Tajikistan - Phases of Food Insecurity
November 2010

Look back: July 2010
- Rasht Valley was already in Phase 4
- Most of Sughd was in Phase 3
- Murgab was in Phase 3

Legend
IPC PHASES
1 - Generally Food Secure
2 - Borderline Food Insecure
3 - Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis
4 - Humanitarian Emergency
5 - Famine/Humanitarian Catastrophe

Risk of worsening phase: No alert/watch
Moderate risk of food and livelihood crisis
Moderate risk of humanitarian emergency

Global IPC Partners in Tajikistan

Map produced by WFP Tajikistan
This IPC Round was made possible thanks to the financial support of the Canadian Government and the active participation of the Government of Tajikistan. Population in need is estimated and needs further assessment for exact number.
Executive Brief: Tajikistan
Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC)
August – November 2010

The IPC is a tool that provides global standards and protocols for food security analysis and classification using a food security severity scale. Its cartographic protocols make it an efficient communication tool for decision-makers, including donors, agencies and governments to identify priorities for intervention. WFP and partners have been developing the IPC in Tajikistan since September 2009 holding consultations with over 125 experts in all regions to achieve the most accurate picture on food security.

Overview

For the period August to November 2010, results show that the situation in the eastern districts of Direct Rule District (Rasht Valley) is critical. Several districts in Sughd and Khatlon show larger pockets of food insecurity than during the previous analysis period. GBAO shows increased food insecurity due to higher food prices than in July. The table below sets out districts identified as being in Phases 3 to 5 (see legend on the first page).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cluster</th>
<th>Population affected</th>
<th>Causes*</th>
<th>Forecast</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Direct Ruled District</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jirgatol</td>
<td>Phase 4: 20% or 15,000</td>
<td>Food prices increase (onions, wheat, oil, sugar). Reduced income from remittances, daily wage labor and trade of food products. Bad harvest of potato: no seeds due to blockade in Uzbekistan led to low stocks. Bad harvest of fruits due to diseases. Increased prices of fuel impact harvest/land preparation Lack of access to field and fodder for livestock herders.</td>
<td>The winter period will be very difficult for a lot of households and will depend mostly on how much remittances were brought back and how the security situation evolves. Households currently receiving aid should fare better than others.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Taviladara</td>
<td>Phase 3: 50% or 40,000</td>
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<td>(same as last round)</td>
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<td>Rasht Nurobod</td>
<td>Phase 4: 35% or 115,000</td>
<td>The insecurity situation has restricted movement. Lower potato harvest leads to low stocks. High food prices (+45% for the period). High fuel prices (+50%). Less access to credit to buy food. No remittances due to suspension of mobile telephone technology access. Increase of barter but decrease of terms of trade. Households depending on government salary fall in Phase 4.</td>
<td>The situation will not get better until next harvest in July/August 2011. All will depend on the security situation and assistance provided. Most likely to stay Phase 4 during the winter especially Rasht district.</td>
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<td>Tojikobod</td>
<td>Phase 3: 55% or 70,000</td>
<td>(last round: 50% Phase 3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asht</td>
<td>Phase 3: 20% or 23,000</td>
<td>Prices of staple foods increased by 38% and households are buying in bulk as much as possible due to rumor of further increase. Decrease of remittances compared to previous year noted by local banks. Small increase in government salaries. Increase of fuel prices (+20%). Poor nutrition/feeding and hygiene practices in remote areas.</td>
<td>Situation might worsen due to possible natural disasters in remote areas, high food and fuel prices leading to high transport and life costs. Jamoats Asht, Punuk, Jarbulok, Pongoz are the most affected by food insecurity in the district.</td>
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<td>(last round: 15% Phase 3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zafarabad</td>
<td>Phase 3: 30% or 47,000</td>
<td>Sale of productive assets and livestock more than usual. Reduction of income from remittances and other employment opportunities. High prices for food in the local markets. Poor access to drinking and irrigation water remains the main issue.</td>
<td>Situation to remain the same (Phase 3) due to high food prices, coming winter season, lack of income opportunities, increase of expenditures on health due to diseases.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mastchoh</td>
<td>Phase 3: 15% or 24,000</td>
<td>Increase in human diseases = more expenses. Loss of 30% of cereals crop due to lack of irrigation and natural disasters. Sharp increase of food prices (+30%) and fuel (+20%). High frequency of harmful coping strategies. Early frosts have damaged crops.</td>
