

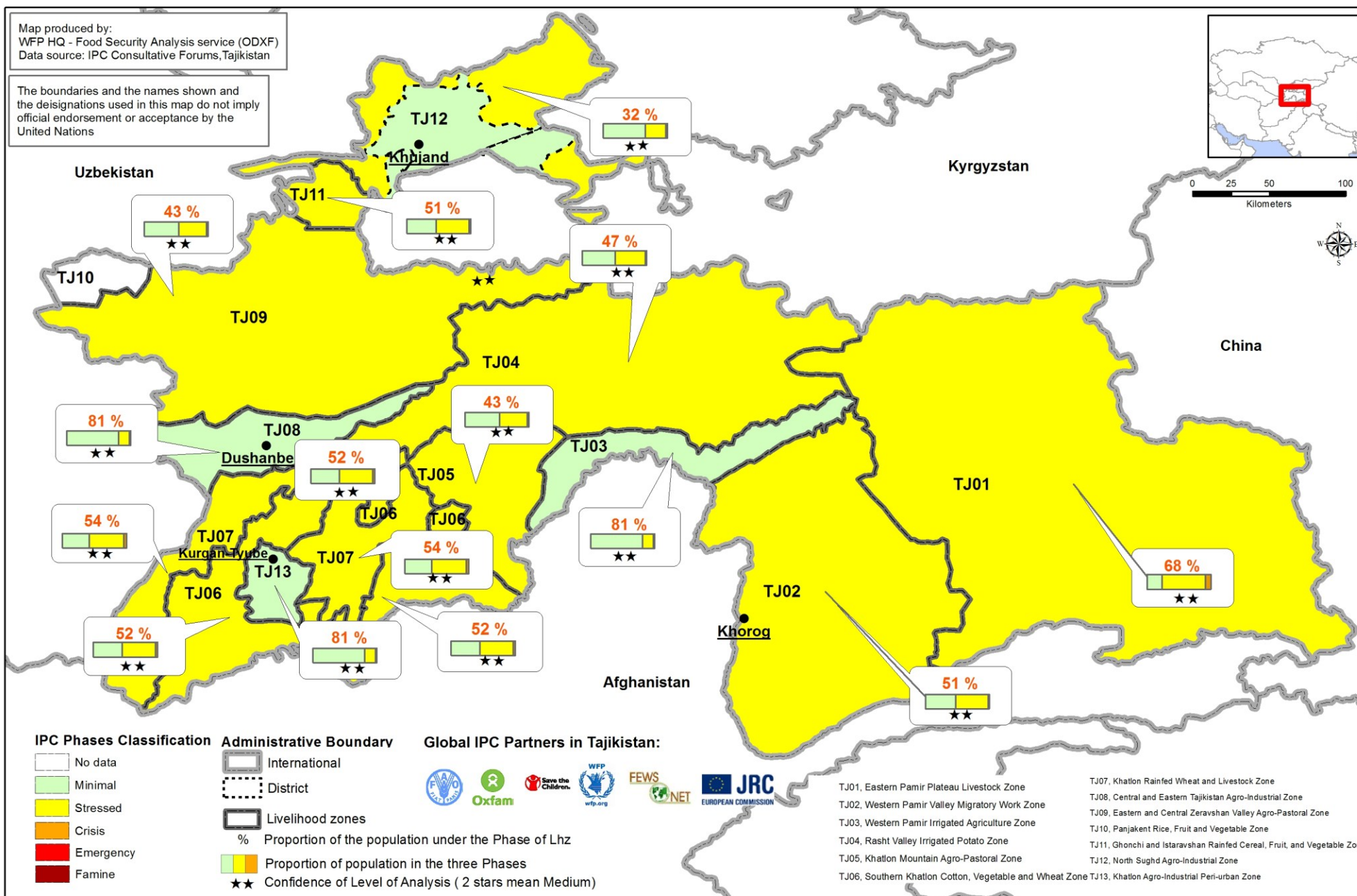


IPC Tajikistan: Food Security Classification Overview - June 2013



Map produced by:
WFP HQ - Food Security Analysis service (ODXF)
Data source: IPC Consultative Forums, Tajikistan

