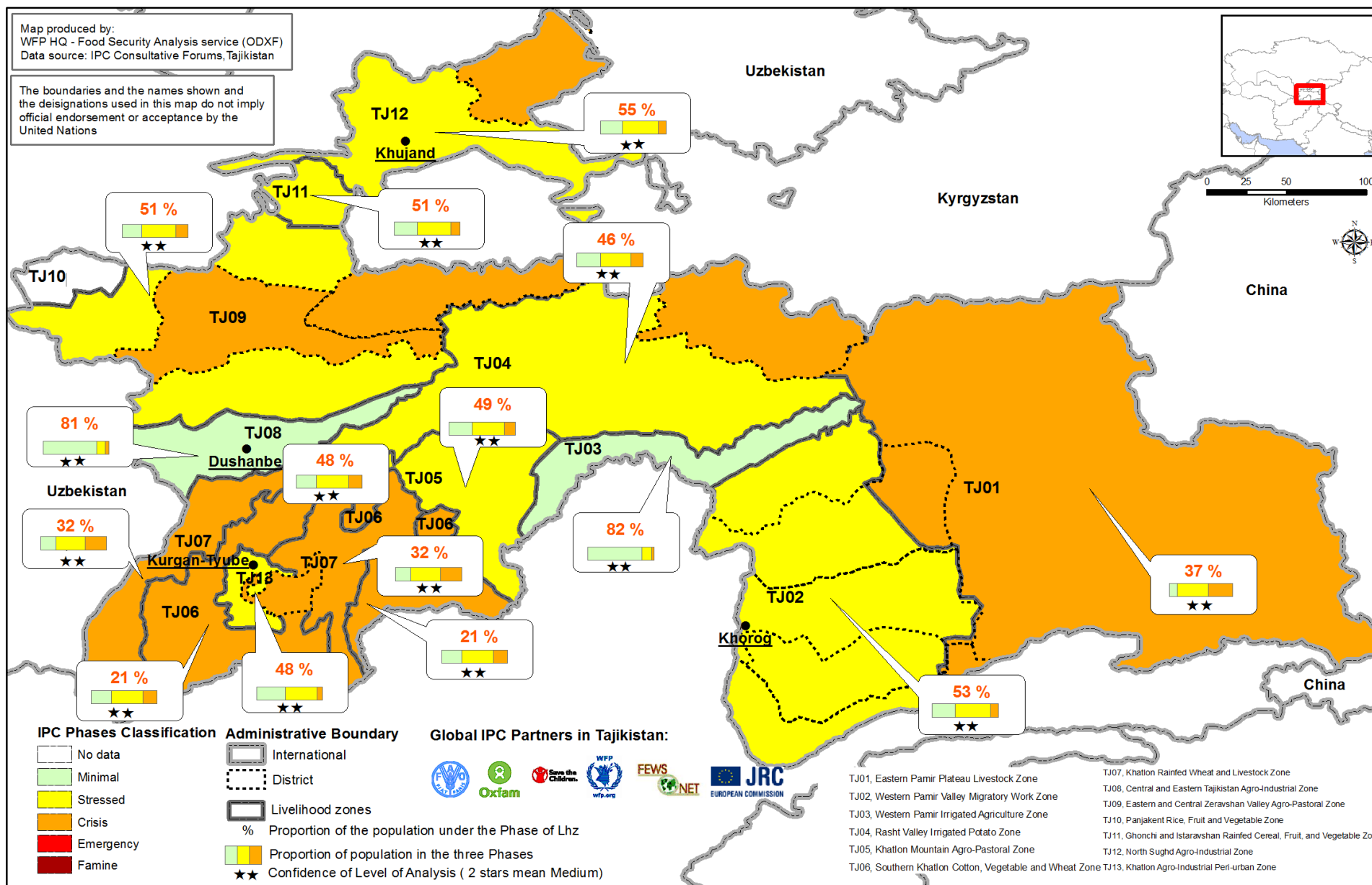


IPC Tajikistan: Food Security Classification Overview - January 2013





Summary of Findings, Methods, and Next Steps

Key Findings and Issues

Overall, the food security situation was analyzed in 13 livelihood zones for September–December 2012. About 870,277 people in 12 livelihood zones is classified in Phase 3- Crisis. Another 2,381,754 people are classified in Phase 2- Stressed and 2,055,402 in Phase 1- Minimal.

In general, the food security status of analyzed zones has relatively improved in the reporting months compared to the previous year thanks to increased remittances received, good rainfall and good cereal production reaching 1.2 million tons, by end 2012, by 12 percent higher than in last season. The availability of water and pasture has also increased in some parts of the country, leading to improvement in livestock productivity and value. Remittances also played a major role in many household' livelihoods and became the main source of income to meet their daily basic needs. The inflow of remittances in 2012 peaked at more than 3.5 billion USD, surpassing the 2011 record of 3.0 billion USD and accounting for almost half of the country's GDP.

Despite above facts that led to recovery from last year's prolong and extreme cold and in improvement of overall situation, the food insecure are not able to benefit from it due to low purchasing capacity, fewer harvest and low livestock asset holding. Several shocks, particularly high food fuel prices, lack of drinking and irrigation water in many areas, unavailability or high cost of fertilizers, and animal diseases, have contributed to acute food insecurity (stressed or crisis) for thousands of people. Higher wheat prices fuelled by the 2012 below normal harvest in Kazakhstan and high fuel prices further exacerbated the escalating situation, making the access difficult to the poorest of households who rely on the market for their larger proportion of food needs during lean period. Rural households with depleted food reserves and inadequate food consumption (quantity and quality), without other source of income rather than remittances and those residing in remote areas with difficult access to markets are extremely vulnerable during this time. The urban poor who have limited sources of income are also suffering for their basic needs due to poor purchasing power.

Physical utilization of food is also inadequate in part of analyzed areas as evidence shows low access to drinking water, precarious household health environment, and poor feeding practices. Limitation in power supply and high costs of coal and firewood are greatly contributing to the condition.

Methods, Process & Key Issues

In Tajikistan the IPC is conducted in a participatory manner since 2009, involving a wide range of food security stakeholders. Their goal is to produce an accurate picture of the food security situation in the country. Five consultations were held during this round bringing together around 120 specialists from all four regions of the country to examine data and research on health and nutrition, water and food access/availability, income and employment, crop yields, food consumption, coping strategies and other essential indicators for food security. The analyses were primarily done in small groups representing each livelihood zone using the IPC analysis worksheets and the outcomes presented to all TWG members. Plenary sessions were held to discuss issues arising and to standardize and harmonize the different data and information sources during the analyses.

The agreements on phase classification for the zones of the country are then reviewed by food security actors in Tajikistan and the IPC Global Support Unit. All evidence on the data analyzed is available in the annexes.

