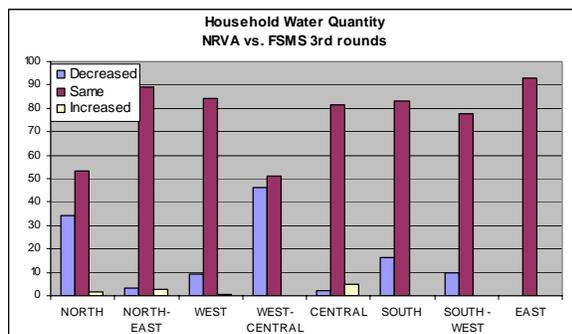
Households were asked whether the quantity or quality of drinking water available has changed in the last 3 months.

Drinking Water Quality: Afghanistan's water infrastructure is in ruins. Drinking water sources are either from wells or open streams which are often contaminated.



10% of households in the south and central regions indicated that water quality has improved, while 60 % of households in the north, west and southwest reported a significant decrease in the past three months.

Drinking Water Quantity: Water availability to all people, regardless of income or social status, is one of the most pressing challenges for



Afghanistan. This has become a serious problem over the past several years of varying degrees of drought.

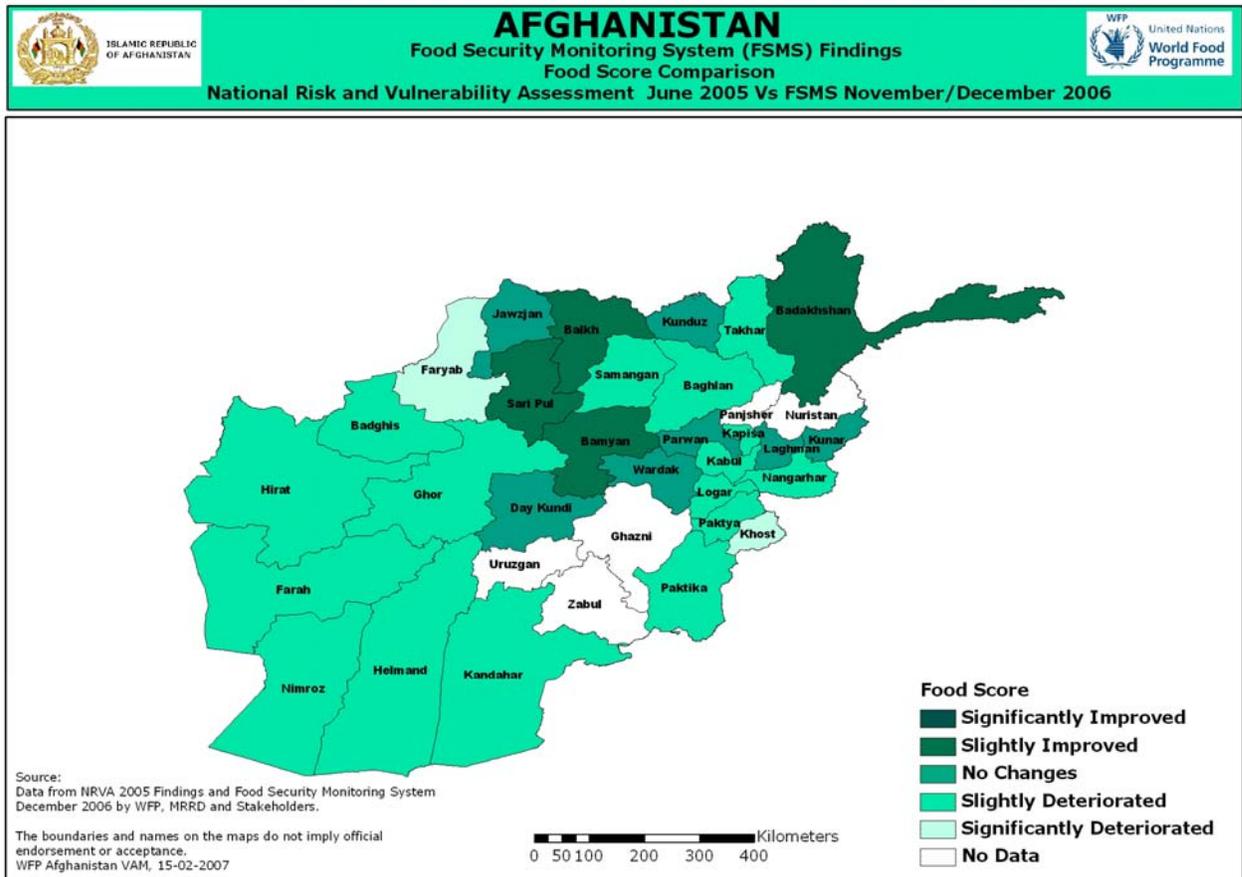
The chart below shows the changes in the quantity of water available in the past three months. A slight increase is noted in the west central and north regions. In the remaining regions quantities remain unchanged (see map 9).