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FOOD SECURITY BRIEF – TAJIKISTAN (JUNE 2013)

Key Findings and Issues

The food security situation was analyzed in Tajikistan's 11 livelihood zones for the period January to May 2013, and a projection was made for the period June to October 2013. The food security status of **3 percent** of the population (about 152,000 people) in rural livelihood zones was classified as **Phase 3 (Crisis)**. The status of **39 percent** of rural population (about 2,285,000 people) was classified as **Phase 2 (Stressed)**, while the remaining **58 percent** (about 3,371,000 people) was classified as **Phase 1 (Minimal)**.

In general, food security was found to have improved since the previous period (October-December 2012), with highly food insecure areas in **Phase 3 (Crisis)** shifting to moderately food insecure status **Phase 2 (Stressed)**.

The main contributing factors to the improvement were increased remittances, good rainfall in spring and casual labour opportunities. The seasonal availability of pasture has also led to improvement in livestock productivity and value, better food consumption pattern. Seasonally, many alternative sources of food and income became available, which includes labour planting spring crops, labor in construction work, migration, etc. Spring rains in February-March 2013 have been adequate, leading to good prospects for the cereal harvest.

According to the State Statistics Agency, during the first four months of the current year, in monetary terms, agricultural production was equal to TJS 1,133.4 million and industrial production (including electricity, gas, heating) amounted TJS 2,962.0 million, which were 7.5 percent and 5.8 percent respectively higher compared to January-April 2012. The number of livestock also increased by 1.9 percent country-wide, including by 2.1 percent in GBAO, by 1.1 percent in Sughd, by 1.5 percent in Khatlon and by 3.5 percent in DRD.

Remittances continued to remain the main source of income for many rural households and play a major role in meeting their daily basic needs. The value of remittances sent to the country from Russia has been increasing since the beginning of the year and according to unofficial sources, in April US\$267.6 million were received in Tajikistan, which was 10.9% higher than the same month last year. Remittances have been at record high levels for the past 21 consecutive months.

Despite the overall positive macro-economic developments, food and nutrition insecurity remain concerning challenges among many poor rural Tajiks who struggle to maintain or improve their livelihoods and meet their nutritional needs, but find it difficult due to inadequate access to food, clean water and health services. This was further exacerbated by a number of shocks affecting their livelihoods. High food and fuel prices, heavy rains in a number of districts damaging fruit trees and vegetables, lack of irrigation water, unavailability or high cost of fertilizers were part of the preoccupations met by the vulnerable population. While remittances represent an important contribution to the country's economic growth, they are also the last resort of poverty-stricken rural families who are unable to survive on other more sustainable livelihoods.

In May, high staple food prices and high fuel costs remained challenging concerns, particularly for the poorest of households who rely on the market for a larger proportion of their needs. Although wheat grain and wheat flour prices stabilized during the first four months of 2013, they still remain high. In April, country-wide, prices for wheat flour were up 31 percent and wheat grain 11 percent compared to same period last year. Prices for locally produced wheat flour increased by 32 percent and meat rose by 10 percent since April 2012. The effect of the increase in prices is particularly hard for the households that are not benefitting from remittances or produce agricultural products and depend mainly on the market to acquire their food needs.