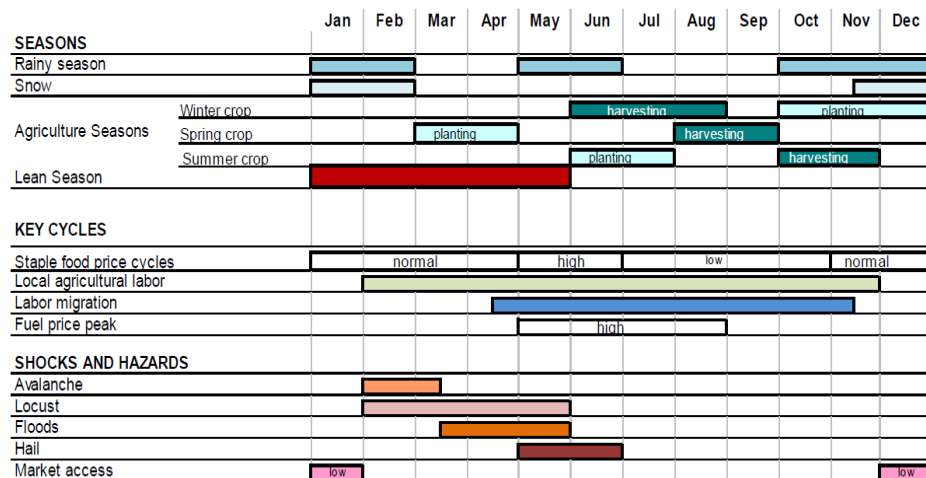
During this round the participants used the information from various secondary sources. The information was then organized according to IPC outcome indicators and contributing factors. Major sources of information included the State Statistics Agency under the President of Tajikistan, Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Departments of Health, Committee of Emergency Situation, WFP Food Security Monitoring System (FSMS), FEWS Net livelihood zone classification, UNDP Early warning System (MEWS) monthly reports, WFP market information, the World Bank poverty analysis report, the IFPRI, and periodic reports, etc.

The main challenges encountered during this round of IPC analysis were absence/ limitation of compatible information from reliable sources at district level, particularly on food consumption pattern, mortality and health; making final statements and conclusions from the available information, difficulty and not clearness on ways in estimation the percentages of the population at different food security phases in district level, new specialists joining the Regional IPC Technical Working Groups (TWG) needed better information on food security and IPC process; low participation of members of IPC TWG in Dushanbe in the regional consultations.



Food Security Seasonal Calendar and Monitoring Implications

National Seasonal Calendar



Indicator	When to monitor
Prices of cereals and pulses	Throughout
Water availability	Throughout
Consumption coping strategies	Monthly, quarterly
Terms of trade (wage and animal Vs food)	Throughout
Casual labor opportunities and rates	Monthly/Quarterly
Human and livestock disease	Throughout
Rainfall and season performance	Quarterly
Stability (security)	Throughout

Source: FewsNet, 2011

Recommendations for Next Steps

The next IPC consultations will take place in the second quarter of 2013 in Kurgan-Tyube (for Eastern part of Khatlon and Central part of DRD districts), Kulob, Khujand, Gharm and Khorog. Available data will be analyzed and the results will give an overview of the situation in Tajikistan for the harvest period.

The following are recommendations made IPC TWGs on the next steps:

- Maintaining of consistent and regular monitoring of the food security situation around the country, particularly in jamoat and district levels with particular attention to indicators that measure economic access to food and malnutrition.
- Leading role of the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) on taking over and further implementation of the full process sustained and encouraged.
- Provide training on food security, IPC process, monitoring and Evaluation of the situation and analysis of data for the IPC TWGs, especially for the new members to enable analysts with the necessary skills and knowledge to produce more relevant, credible and accessible food security information products that support decision-making.
- Travel visits for the Groups to other locations to participate in consultations and share the knowledge and technical experience.
- Continue the dialog with partners from UN, International and National Organizations, Government on sustainability of the IPC process and future implementation.
- Assessment of country analytical tools to capture population needs and to inform the priorities. Set up of real time monitoring evaluation system with partners;
- Better communication of IPC results amongst partners, forum members and regional and district authorities.

Contact for Further Information

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Population Table

Livelihood Zone	Total rural population	Phase 1		Phase 2		Phase 3		Phase 4		Phase 5		Phase 3 or higher	
		%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.
Livelihood Zone 1: Eastern Pamir Plateau Livestock Zone	16,893	12	2,027	47	7,940	37	6,250	4	676			41	6,926
Livelihood Zone 2: Western Pamir Valley Migratory Work Zone	144,637	35	50,623	53	76,658	12	17,356	-	0			12	17,356
Livelihood Zone 3: Western Pamir Irrigated Agriculture Zone	39,000	82	31,980	15	5,850	3	1,170	-	0			3	1,170
Livelihood Zone 4: Rasht Valley Irrigated Potato Zone	373,662	36	134,518	46	171,885	18	67,259	-	0			18	67,259
Livelihood Zone 5: Khatlon Mountain Agro-Pastoral Zone	193,583	35	67,754	49	94,856	16	30,973	-	0	0	0	16	30,973
Livelihood Zone 6: Southern Khatlon Cotton, Vegetable and Wheat Zone	1,069,500	31	331,545	48	513,360	21	224,595	-	0	0	0	21	224,595
Livelihood Zone 7: Khatlon Rain fed Wheat and Livestock Zone	541,191	23	124,474	45	243,536	32	173,181	-	0	0	0	32	173,181
Livelihood Zone 8: Central and Eastern Tajikistan Agro-Industrial Zone	662,327	81	536,485	13	86,103	6	39,740	-	0			6	39,740
Livelihood Zone 9: Eastern and Central Zeravshan Valley Agro-pastoral Zone	666,923	30	200,077	51	340,131	19	126,715	-	0			19	126,715
Livelihood Zone 10: Panjakent Rice, Fruit, and Vegetable Zone		No data											
Livelihood Zone 11: Ghonchi and Istaravshan Rainfed Cereal, Fruit, and Vegetable Zone	204,844	35	71,695	51	104,470	14	28,678	-	0			14	28,678
Livelihood Zone 12: North Sughd Agro-Industrial Zone	958,625	33	316,346	55	527,244	12	115,035	-	0			12	115,035
Livelihood Zone 13: Khatlon Agro-industrial Peri-urban Zone	436,924	43	187,877	48	209,724	9	39,323	-	0	0	0	9	39,323
Total:	5,308,109	39	2,055,402	45	2,381,754	16	870,277		676				870,952

Note: a) Livelihood Zone 10: Panjakent Rice, Fruit, and Vegetable Zone with an estimated total population of 86,265 is not part of this analysis

b) The population data is from 2010 census (Source: State Statistics Agency)

Table 1 : General Descriptions of IPC Acute Phases for Areas

	Phase	General Description
1	Minimal	More than four in five households are able to meet essential food and non-food needs without engaging in atypical, unsustainable strategies to access food and income, including any reliance on humanitarian assistance.
2	Stressed	Even with any humanitarian assistance at least one in five households in the area have the following or worse: Minimally adequate food consumption but are unable to afford some essential non-food expenditures without engaging in irreversible coping strategies
3	Crisis	Even with any humanitarian assistance at least one in five households in the area have the following or worse: Food consumption gaps with high or above usual acute malnutrition; OR Are marginally able to meet minimum food needs only with accelerated depletion of livelihood assets that will lead to food consumption gaps.
4	Emergency	Even with any humanitarian assistance at least one in five households in the area have the following or worse: Large food consumption gaps resulting in very high acute malnutrition and excess mortality; OR Extreme loss of livelihood assets that will lead to food consumption gaps in the short term.
5	Famine	Even with any humanitarian assistance, at least one in five households in the area have an extreme lack of food and other basic needs where starvation, death, and destitution are evident.