Table 1 Overall finding:

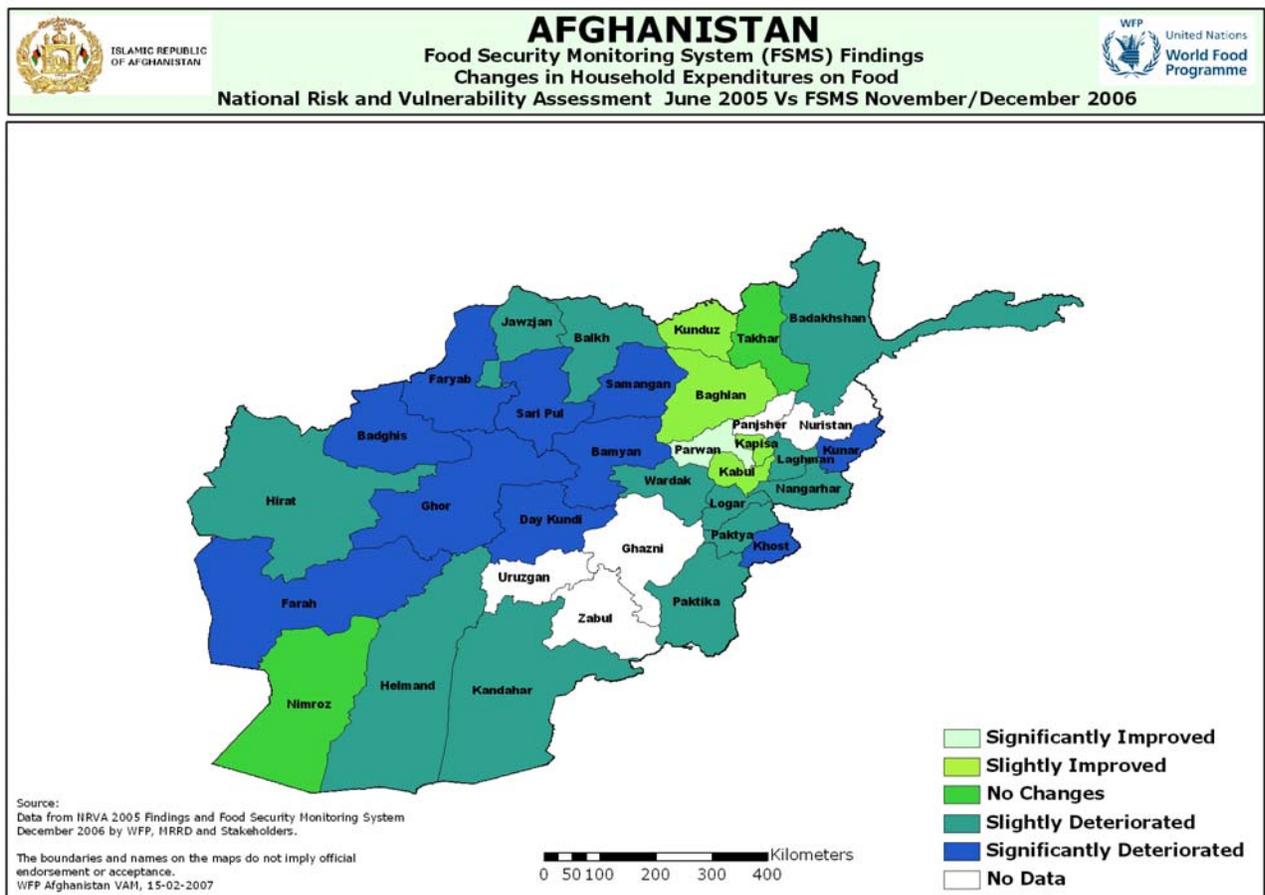
Provinces	Rainfall & Snowfall compression Jan to Dec 2005 vs. Jan to Dec 2006	Production of Wheat in 2005 vs. 2006	Migration	Food Aid	Expenditure	Drinking Water Quantity	Drinking Water Quality	Copping Strategies	Food Consumption Score	shocks	purchase	Own Production	overall ranking
BADAKHSH	4	5	4	2	4	5	3	4	2	4	3	3	4
BADGHIS	5	5	2	2	5	5	3	2	4	4	5	5	4
BAGHLAN	5	5	2	4	2	3	3	3	4	4	2	3	4
BALKH	4	5	2	3	4	3	3	5	2	5	3	3	4
BAMYAN	4	2	3	4	5	3	3	3	2	3	4	3	3
DAIKINDI	6	6	3	2	5	5	3	2	3	4	4	4	4
FARAH	5	3	1	3	5	5	3	3	4	3	4	2	4
FARYAB	2	5	4	5	5	5	4	5	5	5	3	3	5
GHAZNI	5	4	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
GHOR	4	4	2	2	5	5	5	4	4	5	2	4	4
HILMAND	5	4	5	3	4	3	3	3	4	3	3	3	3
HIRAT	3	4	3	3	4	3	3	3	4	3	3	3	4
JAWZJAN	5	5	1	4	4	4	3	5	3	5	3	3	4
KABUL	5	4	3	3	2	3	3	4	4	4	2	3	3
KANDAHAR	1	4	1	4	4	5	3	4	4	4	3	3	4
KAPISA	2	2	3	4	2	2	2	2	4	2	2	3	2
KHOST	2	4	3	3	5	3	3	2	5	2	5	5	3
KUNARHA	5	1	2	4	5	3	3	4	3	4	5	5	4
KUNDUZ	1	4	2	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
LAGHMAN	5	2	3	3	4	3	3	3	3	4	1	3	3
LOGAR	2	2	2	3	4	2	3	4	4	4	3	3	3
NANGARHA	5	2	4	5	4	2	3	3	4	3	3	4	3
NIMROZ	1	4	1	4	3	5	3	2	4	3	3	3	3
NURISTAN	6	1	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
PAKTIKA	1	4	5	3	4	3	3	3	4	3	4	3	3
PAKTYA	5	4	2	4	4	2	2	2	4	2	3	3	3
PANJSHER	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
PARWAN	4	4	2	3	1	3	3	5	3	5	1	4	3
SAMANGAN	3	5	3	2	5	5	3	4	4	2	2	5	5
SAR-I-PO	4	5	1	2	5	5	4	3	2	3	4	3	3
TAKHAR	5	5	2	4	4	3	3	4	4	5	2	3	4
URUZGAN	5	4	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
WARDAK	5	4	3	5	4		3	3	3	3	5	5	3
ZABUL	1	2	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6