<td>Phase 3 due to: food prices and loss of crop leading to shortage of stocks and reduced availability in the markets, increased costs of services.</td>
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<td>(decrease from last round)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ghonchi</td>
<td>Phase 3: 15% or 24,000</td>
<td>Increase of food prices by over 35%. Decrease of remittances compared to last year according to local banks (data of October 2010). Daily wage labor reduced. Households rely on less preferred/expensive foods = decrease in nutritious foods as well. Increased sale of livestock to put food aside stocks for the winter and to pay for traditional ceremonies (weddings, burials, circumcisions).</td>
<td>Phase 3 due to: increase of diseases caused by poor nutrition/feeding and hygiene practices, chronic high prices, increased trade constraints (increased passport control, closure of Shahrston pass and border issues with Uzbekistan).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shahriston</td>
<td>Phase 3: 40% or 116,000</td>
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<td>(increase from last round)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pendjikent, Ainee, Kuh. Mastchoh</td>
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*Causes are determined using data from Ministries, NGOs, UN agencies, civil society and local authorities. Details are available on request.
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<td>Baljuvon, Shurobod</td>
<td>Phase 3: 20 % or 15,000 (last round: Phase 2)</td>
<td>High food prices (+41% for the period). High fuel prices (+25%). Lower remittances noted by banks in September and October; sharp shortage of job opportunities. Lack of irrigation water. Remoteness; difficult roads. Periodic insecurity (Drug smuggling in Shurobod) Poor health services and increased home-birth practices.</td>
<td>Food security stability will depend on favorable climatic conditions, stocks levels until next harvest season and possibility of sufficient food imports. Households with remittances might fare better and increase their resilience. <strong>Situation might worsen</strong> due to natural disasters, high food and fuel prices.</td>
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<td>Temurmalik</td>
<td>Phase 3: 20 % or 10,000 (last round: Phase 2)</td>
<td>Water supply deteriorating. Reduction of income from remittances as of October and sharp shortage of job opportunities. Poor harvest due to heavy rains. Widespread diseases among small livestock causing significant livestock mortality. Lack of cash income and high food prices.</td>
<td>Food prices to increase by 15% Expenses for fuel, coal and heating material will continue to increase. Increase of diseases. <strong>Situation should remain the same until end of winter.</strong></td>
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<td>Qumsangir, Panj</td>
<td>Phase 3: 15% or 27,000 (last round: Phase 2)</td>
<td>High food prices (+35-45% for wheat). Low wage labor income and shortage of employment. Plant diseases and hail affecting harvest. High fuel prices. Lack of financial resources for agriculture Remoteness and high transportation cost. Deterioration of irrigation systems (high groundwater table, waterlogged land, land degradation, thus low productivity).</td>
<td><strong>Food insecurity to remain the same</strong> unless high remittances in December. Increase expenses on health and heating will compromise improvement until end of winter.</td>
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<td>Nurek</td>
<td>Phase 3: 15% or 3,700 (same as last round)</td>
<td>High fuel and food prices. Low productivity and high import of food products lead to poor diet diversity. Most households depend solely on pensions. Fewer remittances received in past three months than between March and June (+20%). High prices for fuel (Petrol - 5,50 TJS/liter, Diesel-7,00 TJS/liter) and food (+45% for wheat flour, +20% for 1 liter of vegetable oil). August mudslide affected 221 households, roads and market leading to loss of goods and high prices: damage= TJS 962,500 (USD 215,000). Population highly dependent on pensions and government benefits for their cash income. Lack of adequate dietary diversity.</td>
<td><strong>Situation will remain the same</strong>: high food prices, little income. Families with remittances to fare better.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Murghab</td>
<td>Phase 4: 90% or 13,000 (increase from last round)</td>
<td>Some households in Phase 4 as they lost all assets, crops and access to market when August heavy rains caused mudslides. Affected households have not yet recovered from the shock. 4,437 people in Bartang valley totally cut off for 2 months. High food prices (+27% for wheat flour –price is 135 TJS per 50 kg bag; +37.5% for Veg oil – price is 11-12 TJS per 1 litter) and other food commodities. <strong>Few income</strong> opportunities and high malnutrition. Remote areas are mainly at risk.</td>
<td><strong>Situation will be worse during winter</strong> period as people lost around 10-15% of harvest because of natural disaster: price for food is still increasing, difficulty to secure wheat stocks, sell-off of livestock to provide assets for coping, some remittances to help vulnerable families.</td>
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**The IPC approach**