In Crisis: Eastern Pamir Plateau Livestock Zone (Livelihood Zone 1)

This pastoral and employment based zone is a sparsely populated mountainous zone and characterized as at risk of food insecurity in bad years. Unable to produce crops as in neighboring livelihood zones, households residing on the Eastern Pamir Plateau rely on wheat flour purchases to meet the annual food needs, supplementing the remainder from own livestock products, which mainly consisted of yaks, goats and sheep. The main source of income for most of the zone's population is sale of animals and animal products, as well as remittances from the family members working in Dushanbe, Russia and Kyrgyzstan.

This livelihood zone is classified in **Phase 3 - Crisis**. It is estimated that from total population of the zone *about 4 percent are in emergency, 37 percent are in Crisis and 35 percent Stressed acute food insecurity phases.*

In end of 2011 and beginning of 2012, the area was hit by harsh winter weather which affected the population heavily and caused significant livestock loss in Murghob district. Only 29 percent of population being officially employed and other 29 percent pensioners, many left for migration to support the families through remittances. The main income of other 18 percent comes from shepherding. Combination of remoteness, high transportation costs to district and regional market and poor market access resulted in frequent unfavorable terms of trade for food and livestock.

Physical access to markets and food is constrained by bad road conditions, lack of road networks and long distances. From October to May, if roads are not passable, households reduce their weekly market trips to monthly.

Access to food due to high prices remains a challenge for many poor families. Wheat grain and flour prices have gone up by 15 percent, meat by 10 percent, milk by 40 percent and rice by 37 percent in comparison to the same time last year, according to the Statistics department of Murgab district. Fuel prices remained as high as in 2011. It is expected the prices will further rise during coming month. The WFP Food Security Monitoring (FSMS) household survey, conducted in end November 2012 indicates that households spent around 87 percent of their income for purchasing food.

In April-May 2012 the IFRC assisted population of Murgab district with 179MT of food, consisted of wheat flour, vegetable oil, sugar and tea, to improve poor population's daily dietary and food intake. By end of 2012, WFP also provided 95MT of food assistance to around 700 households (3,500 beneficiaries), which were identified as most vulnerable by the last IPC forum in January 2012 (the area was classified in phase 4 by the IPC forum participants). The International Organization-CTED purchased 2,000 livestock from associations of farmers in Murghob district and distributed to 500 households who were badly affected by natural disasters and lost their livestock as a result of harsh winter of 2011/2012. The livestock specialists organized a training session focusing on fodder management with particular regard to the adequate storage of quality fodder and ensuring the nutritional balancing of livestock.

Although the situation estimated to have improved during summer time, food consumption is still remains inadequate for shocks affected households who are not able to diversify their diet, especially in the context of harsh winter and rising food prices.

Overall food consumption in this livelihood zone remains very poor with over 39 percent having poor or borderline food consumption, according to WFP FSMS household survey in November 2012. Households with poor or borderline food consumption patterns have limited access to protein sources, fruits, and vegetables. In general, food which is accessed by population is also inadequately utilized by at least a quarter of households due to limited access to clean water combined with poor cooking practices and household health environment.

Eating less food, assets stripping to meet food consumption and/or nonfood expenditures and labor migration continue to be the strategy of the poorest and indebted households.



Stressed: Western Pamir Valley Migratory Work Zone (Livelihood Zone 2)

This zone has some agricultural land with the majority of households engaged in the growing of wheat, potatoes, vegetables and fruits. Livestock ownership is limited and used for household consumption and are sold according to need. Government salaries, small businesses, limited livestock sales and remittances are considered the main sources of income. Remittances from Russia and seasonal labor in construction are among the most important sources of income as well. Some poor households receive pensions and government support.

This livelihood zone is classified in **Phase 2- Stressed** acute food insecurity from December 2012 to May 2013 with some remote Jamoats in **Phase 3- Crisis**.

The Committee of Emergency Situation (CoES) reported several cases of natural disasters (landslides, avalanches, heavy snows, etc.) in 2012 including in the last quarter of the year. Estimated losses from the shocks were equal to TJS3, 367,360 which is higher than in previous years. As a result of these disasters 67 houses, 99 km of roads, 33 km of water pipeline, 11 tons of potato reserves, 1,794 livestock, and 60 colony of bee honey were damaged/or fully destroyed.

Central market in Khorog was not functioning for some days in September and October 2012 when the area was facing civil unrest. Due to severe winter conditions and associated landslides or avalanches the access is also limited in lean period for households residing in eastern part of the zone. Physical access to markets and food is particularly constrained by bad road conditions because of heavy snow, avalanches, rock falls and long distances to remote Jamoats of Rushon (Basid, Savnob), Shughnon (Ver, Vankala), Ishkoshim (Zong, Vrang) and Roshtkala (Barvoz and Seji) districts. From December to April snowfall and the hazards associated with it, hinders commodities from entering these locations in addition to preventing households living in the more remote areas from reaching the market to sell and buy commodities or to barter. The areas closer to the Afghanistan border are influenced more by cross-border trade activities, although it was not functioning with full capacity in September and October because of tense security situation in the area.

Access to food due to high prices remains a main shock for major part of population as agriculture production is insufficient to meet of their food needs and wheat flour, rice, pasta and vegetable oil are imported from regional center and Dushanbe. Compared to the previous year food prices, including for wheat flour (a 50 kg bag costs TJS165.00 in district centres and up to TJS220.00 in remote Jamoats), potato (TJS3.00 per kg) and vegetable oil (TJS 12.00 per litre) milk (TJS5.00), increased significantly. Fuel prices also remain very high. The WFP FSMS household survey indicates that households spent around 82 percent of their income for purchasing food.

By end of 2012, WFP provided 63MT of food assistance to poor families (2,300 people) living in remote Jamoats of Rushon and Ishkoshim districts, which were identified as most food insecure areas by last IPC forum in Jan 2012.

Overall food consumption in this livelihood zone remains acceptable, but largely due to an access and availability factor (cash and products), rather than households making informed choices about consumption. Meal mainly consists of bread and milk with little oil, with limited access to fruits, and vegetables. In general, food accessed by population is also inadequately utilized by large proportion of poor population due to power limitations and poor cooking facilities.

Reduce the amount of food, relaying on less preferred and less expensive food and migration continue to be the strategy of the vulnerable and indebted households. With limited resources, poorer households rely heavily on credit for their market purchases and may also source small portions of their annual food needs from the support from relatives and neighbors.

The food security situation will deteriorate in this zone, particularly in remote Jamoats, due to difficult accessibility to markets during lean season, rising food prices, additional transport costs and reduced seasonal remittances expected in the next months.



Minimal: Western Pamir Irrigated Agriculture Zone (Livelihood Zone 3)

This small, mixed agriculture zone includes the southern half of Darvoz and northern three-quarters of Vanj districts, producing wheat and vegetables, fruit² and potatoes. In addition to crop production households also keep livestock, mostly goats and sheep but also turkeys and chickens. Crop sales are the primary source of income. Remittances, pensions, and livestock product sales, small businesses are additional income sources.

Overall the Livelihood zone is classified in **phase 1- Minimal**, with remote Jamoat of Yazgulom in Phase 2 – Stressed. It is estimated that more than 80 percent of the population are able to meet essential food and non-food needs without engaging in a typical, unsustainable strategies to access food and income, including any reliance on humanitarian assistance.