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

Map 1, Food consumption score



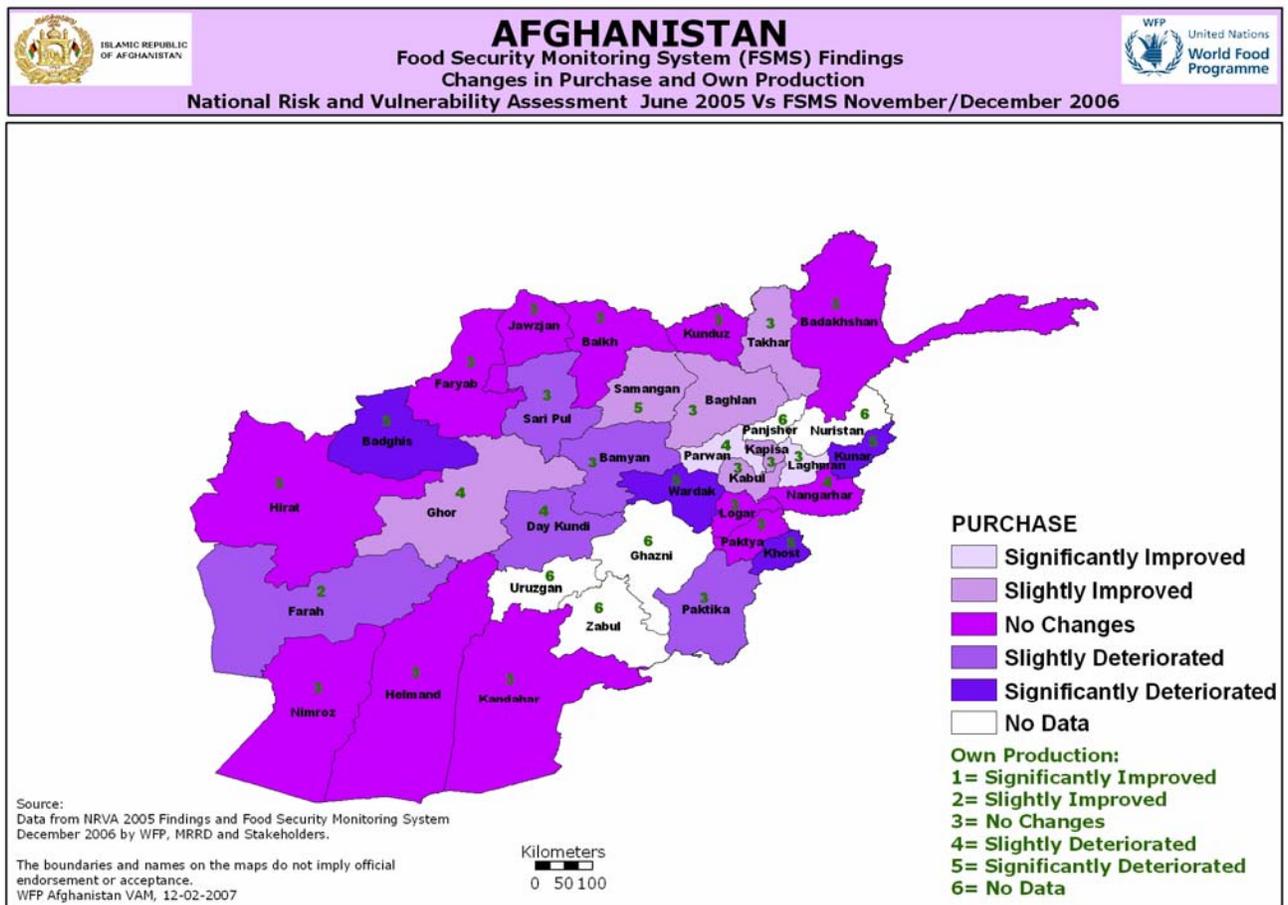
Map 2, Food Expenditure