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a **standardized scale to describe the food security situation** in a given country according to 5 Phases: 1- Generally food secure, 2- Moderate/borderline food insecure, 3- Acute food and livelihood crisis 4- Humanitarian emergency, and 5- Famine/humanitarian catastrophe

To date, the IPC has been piloted or being increasingly introduced in a total of 15 countries in the Great Horn of Africa, West and Southern Africa and Southern Asia. An additional 13 national governments have been introduced to the IPC through training events and workshops. The IPC is not an assessment method per se. It applies a “convergence-of-evidence” approach drawing from multiple data sources, methods and methodologies.

In Tajikistan, the Food Security Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) was developed in a participatory manner involving a wide range of food security actors. The goal is to have an accurate picture of the food security situation after the harvest, before the winter and during the lean season. Two rounds have been piloted and in July/August, 6 workshops bringing together over 125 specialists gathered most data available on agriculture, water, markets, remittances and other essential indicators for food security in the country. The IPC analysis itself and the classification of the districts were done done its the basis of technical consensus. Results were reviewed by the Global IPC experts and technical experts at Tajikistan. All evidence on the data analyzed is available in the annexes.

For more information on the Global IPC, visit [www.ipcinfo.org](http://www.ipcinfo.org) or contact Oriane Turot, Global IPC expert at oriane.turot@fao.org
Food security: an analysis by region

Although this period is normally characterized by fewer natural disasters, better availability of foodstuffs and increased dietary diversity, the population estimated to be in “humanitarian emergency” (Phase 4) and in “acute food and livelihood crisis” (Phase 3 – see table page 2) increased compared to the period April – July 2010. The map on page 1 provides a detailed account of the food security phase classification.

Direct Rule Districts

Parts of the region were already in Phase 4 in the last round (July 2010). Recent political insecurity in the mountainous areas has exacerbated existing threats to food and livelihood security, pushing more households into Phase 3 and 4. Livestock were not moved to more abundant higher pastures due to fear of attacks, reducing their market value and subsequent income. Traders who depend on truck traffic to bring in goods were unable to cope with the spike in fuel prices, and were forced to cut off credit lines to households. The region reported the highest food prices in the country, and households living on government salaries with no other sources of income were not able to afford the minimum food basket. Coping strategies include the sale of remaining assets, the precipitate consumption of winter food stocks, and an increase in barter -- all of which reduce livelihood security.

WFP and Mercy Corps have provided assistance to vulnerable populations in October and November in the Valley but this might not suffice considering the high amount of people at risk of food insecurity.

Sugh

The recent increase in food prices and the decrease in remittances in some parts of Sughd have doubled the number of households facing difficulties in acute food and livelihood crisis. Although the population in need was mostly localized in areas with poor access to markets, water and employment, droughts in summer and early frosts expanded the areas in need of assistance. Mountainous parts of the region are especially affected by food insecurity (Zarafshan Valley in particular). **175,000 people are in “acute food and livelihood crisis”**.

GBAO

The situation in GBAO worsened compared to the last round, especially in Murghab where the combined high food and fuel prices, remoteness and natural disasters pushed most of the population into Phase 4. In other districts from Ishkashim to Rushan, the food and fuel prices pushed the most vulnerable into Phase 3. An estimated 73,000 people are in need of assistance in GBAO as a whole. Vanj and Darvoz districts remain in Phase 2.

Khatlon

Food insecurity increased in Khatlon compared to the period April – July 2010. Districts previously in Phase 2 such as Termurmalik (10,000 people in Phase 3) and Qumsangir and Pianj (27,000 people in Phase 3) join Nurek as the most food-insecure districts in the region. As in most parts of the country, the sharp increase in food and fuel prices combined with shocks affecting livestock and crops has reduced households’ access to food. Water and chronic malnutrition also remain major issues.

Food security forecast for the pre-winter season

Two main issues have made the rural population of Tajikistan more food insecure this round: the increase of fuel and food prices and the unrest in the Rasht Valley. All partners in the Rasht Valley involved in the IPC this round, expressed their deep concern for the most vulnerable populations who have little capacity to cope as winter approaches. An unreliable and sporadic electricity supply already prevents comfort and effective business, food stocks will be unaffordable for many who will have to take even more credit and engage in irreversible coping strategies. Winter months are also the months when expenses on health, transport and heating increase, which in turn further compromises the average household’s ability to procure food.