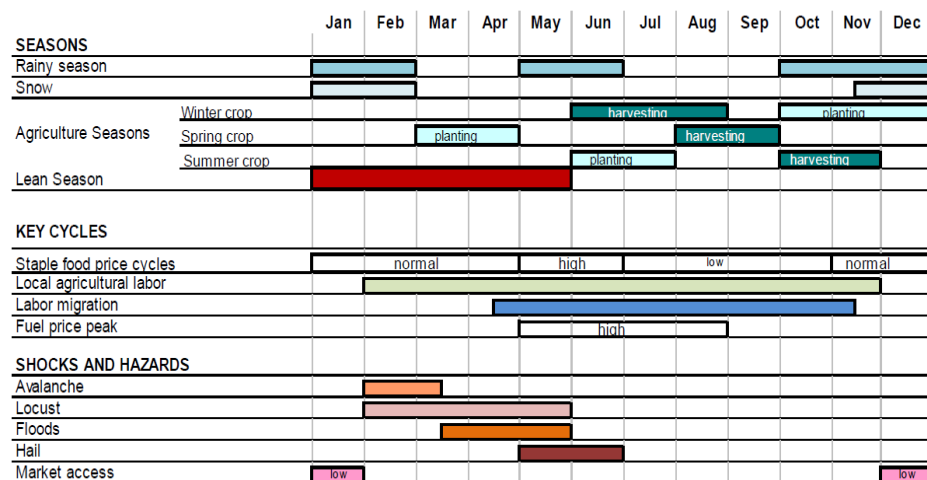
The Tajik Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) conducted by the State Statistical Agency in 2012, reports that chronic malnutrition remains a medium or poor public health problem in the country with 26 percent of children under-5 in the country being stunted. The survey also indicates that 10 percent of the children are wasted (of which 4 percent are severely wasted), 12 percent are underweight and 6 percent are obese. When comparing 2005 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) and 2012 DHS results, the nutritional status of children under-5 has changed little: the percentage of underweight children decreased only from 17 percent in 2005 to 16 percent in 2012.

The overall food security situation in most parts of the country is expected to further improve during the next six months (May -October 2013). Food availability and access is anticipated to improve with the winter crop harvest, availability of fruits and vegetables, seasonal remittances, and more income opportunities.



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: FewNet, 2011

Methods, Process & Key Issues

In Tajikistan the IPC is conducted in a participatory manner since 2009, involving a wide range of food security stakeholders, including partners from the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade. Its goal is to produce an accurate picture of the food security situation in the rural areas in the country. Five consultations were held during this round bringing together around 100 specialists from all four regions 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. Plenary sessions were held to discuss issues arising and to standardize and harmonize the different data and information sources during the analyses. All evidence on the data analyzed is available in the annexes.

During this round the participants used 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 Statistical Agency under the President of RT, the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Departments of Health, Economic Development and Trade, Irrigation and Water Resources, the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense, WFP Food Security Monitoring System (FSMS), FEWS Net livelihood zone classification, Government of Tajikistan/UNDP Monitoring and Early warning System (MEWS) monthly reports, WFP market information, the World Bank poverty analysis reports, FAO crop and food security bulletins, the IFPRI, the DHS report, and periodic reports, etc.

Next Steps

The next IPC consultations will take place in the fourth quarter of 2013 in Kurgan-Tyube (for Eastern part of Khatlon and Central part of DRD districts), Kulob, Khujand, Gharm and Khorog. Data on food security will be analyzed and the results will give an overview of the situation in Tajikistan for the post-harvest period. Recommendations and forecasts will be made for the winter and lean season.