Map 3. Food Aid



Map 4. Sources of Food

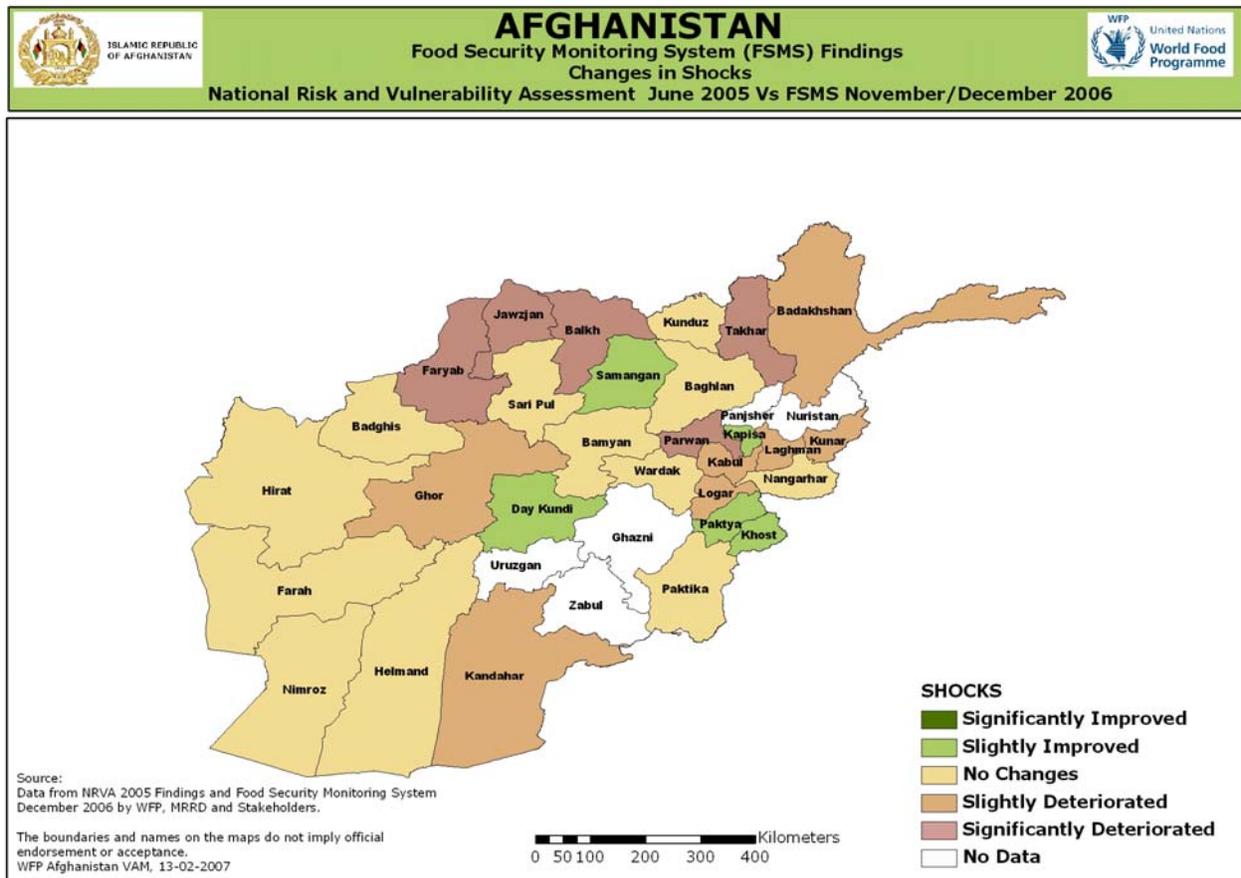


Wheat Balance in 2006 by Province (Updated Estimates Dec 2006)