The Committee of Emergency Situation (CoES) reported on cases of natural disasters in 2012 including the last quarter of the year. Estimated losses from the earthquake, heavy snow and frequent avalanches in Darvoz were equal to TJS1,082,700, which is higher than in previous years. Floods brought damaged to the roads and infrastructure of Vanj district, with a total loss of TJS543,200. Crop pests and diseases were other shocks that were reported by Authorities and population.

Availability of food is not a limiting factor, although sometimes could a problem (in short duration) in remote villages due to heavy snows and recurrent natural disasters during winter and spring causing difficulty in transporting food stuff from district centers.

According to the district department of statistics in comparison with the last year in 2011/2012 season cereal production was better in Darvoz (3,535 tons), but decreased in Vanj district (1,987 tons). Better harvest of potato (18,851 tons), fruits (13,631 tons) and vegetables (8,466 tons) were reported by the Authorities in two regions.

Market function well, however access is limited during severe winter conditions and associated landslides or avalanches for households residing in eastern part of the zone. The areas closer to the Afghanistan border are influenced more by cross-border trade activities. Wheat flour, rice, pasta and vegetable oil are imported by traders from regional center and Dushanbe and sold to the zone population.

Access to food due to high prices remains a main shock for poor families, as this group is highly dependent on the market for a large proportion of their food needs. Compared to the previous year food prices, including for wheat flour, potato and vegetables, increased significantly. Fuel prices also remain very high. The high fuel prices also affected different sectors: irrigated agriculture, food and non-food prices and animal feed due to transport costs. High prices for fertilisers remain a challenge for poor families to collect better harvest from household plots.

According to data from FSMS household survey, overall food consumption in this livelihood zone remains acceptable, although population in remote areas are not able to diversify their diet, especially in the context of fewer income opportunities, harsh winter and rising food and fuel prices. Poor households are limited to finding additional work opportunities increase reliance on credit and reduce expenditure on non-essentials.

The food security situation may deteriorate in remote areas due to difficult accessibility to markets during lean period, decrease in agricultural activity and fewer seasonal remittances expected in the next months. Seasonal shocks, particularly avalanches, mudslides, localized floods may also negatively affect the situation by damaging productive agricultural lands and the infrastructure.



Stressed: Rasht Valley Irrigated Potato Zone (Livelihood Zone 4)

This large, mountainous, irrigated agriculture zone encompasses most jamoats³ in Tavildara, Tojikobod, Nurobod, Roghun and the northern Jamoats of Faizobod districts. Population produces mostly potatoes, fruit and vegetables, but also wheat. Households also keep cattle, sheep, goats and poultry. A minority of households produce honey for sale too.

Nearly all households in the zone rely on purchased food to meet the majority of the food needs. Harvest from potatoes and fruits are used for own consumption and for sale, sometimes traded for wheat, vegetables, oil and non-food essentials. Poor households also rely heavily on in-kind grain payments and livestock products. Crop and livestock sales and small business are another source of income followed by Government support.

Overall the Livelihood zone is classified in ***phase 2- Stressed*** from December 2012 to May 2013. It is estimated that 46 percent of population has minimally adequate food consumption, however are unable to afford some essential non-food expenditures without engaging in irreversible coping strategies. The district of Jergatol is classified in *Phase 3- Crisis*.

Wheat production was higher in the area compared to last two years, thanks to above average rainfall and accumulated precipitation, however the major part of the population tackle the deficit by purchases from the markets. According to the official statistics harvest for potato, fruits and vegetables also was higher than 2011/2012 season, providing better opportunity of access to food for many households.

In January 2013 wheat flour prices remained 18 percent and locally produced wheat flour by 12 percent higher compared to the same period of the last year. Prices for meat and rice increased by 19 percent and 6 percent respectively. Potato prices were up by 2 percent than January 2012.

By end of 2012, under Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) Project, WFP provided food assistance to nearly 7,500 households (37,500 beneficiaries) identified as most vulnerable by last IPC forum in January 2012. Around 1,000MT of food support was provided to poor families residing in Rasht, Tojikobod, Jergatol, Nurobod and Tavildara districts, including families which were affected by severe earthquake in the region. International Organizations-Mercy Corps and German Agro-action supported population and farmers on improvement of access to food and water.

Disaster prone Jamoats in Jergatol districts, particularly Kashot and Sartalo have been classified as in Crisis. Many households in these Jamoats were affected by the failure of potato harvest, which was resulted by poor availability of irrigation water and good quality seeds. A high number of families were not able to return the debts received from the local banks. Poor access to the central markets because of extensive snow and poor infrastructure and change in livelihoods after crop failure remain the main challenges for poor households.

Part of population facing difficulties in accessing food and water in Nurobod district, affected by an earthquake in Rasht and Tavildara districts (432 families were heavily affected, 74 houses fully destroyed) are other groups falling under this phase as well. Remittances remain one of the major sources of income for these families.

Overall food consumption in this livelihood zone remains acceptable, however many poor families are not able to diversify their diet, especially in the context of fewer income opportunities, harsh winter and rising food and fuel prices, including for coal. Similar to other livelihood zones, the poor initially purchase their food using credit, repaying their debts according to seasonal cash flow.

The food security situation may deteriorate in remote areas due to difficult accessibility to markets, decrease in agricultural activity, rise in unemployment rate and fewer seasonal remittances expected in the next months. Seasonal shocks, particularly avalanches, mudslides, localized floods may also negatively affect the situation by damaging productive agricultural lands in some areas and the infrastructure.



Stressed: Khatlon Mountain Agro-Pastoral Zone (Livelihood Zone 5)

This mountainous, agro-pastoral livelihood zone includes Baljuvon, Muminobod, Khovaling, Shurobod and Norak districts. Wheat, legumes and fruits are the main crops produced by households. Land holding, herd size and livestock are the main determinants of the food security status in this zone.

Better-off households are able to harvest 7-9 months' worth of wheat, leaving only 3-4 months for market dependence. Legumes and fruit are both consumed fresh and also sold in the markets. Livestock sales represent the main income source for all households in the zone. Crops, mostly wheat and some potatoes are another important income sources. Part of population also earns from informal employment outside the zone, mainly in Dushanbe and Russia.

Overall the livelihood zone is classified in **phase 2- Stressed** from December 2012 to May 2013. It is estimated that around half of population has minimally adequate food consumption, however are unable to afford some essential non-food expenditures without engaging in irreversible coping strategies. About 16 percent are classified in Phase 3.

In 2012 occurrences of several natural disasters like mud torrent, flooding, heavy snow in Baljuvon, Muminobod and Shurobod districts were recorded, which affected bridges, large arable areas and livestock. The loss was estimated as TJS557, 000. The shocks also negatively affected people's access to food and income.

Wheat and fruits production was higher in the area compared to past years, thanks to above average rainfall and accumulated precipitation, providing better access to for the population. According to the official statistics, 34,434 tons of wheat grain was produced in Shurobod, 9,132 tons in Baljuvon, 25,123 in Muminobod, 13,927 tons in Khovaling districts which in all areas was higher than collected in 2011/2012 season. Harvest for potato also was up by 34 percent in Baljuvon, 15 percent in Shurobod and 28 and 30 percent in Muminobod and Khovaling respectively.

The information from the local banks indicated that amounts transferred in 2012 from migrants to their families in Baljuvon and Shurobod was equal to US\$5,334.200. This is lower than other areas of the country, mainly due to the smaller number of migrants.