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	17,623	23	4,053	68	11,984	9	1,586	0	0			9	1,586
Livelihood Zone 2: Western Pamir Valley Migratory Work Zone	155,883	47	73,265	51	79,500	2	3,118	-	0			2	3,118
Livelihood Zone 3: Western Pamir Irrigated Agriculture Zone	37,221	81	30,149	17	6,328	2	744	-	0			2	744
Livelihood Zone 4: Rasht Valley Irrigated Potato Zone	431,473	51	220,051	47	202,792	2	8,629	-	0			2	8,629
Livelihood Zone 5: Khatlon Mountain Agro-Pastoral Zone	213,499	54	115,289	43	91,805	3	6,405	-	0	0	0	3	6,405
Livelihood Zone 6: Southern Khatlon Cotton, Vegetable and Wheat Zone	1,245,319	45	560,394	52	647,566	3	37,360	-	0	0	0	3	37,360
Livelihood Zone 7: Khatlon Rain fed Wheat and Livestock Zone	563,280	42	236,578	54	304,171	4	22,531	-	0	0	0	4	22,531
Livelihood Zone 8: Central and Eastern Tajikistan Agro-Industrial Zone	662,327	81	536,485	17	112,596	2	13,247	-	0			2	13,247
Livelihood Zone 9: Eastern and Central Zeravshan Valley Agro-pastoral Zone	666,923	54	360,138	43	286,777	3	20,008	-	0			3	20,008
Livelihood Zone 10: Panjakent Rice, Fruit, and Vegetable Zone	No data												
Livelihood Zone 11: Ghonchi and Istaravshan Rainfed Cereal, Fruit, and Vegetable Zone	230,313	46	105,944	51	117,460	3	6,909	-	0			3	6,909
Livelihood Zone 12: North Sughd Agro-Industrial Zone	1,031,409	66	680,730	32	330,051	2	20,628	-	0			2	20,628
Livelihood Zone 13: Khatlon Agro-industrial Peri-urban Zone	553,304	81	448,176	17	94,062	2	11,066	-	0	0	0	2	11,066
Total:	5,808,574	58	3,371,253	39	2,285,090	3	152,231	-	0				152,231

Note: a) Livelihood Zone 10: Panjakent Rice, Fruit, and Vegetable Zone with an estimated total population of 92,888 is not part of this analysis

b) The population data is from 01 January 2012 (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.



Stressed: Eastern Pamir Plateau Livestock Zone (Livelihood Zone 1)

This pastoral and employment based zone is a sparsely populated mountainous zone with harsh environment limiting household options to livestock rearing. Unable to produce crops as in neighboring livelihood zones, households residing on the Eastern Pamir Plateau mainly rely on wheat flour purchases and other staples to meet their annual food needs, supplementing the remainder from own livestock products, which mainly consisted of yaks, goats and sheep. Households in this zone are heavily dependent on the market for food. Part of the population also barter livestock products for food. However, poor market access results in frequent fluctuations in terms of trade – often unfavorable – for food and livestock, and this combination places many households in this zone at risk of food insecurity in bad years.

This livelihood zone is classified in **Phase 2 - Stressed**. It is estimated that from total population of the zone *about 70 percent* are moderately food insecure with minimally adequate food consumption, however are unable to afford some essential non-food expenditures without using coping strategies.

The food security situation estimated to have improved during past few months due to opening roads, better access to markets and improved condition of livestock. Livestock that were lost, primarily to cold temperatures in the late winter/spring of 2012 did negatively impact some households. While this was certainly a food security concern for most of 2012 and into the lean season, it is no longer a major concern in 2013 due to donations of additional livestock, humanitarian assistance during the winter, and the fact that many livestock gave birth.

The main source of income for most of the zone's population is the sale of animals and animal products, as well as remittances from family members working in Dushanbe, Russia and Kyrgyzstan. Only 25 percent of population being officially employed and other 21 percent pensioners, 18 percent earns mainly by shepherding. As per information from the statistics agency, 7 percent of population considers remittances as a main source of income. As per information from the banks, the total amount of remittances received during the first quarter of 2013 was equivalent to US\$195,986. Other 82 percent of the families have the income coming from livestock, particularly from sale of small cattle/yack or meat and other products. 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. All food commodities are brought into the district by road transport and sold expensively. Almost 17 percent of Murghob district population doesn't have acceptable access to food commodities (mainly disadvantaged families and unemployed). Other part of population that live and work at remote pastures for a quite long period may not have an ordinary access to vegetables, fruits, groceries.

Access to food due to high prices also remains a challenge for many poor families. Though in May the food prices for major food commodities stabilized due to melting snow and opening the highway to Khorog market and Osh of Kyrgyzstan, still prices remain high compared to previous years, including for meat, which has risen by 15 percent since last year. Fuel prices remained as high as in 2012. The WFP Food Security Monitoring (FSMS) household survey, conducted in late November 2012 indicates that households spent around 87 percent of their income for purchasing food. Major part of population have limited access to protein sources, fruits, vegetables and clean drinking water. Food consumption still remains inadequate for many households due to high prices, long distances to the markets, and unfavorable terms of trade.