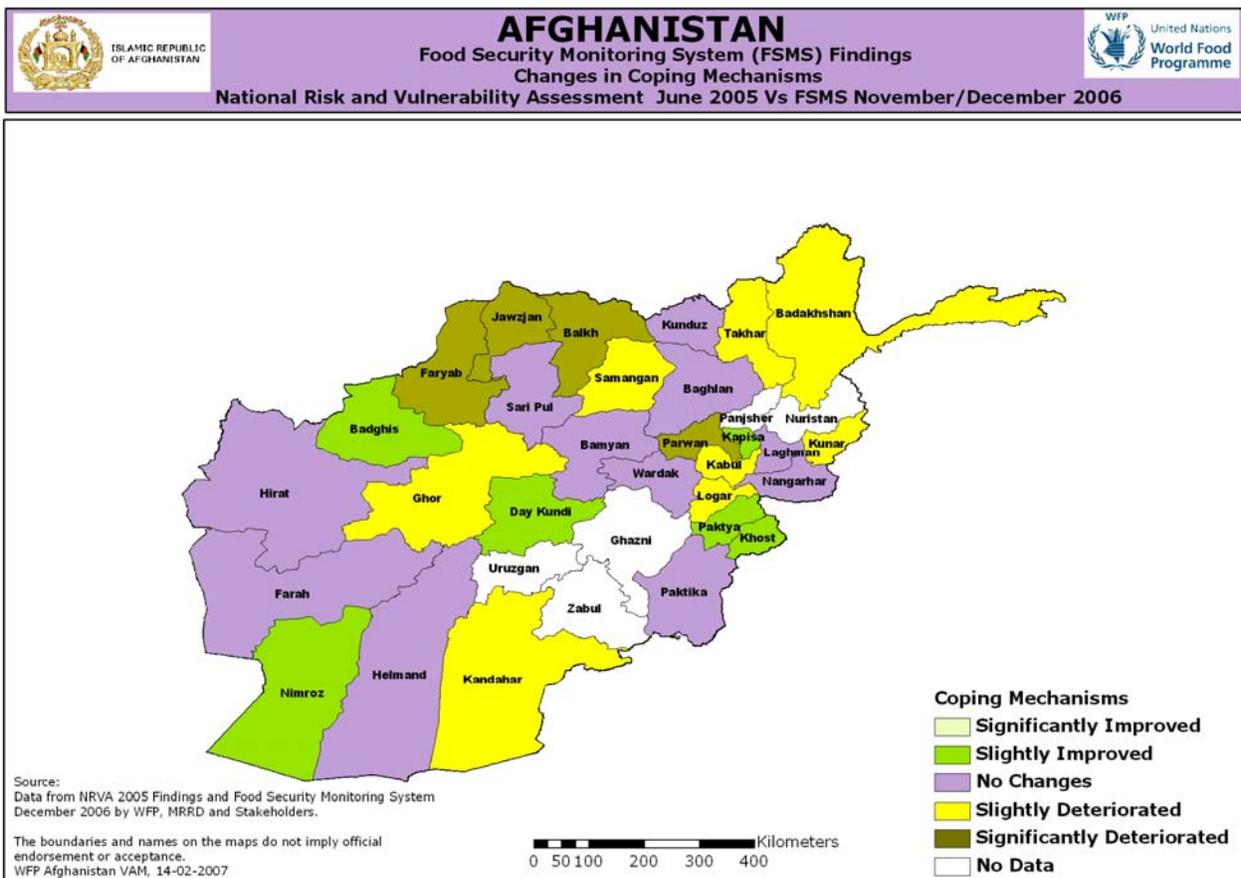
REGION/ Province	Settled population in 2006 (Projected) ('000)	Irrigated wheat ('000 ha.)	Rain- fed wheat ('000 ha.)	Wheat Production ('000 MT)	Required for human consumption (@160 kg/person) ('000 MT)	Required for Seed ('000 MT)	Post harvest losses ('000 MT)	Wheat Surplus or Deficit ('000 MT)
NORTH	3,226.0	237	671	899	516.1	97.1	135.0	150.8
Faryab	856.5	59	180	248	137.0	25.3	37.2	48.5
Juzjan	460.5	50	95	159	73.7	16.6	23.9	44.8
Sar-i-Pul	481.7	25	115	113	77.1	13.9	17.0	5.0
Balkh	1,093.3	87	154	279	174.9	28.0	41.9	34.2
Samangan	334.0	16	127	100	53.4	13.3	15.0	18.3
NORTH-EAST	3,290.1	229	329	740	526.4	67.5	111.1	35.0
Bughlan	777.0	54	74	179	124.3	15.6	26.9	12.2
Kunduz	849.1	100	20	251	135.9	19.2	37.7	58.2
Takhar	843.2	50	135	194	134.9	20.0	29.1	10.0
Badakhshan	820.8	25	100	116	131.3	12.7	17.4	-45.4
WEST	2,439.4	146	240	521	390.3	45.5	78.2	7.0
Heart	1,574.1	97	140	333	251.9	28.6	50.0	2.5
Farah	436.9	24	0	58	69.9	4.2	8.7	-24.8
Badghis	428.4	25	100	130	68.5	12.7	19.5	29.3
WEST-CENTRAL	983.4	39	47	109	157.3	10.7	16.4	-75.4
Ghor	597.1	22	39	69	95.5	7.1	10.4	-44.0
Bamyan	386.3	17	8	40	61.8	3.6	6.0	-31.4
CENTRAL	5,070.7	113	14	302	811.4	21.0	45.4	-575.8