Market access in the zone remained good from May to December, and challenging from January to May. Obstacles to market access are characterized by bad roads, distance and inaccessibility due to winter snow. The distance and cost of transporting produce to this remote zone results in unfavorable trade terms on local producers. Access to food due to rising prices remained as a main challenge for many households. In January wheat flour prices remained around 20 percent higher compared to the same period of the last year. Prices for meat, pasta and rice also increased considerably during this period. High prices for fuel affected transportation costs resulting in higher prices in remote villages.

Overall food consumption in this livelihood zone remains below normal. According to FSMS household survey conducted in November 2012 over 17 percent of households have poor or borderline food consumption. 70 percent of total income spent by households for buying basic food and 65 percent of households were relying on less preferred and less expensive food to cope with the situation which may result in reducing nutrients and diversity of the food. Similar to other livelihood zones, the poor initially purchase their food using credit, repaying their debts according to seasonal cash flow.

The food security situation may deteriorate in remote areas of the zone due to difficult accessibility to markets, unemployment, reduced agricultural activity and decreased seasonal remittances. Seasonal shocks, particularly avalanches, mudslides, localized floods may also negatively affect the situation by damaging productive agricultural lands and the infrastructure.



In Crisis: Southern Khatlon Cotton, Vegetable and Wheat Zone (Livelihood Zone 6)

Agriculture and animal husbandry are the dominant livelihood activities and it is interspersed with Khatlon Rainfed Wheat and Livestock zone (Zone 7). In addition to cotton, households also produce wheat, fruits and vegetables. However, the current irrigation water system seems to be inefficient, and the majority of irrigation infrastructure is in deteriorating condition and large part of the irrigated lands face water shortage. Households are largely dependent on the market for their food. Poor households are only capable of producing three to four months of food from their fields and rely on purchases to meet most of their annual food needs.

Main income sources comes from crop sales including mainly cotton, wheat and vegetables, sales of livestock and livestock product and small businesses and trading. Remittances, agricultural labor and casual labor also play an important role and consider main source of income particularly for poor families.

This livelihood zone is classified in **Phase 3- Crisis** acute food insecurity in December– May 2012/13. It is estimated that *about 21 percent of the people* residing in this areas are in Crisis and almost half of population Stressed.

Though in overall food security situation improved compare to 2011, when part of the zone was hit by low precipitation and other natural disasters, during the year of 2012 also there were a number of shocks that affected access of poor households to income and food. Lack of clean drinking water, crop pest and livestock disease, including spread of locust (in Farkhor, Vose, partly Khuroson), localized floods, staple food price increase, and increase of prices for fuel and fertilizers and fodder were among the problems faced by population. CoES reports around 166,000 people in Farkhor district live in the disaster prone areas.

Food availability is not a limiting factor in this zone. A good rainfall of 2011/2012 season contributed to favorable wheat production almost in all districts compared to last year, when the area faced crop failure due to drought in the summer and population lost the second harvest of cereals and vegetables due to early unexpected cold in fall. According to the regional statistics wheat harvest was above last year in Jilikul (up by 23 percent), Panj (51 percent), Farkhor (48 percent), Yovon (67 percent), etc. As per official data, harvest for potato, fruits and vegetables was also higher than 2010/2011 season.

Market access is good locally and regionally. Throughout the zone households buy and sell their commodities at smaller daily markets, larger regional weekly markets in Shahrituz, Qurghonteppa and Kulob. Wheat flour, vegetable oil, pasta, peas, lentils and rice imported from Dushanbe and are the main staple foods purchased by households.

However, high prices remain a main challenge for major part of population to access enough food, as many are highly dependent on the market for a large proportion of their food needs. In January 2013 wheat grain and wheat flour prices remained 10 percent and 35 percent respectively and locally produced wheat flour by 36 percent higher compared to the same period of last year. Prices for meat increased by 10 percent and potato prices are up by 5 percent than January 2012. FSMS indicates population spends 60 percent of income to procure food. High prices for fuel and fertilisers remain a challenge for poor families to collect better harvest from household plots.

Remittances remained the main source of income for around 40 percent of households. The information from the local banks indicate that amounts transferred in 2012 from migrants to their families increased in all districts compared to 2011: more than US\$425 million was sent from Russia to families residing in the area (US\$25,334,807 was sent to families in Danghara, US\$3,909,680 to Farkhor, US\$26,512,278 to Khuroson, US\$121,392,309 to Jilikul (US\$5,316,942 more than previous year), US\$5,544,900 to Panj, US\$48,732,480 to Qumsangir (US\$11,151,748 more than in 2011), US\$ 51,322,344 to Qabodiyon and US\$143,461,314 to Yovon).

Overall food consumption in this livelihood zone remains poor with many households not being able to diversify their diet,



especially in the context of high unemployment rate and rising food prices. According to FSMS household survey conducted in November 2012 over 23 percent of households have poor or borderline food consumption. Over 35 percent of families had only 2 meals per day and 43 percent of households were relying on less preferred and less expensive food to cope with the situation. The poor initially purchase food through credit in the lean season.

In general, food is also inadequately utilized by large proportion of population due to limited access to clean drinking water, especially in Farkhor, Danghara and Khuroson districts, combined with poor cooking practices (limitation in power supply and use of traditional cotton steam as firewood) and sanitary measures.

Reduce the amount of food households consume, assets stripping to meet food consumption and/or nonfood expenditures and migration continue to be the strategy of the poorest and indebted households in the zone. The poor may also switch expenditure patterns by reducing amount of cash spent on non-food items and purchasing cheaper foods.

The food security situation in the areas will deteriorate in coming months due to high expenses on heating and cooking, (particularly due to limitation in power supply), decreased agricultural activity, unemployment and reduced seasonal remittances.

In Crisis: Khatlon Rainfed Wheat and Livestock Zone (Livelihood Zone 7)

This mixed-agriculture zone includes all hilly, rain-fed wheat areas in the Khatlon Region and the southern *Jamoats* of the Rudaki district, providing wheat, beans, lentils, sesame and sunflower crops, fruits and pistachios. Animals raised in the zone are cattle, sheep, goats and poultry, mostly turkeys. Household's own production is a significant source of food for population. Livestock products such as meat, dairy and eggs are consumed by all households but contribute only a small portion to their annual food requirement.

Livestock, crop sales of wheat and vegetables, local labour and remittances are the main source of income. Crop sales are minimal and typically are sold immediately after harvest to cover urgent food and non-food needs and repay creditors.

This livelihood zone is classified in **Phase 3- Crisis** acute food insecurity in December– May 2012/13. It is estimated that *about 32 percent* of population are in Crisis and other 45 percent Stressed, obtaining minimally adequate food consumption, but are unable to afford some essential non-food expenditures without engaging in irreversible coping strategies.

During the year of 2012 the area was affected by numerous shocks that affected access of many households to income and food. Crop pest and livestock disease, including spread of locust, localized floods, strong winds, heavy hail, staple food price increase, irregular increase of prices for fuel and fertilizers and fodder were among the problems faced by population. Several *Jamoats* in districts of Khuroson (Esanboy, Chorgulteppa, Lohur), Nosiri Khusrav (*Jamoats* Firuza, Istiqlol, Navruz), Shahrituz (Juma Nazarov) and Temurmali were particularly affected by these natural and economic shocks.