In April-May 2013 WFP under its Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) project provided 44MT of food assistance to around 300 households (1,500 beneficiaries), identified as the most vulnerable area, which was classified as phase 3 by the participants of IPC forum in January 2013. In addition, 96 children received a 90 day ration of fortified blended food (Supercereal Plus) to improve their nutrition status. This blanket feeding was provided to all children under two years of age in families receiving assistance under the VGF project.

In the coming months the food security situation is expected to slightly improve thanks to increased seasonal remittances and road conditions, contributing to improved delivery of food to the area and in turn, easier transportation of the livestock and animal product to the center of region for further sale.



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

This zone has some agricultural land with the majority of households engaged in growing wheat, potatoes, vegetables and fruits. Livestock ownership is limited and used for household consumption and the animal or its product 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 May to October 2013. It is estimated that approximately half of the people are moderately food insecure.

The Committee of Emergency Situation (CoES) reported several cases of natural disasters (landslides, avalanches, strong winds, etc.) in 2013. Estimated losses from the shocks were equal to TJS89,235.00. As a result of these disasters, 11 houses, roads, power and communication lines were destroyed and some agricultural lands damaged.

Food availability was not a limiting factor. However, due to associated landslides or avalanches the access remains limited to the remote villages in the eastern part of the zone. Physical access to markets and food is particularly constrained by bad road conditions, rock falls and long distances to remote Jamoats of Rushon (Basid, Savnob), Shughnon (Ver, Vankala), Ishkoshim (Zong, Vrang) and Roshtkala (Barvoz and Seji) districts. Bad roads and long distances make it difficult for households living there 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.

Remittances remained the main source of income for almost one third of households. Though official statistics indicate lower numbers, the participants of the Forum pointed out that more than half of the families had one or two members working in Russia and Kazakhstan from March until November. According to the information from the banks, in the first quarter of 2013 more remittances were received than the same period last year. The following amount were transferred from Russia from the labour migrants: Ishkoshim – US\$994,593.40, Roshtkala – US\$2,015,313.81, Shughnon – US\$192,494.85, Rushon – US\$1,629,154.64

Access to food due to high prices remains a major constraint most of the population as agricultural production is insufficient to meet food needs and wheat flour, rice, pasta and vegetable oil are imported from regional centers and Dushanbe. Though the prices stabilized during past few months, still they remain high. With the limited budget many households find it difficult to have access to required amount of food and appropriate diet. The WFP FSMS household survey indicates that households spent around 82 percent of their income for purchasing food.

In May 2013, WFP provided 84MT of food assistance to poor families (2,826 people) living in remote Jamoats of Rushon and Ishkoshim districts, which were identified as most food insecure Jamoats by last IPC forum in Jan 2013. In addition, children under two years old in 187 families in the district were supported with supplementary fortified blended food (Supercereal Plus) to improve children's nutritional status. AKF, FOCUS, UNICEF, USAID, GIZ also contributed to improvement of food security and nutrition situation in the area.

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. Meals mainly consist of bread and milk with little oil, with limited access to fruits, and vegetables. Reduce the amount of food, relaying on less preferred and less expensive food and migration continue to be the strategy of the vulnerable 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.

In coming months the food security situation is expected to improve mainly thanks to increased seasonal remittances and road conditions, contributing to improved delivery of food to the area. Increase in agricultural activity also may provide additional jobs and income for households having family plots. Availability of fresh vegetable and fruits may result in improvement of nutrients and diversity of the food during the summer and a few months before the lean period.



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, fruits 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 unsustainable strategies to access food and income.