As mentioned above, the coming months are traditionally challenging for rural households all over the country. It is unlikely that the situation of the households in Phase 3 will improve, unless remittances increase. Moreover, the security situation in some parts of the country is still uncertain and might further hinder the capacity and willingness of the population to engage in traditional activities such as herding and trade.

Moderate risk of humanitarian emergency

All eastern districts of DRD, Jirgatol, Rasht, Tojkobod, Nurobod and Tavildara will not improve before the next harvest unless assistance is provided to the populations in the area, both short-term and long-term. Households who will benefit from remittances before the winter might fare better than others but money transfers were reported to be have decreased as of October this year. The others will make do with the few assets they possess and continue to barter some of their honey, animals and potatoes for wheat and cooking oil. Food prices will remain high preventing most vulnerable households from accessing most needed food. The evolution of the security situation will also be instrumental for the recovery of household’s usual livelihood.

Moderate risk of food and livelihood crisis

In GBAO, households in remote areas of Rushon, Shugnon, Ishkashim, Murghab and Roshtkala will remain in Phase 3 as high food prices, low income and difficult winter access to market might prevent them from acquiring food and replenish stocks.
In the Eastern districts of Khatlon (Baljuvon, Khovaling, Muminobod, Shurobod) the situation should stay the same but some pockets of phase 3 will start appearing over the winter due to lack of stocks, decrease in dietary diversity. Prices for all type of food will increase and parts of the population might not be able to store required food for the winter.

In Sughd, the districts of Asht, Mastchoh, Zafarabad, Ghonchi, Shahristan and the Zarafshan Valley will likely remain in Phase 3. High food and fuel prices and lack of cash income in some parts of these districts, coupled with Uzbek and Kyrgyz border issues might push households in the districts of B. Gafurov, Rasulov and Spitamen into Phase 3.

Response options

Despite ongoing short-term interventions in the affected areas informed by the IPC analysis (food distributions in the Rasht Valley by Mercy Corps and WFP), experts recommend to:

- **Assess in greater depth the food security situation in the districts** with large population in Phases 3 and 4.
- **Intervene urgently in the Rasht Valley** to address the current severe food insecurity of the most vulnerable households especially in areas where WFP and Mercy Corps have not yet intervened. This intervention should focus on immediate needs of the population but also in the preparation of the next harvest and livestock season.
- **Government intervention to stabilize food and fuel prices** in all regions to increase the access to food during the winter season. This might be legislated through government-managed municipal markets fairs (yarmarki).
- **Increase efforts in job creation** especially during the coming winter months. The Government should partner with international organizations to better coordinate small and medium-scale income-generation projects. Cash-for-Work and Food-for-Work projects creating community assets are also needed.
- **Continued support and emphasis on programs that aim to improve irrigation systems and the access to water**. The Government, World Bank and other actors should coordinate with local authorities to identify geographical priorities for upcoming projects. UNDP, GTZ and GAA actions in Zeravshan Valley cited as examples.
- **Continue quarterly monitoring of the food security situation**. Particular attention should be given to indicators that measure economic access to food and malnutrition.
- **Increase efforts in monitoring nutrition in rural areas and combine agriculture, water and health programs with nutrition**. Overall, experts noted the alarming absence of nutrition data at the district level and the lack of knowledge of proper nutrition and beneficial feeding practices among households.

Way forward

The next IPC consultations will take place late March/early April 2011 in Dushanbe, Khujand, Gharq, Kurgan-Tyube, Kulub and Khorog. Data from November to March 2011 will be analyzed and the results will give an overview of the situation in Tajikistan for the winter 2010/2011. Recommendations and forecast will be made for the spring period/lean season as well. The IPC in Tajikistan is attracting more and more interest and is already used for targeting by donors and intervention agencies. The costs of each IPC rounds are very low ($6,000 for 7 workshops) and make it the most affordable consensus-based targeting tool in the country. Unfortunately, the pilot funding is coming to an end and funding although the local Government already agreed to increase their participation to reduce costs more funding is needed. For more information, contribution and participation, please contact: Cedric Charpentier, Programme Officer, World Food Programme - cedric.charpentier@wfp.org

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