In 2012 due to above average precipitation wheat production was higher in the area compared to last year, when the major part of the zone was hit by drought resulting in low harvest. According to the regional statistics, 14,314 tons of wheat was produced in Khuroson, which was higher than 2011 by 16 percent, 8,518 tons was harvested in Shahrituz (20 percent higher than 2011), 4,213 tons in Nosir Khusrav (30 percent more than 2011), 21,525 tons in Temurmali (5 percent up than 2011), 57,672 tons in Danghara (9.6 percent more than in 2011). As per official data, harvest for potato, fruits and vegetables was also higher than 2011/2012 season.



By end of 2012, under Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) Project, WFP assisted around 2,500 households (9,300 beneficiaries) with 262MT assorted food. These were mainly households who lost cereal harvest and livestock due to various shocks in 2012 and families with the lowest income, residing in Temurmalik district, which was classified in phase 3 by last IPC forum in January 2012.

Market access in the zone is good and connects various village clusters with larger main markets. Wheat flour, rice, vegetable oil, lentils and peas are imported by traders from regional center and Dushanbe and sold to the zone residents. However, access to food due to high prices remains a main shock for poor families, as this group is highly dependent on the market for a large proportion of their food needs. Compared to the previous year food prices, including for wheat flour, potato and vegetables, increased significantly. Fuel prices also remain very high. The high fuel prices also affected different sectors: irrigated agriculture, food and non-food prices and animal feed due to transport costs. High prices for fertilisers remain a challenge for poor families to collect better harvest from household plots.

Overall food consumption in this livelihood zone remains poor with many households not being able to diversify their diet, especially in the context of high unemployment rate and rising food prices. According to FSMS household survey conducted in November 2012 over 56 percent of households have poor or borderline food consumption. Households with poor or borderline food consumption patterns have limited access to protein sources, fruits, and vegetables. Seven percent of households sold more livestock than usual, four percent used selling domestic assets and other four percent selling of productive assets as coping strategies to overcome shocks.

In general, food accessed by population is also inadequately utilized by large proportion of population in almost all areas due to limited access to clean drinking water, combined with poor cooking practices and sanitary measures.

Reduce the amount of food households consume, eating cheap food, selling additional livestock, assets stripping to meet food consumption and/or nonfood expenditures and migration continue to be the strategy of the poorest and indebted households.

The food security situation in the areas will deteriorate in coming months due to high expenses on heating and cooking, (particularly due to limitation in power supply), decreased agricultural activity, unemployment and reduced seasonal remittances, the main income for many families.

Minimal: Central and Eastern Tajikistan Agro-Industrial Zone (Livelihood Zone 8)

This is mostly flat and fertile agricultural land with nearly 90 percent of it irrigated. The railroad traverses the center of the zone connecting households with large commercial centers of Dushanbe with peri-urban areas and Uzbekistan.

Households mostly cultivate vegetables. Fruit, such as grapes, apples, pear and apricots are also grown on family plots and the majority of households source the bulk of their food from the market. The second most important source of cash is remittances from migrating family members.

This livelihood zone is classified in **Phase 1- Minimal** acute food insecurity in December– May 2012/13. It is estimated that *more than 80 percent* of the population are able to meet essential food and non-food needs without engaging in a typical, unsustainable strategies to access food and income, including any reliance on humanitarian assistance.

The river Karatog-Sherkent, which is passing through Tursunzoda district, provides enough water for irrigation of



around 4,000 hectares of rice in a year. A number of projects implemented in 2012 in mountainous locations, including on development of fishing sector, bee production, chicken breeding, cattle breeding provided employment opportunities and income.

Food availability is not a limiting factor. Generally, food is adequate to meet food consumption requirement. Wheat harvest in the province was normal and in surplus. A good rainfall contributed to good production of grapes, fruits and vegetables as well. Production of meat, eggs, etc. also increased in 2012 compared to last year. Part of population could also barter fruits and vegetables for essential food and non-food items in fall. Imported wheat, sugar, vegetable oil and chicken transported to the zone from Dushanbe or Sughd and also sold at the village level.

Markets are functioning well within the zone; however access for part of population remains the main challenge due to high prices. During 2012, wheat flour prices increased by 20 percent in Hissor, Tursunzoda and Vahdat, 28 percent in Rudaki and 30 percent in Varzob districts. Meat remains high by 10 percent, macaroni by 50 percent compared to December 2011.

Part of population facing difficulties in accessing food and water in Jamoats of Chorsu in Vahdat, Jura Rahmonov in Tursunzoda, part of Dehkonobod and Sharora Jamoats in Hissor districts. In these areas drinking water is bought by population from the private sources. This issue is combined with poor cooking practices and household health environment, particularly in remote areas and locations with limitations in power supply and scarcity of cooking gas.

Overall food consumption in this livelihood zone remains normal with 7 percent having poor or borderline food consumption, according to FSMS household survey in November 2012. Food consumption remains particularly inadequate for households who are not able to diversify their diet, especially in the context of high unemployment rates and rising food prices.

Stressed: Eastern and Central Zeravshan Valley Agro-pastoral Zone (Livelihood Zone 9)

This is agro-pastoral zone with households depending largely on sheep and goats for food and income and, to a lesser extent, crop production. Kuhistoni Mastchoh and southern Panjakent districts are less densely populated than Ayni district, and tend to have more arable land per household. Wheat, potatoes, and vegetables are the dominant foods grown and consumed in the zone. Most households grow winter wheat and vegetables for household consumption during late summer and autumn. For the remainder of the year, households purchase imported wheat flour from the market. Potatoes, apricots, pear, and apple orchards are also a major income source for households. In addition to income from agricultural activities, a significant proportion of income comes from migration, mainly from Russia.

Overall the Livelihood zone is classified in **phase 2- Stressed**, It is estimated that about 51 percent of population has minimally adequate food consumption, however are unable to afford some essential non-food expenditures without engaging in irreversible coping strategies. The districts of Kuhistoni Mastchoh and Ayni are classified in **Phase 3- Crisis**.

Mudslide and avalanches are common natural shocks that disrupt the agricultural and livestock practices. In some parts of the zone, low precipitation and snow accumulation also negatively affect harvests. Monitoring of Early Warning System reports that the overall rainfall from October to December was 5-15 mm. The area usually receives from 9 to 20 mm of rain during this period. Most of the area received only about 50% of normal snow and rainfall until December 2012. This may affect the harvest in allocations, where households depend on rain fed agricultural practices.



Availability of food is not a limiting factor, although sometimes could be a problem (in short duration) in remote villages, particularly in Kuhistoni Mastchoh and Ayni districts, due to heavy snows and recurrent natural disasters during winter and spring cause difficulty in timely transporting food from district centers. According to the data from statistics departments in 2012/2013 season cereal production was considerably higher in the area compared to last year, thanks to above average rainfall and accumulated precipitation: 4,787 tons of cereals produced in Ayni and 36,580 tons in Panjakent district, which is 27 percent and 10 percent higher than the total cereal harvest received in 2011/2012 season. Better harvest of cereals was received in Kuhistoni Mastchoh (1,736) and Shahrison (22,800 tons) as well. Authorities also report more harvest of potato in Ayni (14,827 tons, 44 percent more than previous year), Kuhistoni Mastchoh (69,725 tons, 1 percent more than in 2011), Panjakent 74,324 tons (146 percent increase compared to 2011), fruits and vegetables because of the favorable growing conditions. Besides being used for household consumption, potatoes and fruits are also sold outside of the zone.