The Committee of Emergency Situation (CoES) reported on cases of natural disasters in 2012 including the last quarter of the year. Estimated losses from earthquakes, heavy snow and frequent avalanches in Darvoz were equal to TJS1,082,700, which is higher than in previous years. Floods damaged 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 be 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 functions well, however access is limited during severe winter conditions and associated landslides or avalanches for households residing in the 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 centers and Dushanbe and sold to the zone population.

Access to food due to high prices remains a main constraint 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, the 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 resort to finding additional work opportunities to increase their reliance on credit and to reducing their expenditure on non-essentials.

In coming months the food security situation is expected to improve mainly thanks to increased seasonal remittances. Increase in agricultural activity also may provide additional jobs and income for households having family plots. Availability of fresh vegetable and fruits may result in improvement of nutrients and diversity of the food during the summer and months before the lean period.



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

This large, mountainous, irrigated agriculture zone encompasses most Jamoats in Tavildara, Tojikobod, Nurobod, Roghun and the northern Jamoats of Faizobod districts. Most of the flat lands are tilled using mechanized traction while animal traction is used in hilly areas. Households also keep cattle, sheep, goats and poultry. A minority of households also produce honey for sale. Poor households also rely on in-kind grain payments and livestock products.

Income sources for the poor and better-off are highly dependent on employment opportunities. The main source of income for the poor comes from work within the zone. Better-off households rely largely on remittances received from household members working in Russia, followed by crop and livestock sales. Some better-off households earn revenue from small shops, businesses and salaries from government jobs.

Overall the Livelihood zone in May is classified in **phase 2- Stressed**. It is estimated that around 47 percent of the population has minimally adequate food consumption, yet is unable to afford some essential non-food expenditures without using coping strategies.

The majority of food insecure population are residing in Jergatol, particularly Jamoat Jergatol, including Obshaka, Minbulok and Muk villages, and some remote Jamoats of Tavildara (Vahdat), Rasht (Askalon, Obi Mehnat) and Faizobod districts with main challenges of frequent natural disasters, poor quality of roads and bridges, inaccessibility to the markets, change of livelihoods, etc. as well some flat areas of Nurobod, facing shortage of drinking and irrigation water. Kashot and Sartalo Jamoats in Jergatol, affected by the failure of potato harvest in 2012 and a high level of debts from the banks, are areas with a high number of food insecure households. At present remittances remain one of the major sources of income for these families.

In March, heavy rains were followed by floods in Nurobod district damaging 90 hectares of households' agricultural lands and plots, including 40 hectares of potato cultivated lands, leaving affected populations with reduced abilities to invest.

Nearly all households in the zone rely on purchased food to meet the majority of the food needs. Though households do consume their own potatoes they are also sold or traded for wheat, vegetables, oil and non-food essentials. Other crops from their own farms and livestock products fulfill their remaining food needs. In May many households depleted their potato stocks and mainly depend on food on credits and remittances, which show increase compared to the last three months of last year. As per information from the banks, total amounts received from abroad during first quarter of the year: US\$4 million in Rasht, US\$1,279,000 in Tojikobod, US\$580,000 in Nurobod, US\$1,877,072 in Jergatol, US\$578,000 in Tavildara and US\$1,630,103.00 in Roghun.

While in the Central market of Rasht wheat flour prices have slightly gone down during January-April 2013, other commodities prices such as rice, maize, vegetable oil, beef and mutton prices have been increasing. During last 4 months potato increased 21 percent, wheat grain by 6 percent, rise and meat by 2 percent and 3 percent respectively.

Despite a decrease of prices for wheat flour in the past months, they still remain considerably higher compared to the same period last year. Wheat flour prices increased 28 percent, grain 7 percent, and rice 4 percent since April 2012. Prices for mutton and beef increased 13 percent and 17 percent respectively.