Kabul	3,130.0	21	1	52	500.8	3.8	7.8	-460.4
Parwan	571.5	23	3	68	91.4	4.3	10.2	-37.9
Panjsher	132.9	6	2	20	21.3	1.2	3.0	-5.5
Kapisa	381.6	10	0	31	61.1	1.8	4.7	-36.6
Logar	338.7	26	7	61	54.2	5.1	9.2	-7.5
Wardak	516.0	27	1	70	82.6	4.8	10.5	-27.9
SOUTH	2,409.0	102	5	248	385.5	18.3	37.3	-193.1
Paktya	476.3	18	1	42	76.2	3.2	6.3	-43.7
Paktika	376.1	16	2	38	60.2	3.0	5.7	-30.9
Khost	496.6	12	0	29	79.5	2.1	4.4	-57.0
Ghazni	1,060.0	56	2	139	169.6	10.0	20.9	-61.5
EAST	2,188.5	76	1	178	350.2	13.4	26.8	-212.4
Nangarhar	1,285.8	52	0	114	205.7	9.1	17.1	-117.9
Laghman	385.4	14	0	39	61.7	2.5	5.9	-31.1
Kunarha	389.2	8	0	20	62.3	1.4	3.0	-46.7
Nooristan	128.1	2	1	5	20.5	0.4	0.8	-16.7
SOUTH-WEST	2,911.1	181	14	366	465.8	32.8	67.9	-200.5
Kandahar	1,009.1	39	2	94	161.5	7.0	14.1	-88.6
Helmand	797.0	80	0	202	127.5	14.0	30.3	30.2
Zabul	262.5	13	1	31	42.0	2.4	4.7	-18.1
Nimroz	141.2	14	1	34	22.6	2.5	5.1	3.8
Uruzgan	302.8	29	2	73	48.4	5.2	11.0	8.4
Daikonde	398.5	6	8	18	63.8	1.7	2.7	-50.2
Total for settled	22,518.2	1,123	1,321	3,363	3,603.0	306.2	504.5	-1,050.7
Total for unsettled	1,588.1	0	0	0	254.1	0	0	-254.1
Overall	24,106.3	1,123.0	1,321.0	3,363.0	3,857.1	306.2	504.5	-1,304.8