Regional market access from Dushanbe and Istaravshan has considerably improved thanks to new tunnels that bisect the zone from north to south. Road conditions within the zone remain poor and leave some parts of the zone like Kuhistoni Mastchoh, remote villages of Varzob, Vahdat and Hissor and southern Panjakent mostly isolated during the winter and spring.

Access to staple food due to high prices remains a main issue for major part of population, as many are highly dependent on the market for a large proportion of their food needs. Compared to the previous year food prices increased for wheat flour (by 35 percent), meat (by 12 percent), and vegetables (by 17 percent). Fuel prices also remain very high affecting irrigation costs and animal feed. High prices for fertilisers remain a challenge for poor families to collect better harvest from household plots.

By end of 2012, WFP distributed 90MT of food assistance in Kuhistoni Mastchoh district, covering around 640 households (3,200 beneficiaries), which were identified as most vulnerable by last IPC forum in January 2012. WFP also completed a pilot cash transfer to around 7,000 vulnerable people in Ayni district during January. Cash assistance was provided to 1,426 households with the lowest income, who own only small patches of land and possess few animals or other assets. These families received cash assistance equivalent to TJS 500 (US\$ 105) per household.

Overall food consumption in this livelihood zone remains below normal with many households not being able to diversify their diet, especially in the context of harsh winter, high unemployment rate and rising food prices. According to FSMS household survey conducted in November 2012 over 14 percent of households have poor or borderline food consumption. 24 percent of men and 19 percent of women had 2 meals per day and around 60 percent of total income of households spent for buying food.

Like majority of other areas, physical utilization of food is considered a limiting factor due to drinking from unprotected water sources, poor sanitary measures and cooking facilities. In general, food accessed by population is also inadequately utilized by large proportion of population due to limited access to poor cooking facilities resulted by heavy power limitations and practices. Reduce the amount of food, eating cheap food and migration continue to be the strategy of the poorest and indebted households. The poor households also rely heavily on credit for their market purchases.

The food security situation will deteriorate in this zone, particularly in remote Jamoats, due to difficult accessibility to markets, unemployment, rising food prices due to additional transport costs, and limited remittances. Seasonal shocks, particularly avalanches, mudslides, localized floods may also negatively affect the situation by damaging productive agricultural lands and the infrastructure.



Stressed: Ghonchi and Istaravshan Rainfed Cereal, Fruit, and Vegetable Zone (Livelihood Zone 11)

The livelihood system is primarily comprised of rain-fed cereal (wheat and barley), viticulture, and vegetable agriculture as well as some livestock rearing. Many households use wheat harvests for own consumption. Throughout the zone there are garden plots growing grapes and household vegetables for household consumption and sale, but income from this activity is limited. Livestock poultry rearing also play an important role as both an income and food sources. Some agriculture-related local labor opportunities exist in this zone, although households often use tractors and threshers.

Overall the Livelihood zone is classified in **phase 2- Stressed**, It is estimated that *about half of population* could be under this phase, having minimally adequate food consumption, however are unable to afford some essential non-food expenditures without engaging in irreversible coping strategies. Rasrovut, I. Somoni, Vahdat Jamoats of Ghonchi and Guli Surkh, Poshkent and Zarhalol Jamoats of Istaravshan district are the locations where most vulnerable population concentrated.

For the past months there were no any restrictions or challenge faced by population on availability of food and market access in the zone also remains relatively good, with Istaravshan, a major cereal and vegetable wholesale market, located within the zone. Khujand is also easily accessible.

Food availability is not a limiting factor. A good rainfall contributed to wheat surplus for the zone. According to the regional statistics departments In 2012/2013 season cereal production was significantly higher in the area compared to last year, thanks to above average rainfall and accumulated precipitation: 27,599 tons of cereals produced in Ghonchi and 24,189 tons in Istaravshan district, which is 163 percent and 56 percent higher than the total cereal harvest received in 2011/2012 season. Better harvest of potato (113,011 tons in Ghonchi and 39,156 tons in Istaravshan), fruits and vegetables also were reported by the Authorities. Production of meat, eggs, etc. also increased compared to last year.

Access to food due to high prices remains a main shock for poor families. The high fuel prices also affect different sectors: irrigated agriculture, food and non-food prices and animal feed due to transport costs. The prices of basic food commodities, such as cereals and wheat, have increased by 38 percent, meat by 12 percent, vegetables by 17 percent in comparison with the same period last year.

Despite high prices, both districts, Ghonchi and Istaravshan, have acceptable food consumption with a small number of households, according to FSMS household survey reportedly having poor and borderline food consumption. In overall, compared with the same period in 2010, the coping strategy index has also improved.

Access to drinking water remains one of the main problems for communities of many Jamoats in Ghonchi districts. Insufficient irrigation water for agricultural lands is also reported by population and authorities,

Food utilization is a minor limiting factor, many households drink from unprotected water sources, and majority use traditional source of cooking fuel (cotton steam), particularly during winter and poor sanitary measures.



Stressed: North Sughd Agro-Industrial Zone (Livelihood Zone 12)

This relatively fertile zone is located in northern part of Sughd region, boarding Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan. The zone is most densely populated in the urban and agricultural areas with some inhabitants living in the mountains areas of Asht and Mastchoh districts. Cash cropping, agricultural product processing and, to a lesser extent, livestock rearing are the predominant livelihoods activities for rural households. Despite high volumes of rice and some wheat production in the zone, households primarily depend on purchasing wheat flour as a major food source.

Cotton is grown throughout the zone. Crop sales and remittances are a major source of income. Other important economic activities in the zone include cotton and food processing plants, silk production, and livestock rearing.

Overall the Livelihood zone is classified in **phase 2- Stressed**, It is estimated that about *55 percent of population* has minimally adequate food consumption, however are unable to afford some essential non-food expenditures without engaging in irreversible coping strategies. Asht district is classified in Crisis. Jamoats Navbahor, Obshoron in Maschoh and Obburdon in Zafarobod districts are other locations where most vulnerable population under this phase is concentrated.

Regional Committee of Emergency Situation (CoES) reported on cases of natural disasters in 2012 including the last quarter of the year. Heavy winds and snowfalls brought damages to number of Jamoats in Asht and Zafarobod districts. Crop pests, diseases, and power outages that impact the performance of the irrigation systems were other shocks that resulted in damages in last year.

Food availability is not a limiting factor in this zone. A good rainfall contributed to wheat surplus for the zone. According to the regional statistics departments In 2012/2013 season cereal production was significantly higher in the area compared to last year, thanks to above average rainfall and accumulated precipitation: 9,308 tons of cereals produced in Asht and 19,643 tons in Bobojon Ghafurov district, which is 12 percent and 5 percent higher than the total cereal harvest received in 2011/2012 season. 20,277 tons of cereals produced in Jabbor Rasulov district were up by 24 percent compared to last year. Better harvest of fruits and vegetables, meat also were reported by the Authorities in these regions. Due to lack of agricultural water, poor irrigation facilities and power outages to run water pumps the harvest of cereals was low in Zafarobod district: 5,910 tons vs 6,533 tons in 2011. The problems affected the harvest of other crops as well: potato was lower by 50 percent and vegetables by 40 percent

There is relatively good market access in the zone due to an adequate intra-zonal road system. The largest market in the zone is in Khujand which serves as an assembly and wholesale market for commodities imported and exported to and from Russia, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan. Istaravshan market is also easily accessible. However, access to food due to high prices remains a main shock for poor families.

In January 2013 wheat grain and wheat flour prices remained 17 percent and 43 percent respectively higher compared to the same period of last year. Prices for meat increased by 10 percent and potato prices are up by 25 percent than January 2012. The WFP FSMS household survey indicates that households spent around 71 percent of their income for purchasing food.

Overall food consumption in this livelihood zone remains below normal with over 13 percent having poor or borderline food consumption, according to FSMS household survey in November 2012. Relying on less preferred and less expensive food, eating less food, assets stripping and migration continue to be the main strategies of the poor households to cope with the situation.

The food security situation in the areas will deteriorate in coming months due to high expenses on heating and cooking, (particularly due to limitation in power supply), decreased agricultural activity, unemployment and reduced seasonal remittances. Seasonal shocks: avalanches, mudslides, localized floods may also negatively affect the situation by damaging agricultural lands and the infrastructure in remote parts.



Stressed: Khatlon Agro-industrial Peri-urban Zone (Livelihood Zone 13)

This small, densely populated zone is peri-urban, with much intensive agricultural production, encouraged by the large markets within short distance. A large proportion of the population is dependent on labor opportunities to earn their livelihoods. Poor and better-off households are all reliant on crop and livestock sales, and remittances for income, though to differing degrees. Good road networks and affordable transportation allows unhindered access to markets throughout the year. Market-based shocks are the most common shocks in this zone.

This livelihood zone is classified in **Phase 2- Stressed** acute food insecurity in December– May 2012/13. It is estimated that *48 percent of population* has minimally adequate food consumption, however are unable to afford some essential non-food expenditures without engaging in irreversible coping strategies.

In January 2013 wheat grain and wheat flour prices remained 10 percent and 35 percent respectively and locally produced wheat flour by 36 percent higher compared to the same period of last year. Prices for meat increased by 10 percent and potato prices are up by 5 percent than January 2012.

FSMS indicates population spends 64 percent of income to enquire food.

Limited access to safe drinking water in part of Vakhsh district (Jamoats Vakhsh, Kirov, Bokhtar, Sarvati Istiqlol, Urtabuz, Bustonkala, and Rumi (Jamoats Guliston, Uzun) forces population to buy water from private sources or use water from rain and snow for drinking purposes as alternative.

Scarcity of clean portable water, lack of adequate cooking facilities and poor household health environment leads to in-adequate food utilization to larger proportion of the zone, including in mentioned Jamoats.

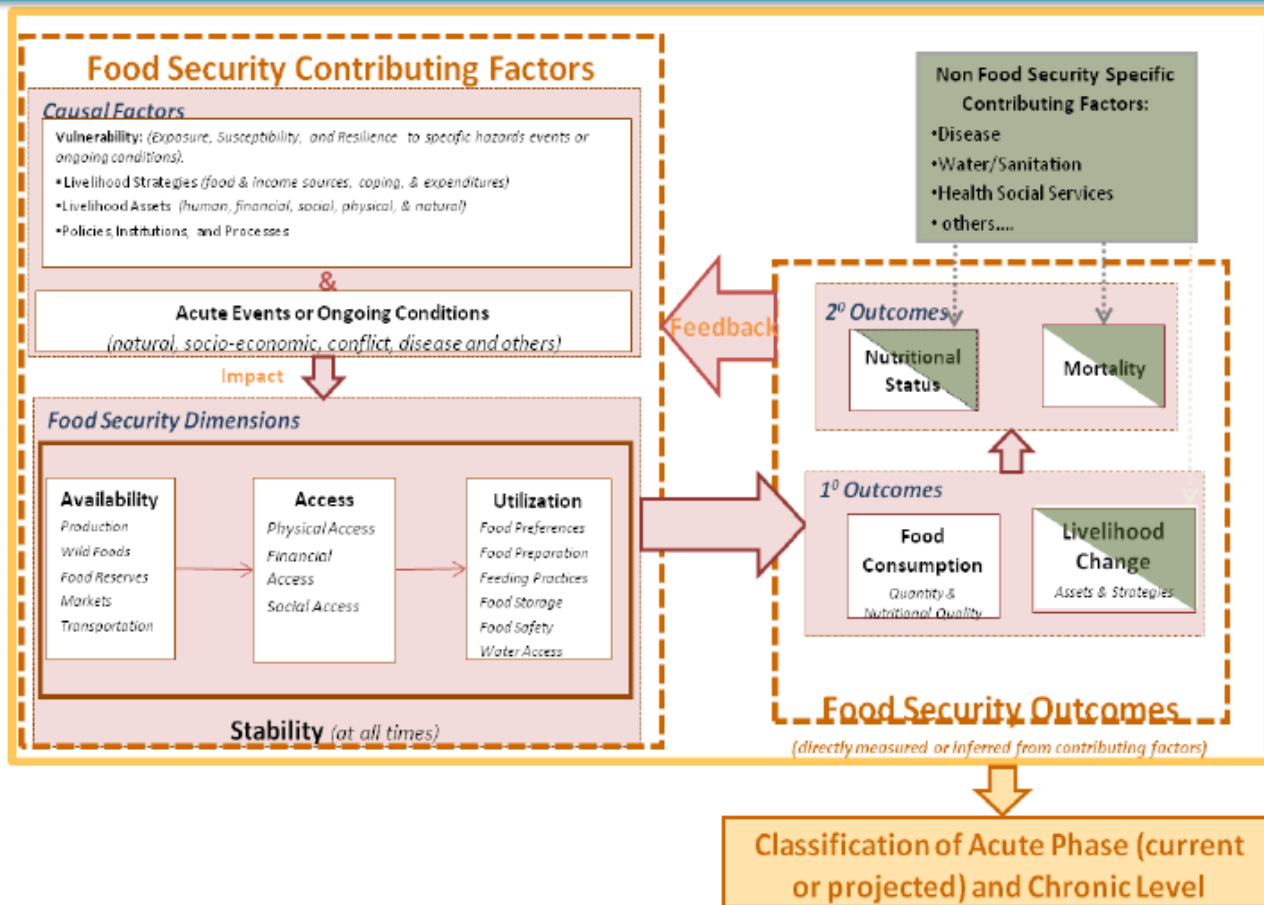
Overall food consumption in this livelihood zone remains below normal with 17 percent of population having poor or borderline food consumption, according to FSMS household survey in November 2012.

Food consumption remains inadequate for households who are not able to diversify their diet, especially in the context of unemployment, unavailability of cooking facilities as a result of power limitations. Rising prices of most commodities are contributing factors to food insecurity.

Table 2: Priority Response Objectives

Phase	Priority Response Objectives
1	Action required to build resilience and for Disaster Risk Reduction
2	Action required for Disaster Risk Reduction and to protect livelihoods
3	Urgent Action Required to protect livelihoods, reduce food consumption gaps, and reduce acute malnutrition
4	Urgent Action Required to save lives and livelihoods
5	Urgent Action Required to prevent widespread death and total collapse of livelihoods

Analytical Framework Area and Household Classification



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