table 2 Cereal Availability/Balance

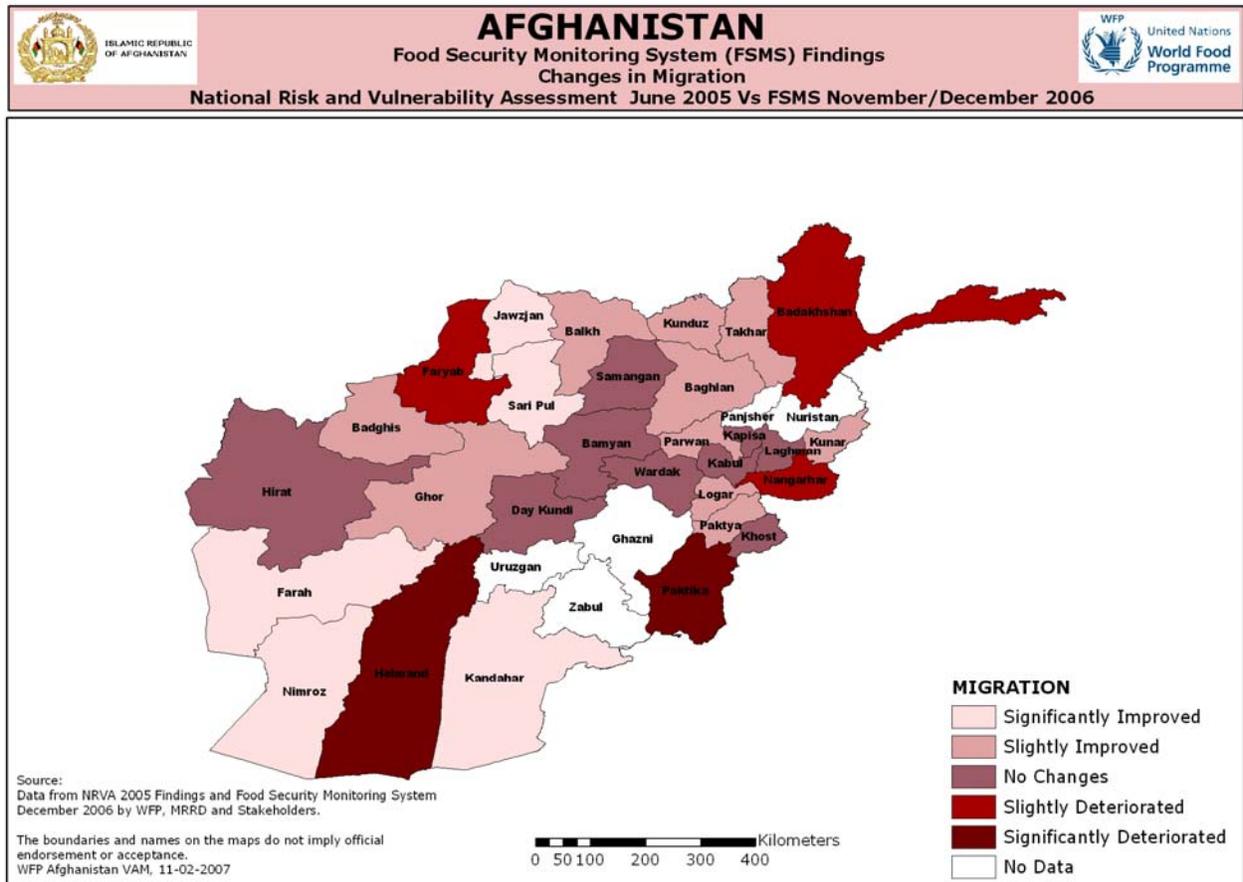
Map 5, Shocks



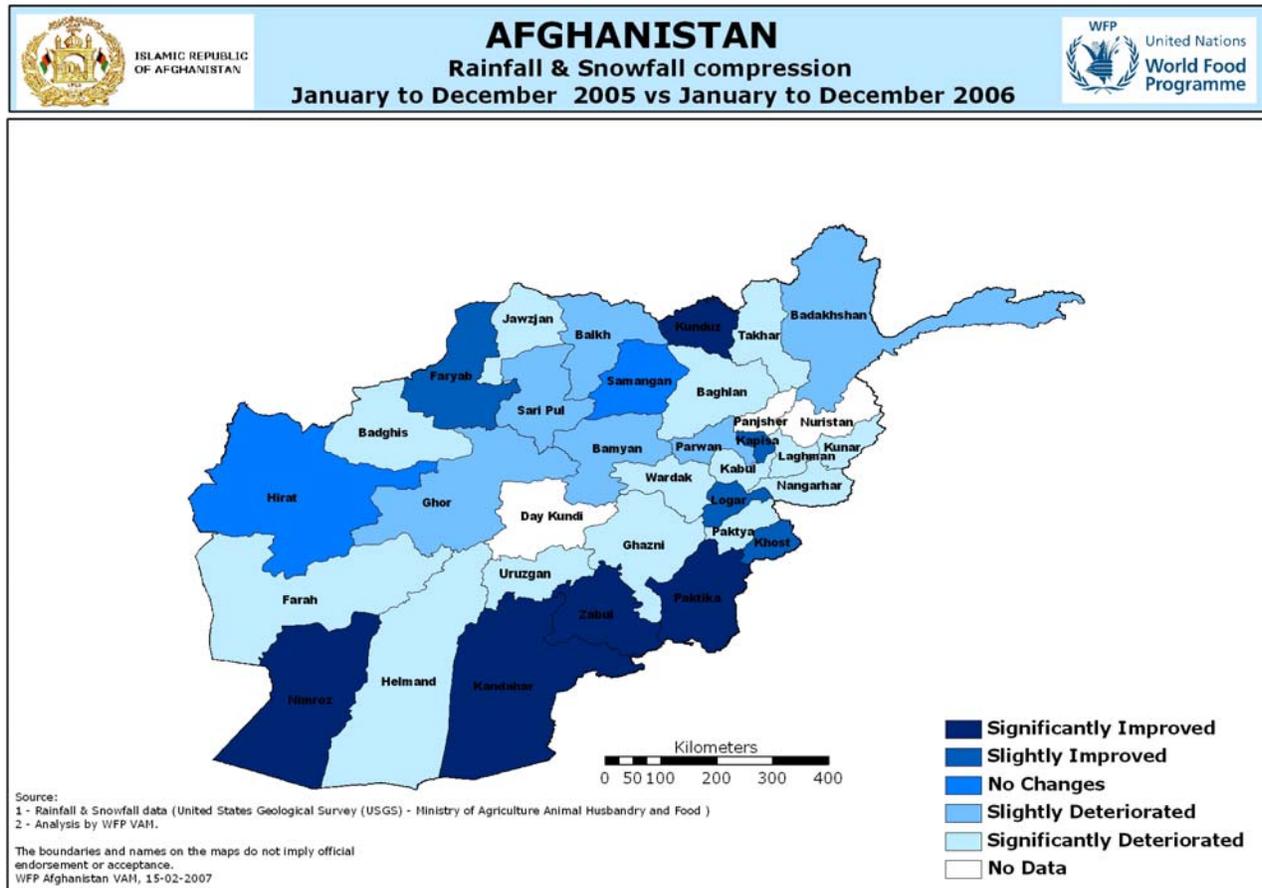
Map 6, Coping strategy

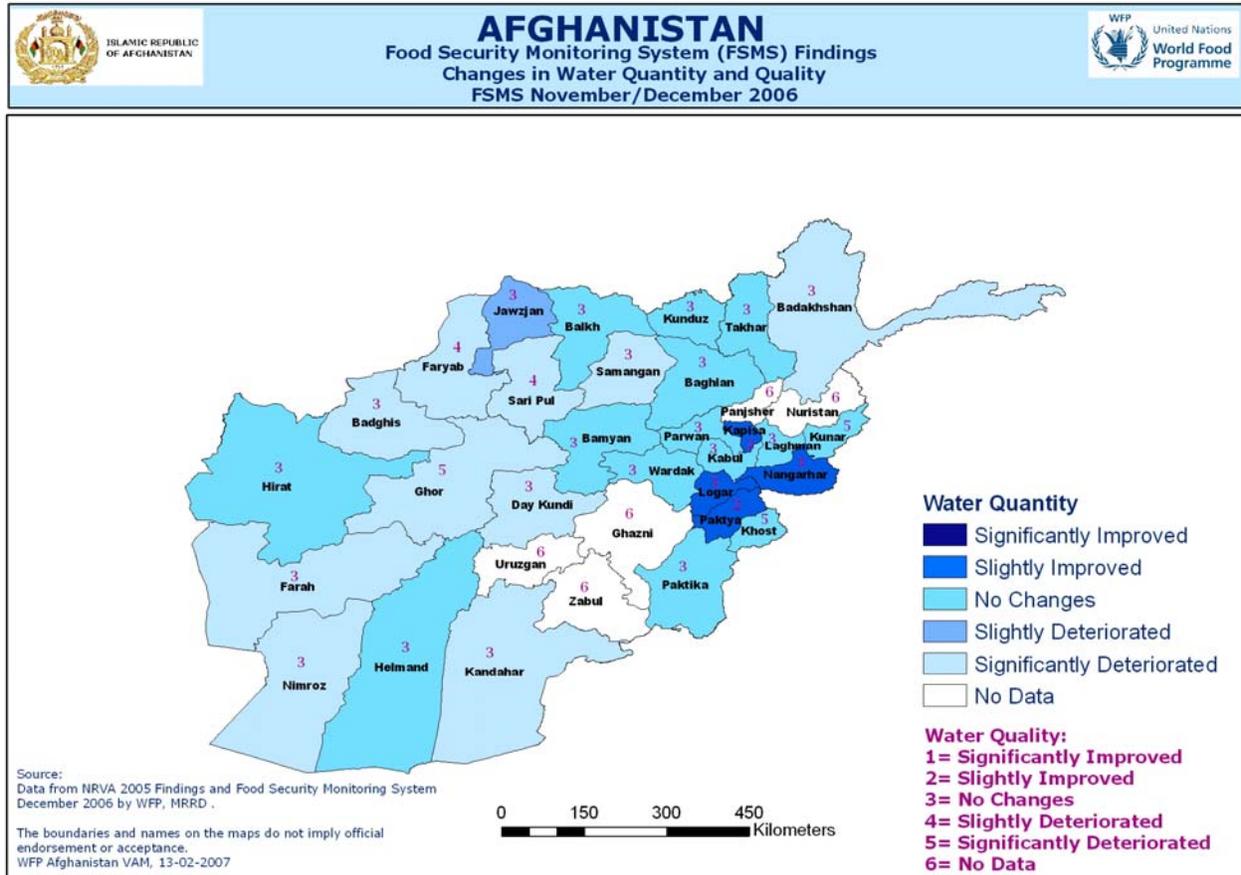


Map 7, Migration



Map 8, Rainfall and Snowfall





Map 10, Overall Finding NRVA VS. FSMS Second and third rounds