In April 2013, under Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) Project, WFP provided food assistance to nearly 1,140 households (5,700 beneficiaries) identified as most vulnerable by last IPC forum in January 2013. Around 163MT of food support was provided to poor families residing in Tojikobod district. In addition, children under two years old in 354 families in the district were supported with supplementary fortified blended food (Supercereal Plus) to improve children's nutritional status. WFP also supported vulnerable households through Food For Work projects for assets creation and improvement of livelihoods. Mercy Corps through its Rasht Valley Emergency food security program assisted 1,250 families in Jergatol, Nurobod and Gharm building resiliency through cash transfer and vouchers distribution, training on nutrition, hygiene and improved potato storage.

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 rising food and fuel prices. Similar to other livelihood zones, the poor initially



purchase their food using credit, repaying their debts according to seasonal cash flow from Russia. Lack of drinking water is the main preoccupation for the households living in Nusratullo Makhsum, Qalai Surkh, Navdi, Jafr, Qalai Labi Ob, Nushor, Alga, Yangishahr, Yosghand Jamoats of the districts, located within the Zone.

In the coming months the food security situation is expected to improve thanks to better income opportunities, increase in agricultural activity, improved employment opportunities and more seasonal remittances. It is expected that the potato harvest will rise this year due to expansion of lands used for its cultivation. An additional 123 hectares of land is used for potato cultivation in Jamoat of Yasman in Rasht, while an increase of 14, 000tons is expected in the potato harvest in Jergatol, reaching the total quantity of 100,000 tons in 2013-2014 harvesting year.

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.

Livestock sales represent the main income source for all households in the zone. Crops, mostly wheat and some potatoes are another important income source. Part of the population also earns from informal employment outside the zone, mainly in Kurgan-Tyube, Dushanbe and Russia. Pastures and crop residues are the main source of fodder for zone livestock. Rural households in Norak share largely similar agriculture-based livelihoods, but the hydro-electric Power Station and the dam also provide local work for many.

Overall the livelihood zone is classified in ***phase 2- Stressed*** from May to October 2013. It is estimated that around 43 percent of population has minimally adequate food consumption, yet is unable to afford some essential non-food expenditures without using coping strategies.

Occurrences of flooding and heavy rain in Shurobod and Doghiston Jamoats of Shurobod, Shahrak and Sariosiyob Jamoats in Khovaling districts resulted in heavy damage to agricultural crop and fruit trees and these shocks may negatively affect communities access to income this year.

Better wheat, potato and fruit production in the last season improved the access of the population, including for keeping sufficient stocks. Increased stocks, livestock prices and remittances from abroad helped households during the lean period. Part of the population also barter small stock for grain and the meat and dairy products supplied by their animals.

Food access remains a limiting factor in this zone. Obstacles to market access are characterized by bad roads and distance. The distance and cost of transporting produce to this remote zone results in unfavorable trade terms. Rising prices of most commodities are contributing factors to food insecurity. In May 2013 wheat flour prices were up by around 30 percent compared to the same period of the last year. Prices for wheat grain, potato and rice also remain high. High prices for fuel affect transportation costs resulting in higher prices in remote villages.

In May overall food consumption in this livelihood zone slightly improved due to better accessibility to income sources, early vegetables availability, better conditions of livestock, resulting in availability of dairy products, etc. (according to FSMS in November 2012 over 17 percent of households had poor or borderline food consumption). Up to 65 percent of total income is spent by households for buying basic food, and food access for the poor was based mainly on a credit system.

The food security situation will improve in summer thanks to better accessibility to markets, employment opportunities, increased agricultural activity and seasonal remittances. Good rains may result in better harvest of wheat, which is mainly cultivated in rain fed lands. Availability of fresh vegetable and fruits may result in improvement of nutrients and diversity of the food during the summer.



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

Agriculture and, to a lesser degree, animal husbandry are the dominant livelihood activities in this relatively fertile zone. It stretches across most of southern Khatlon Region and is interspersed with Khatlon Rainfed Wheat and Livestock zone (Livelihood Zone 7). Irrigation infrastructure is found throughout the livelihood zone, however since Soviet times the maintenance of some of these systems have largely fallen into disrepair. Most households in the zone are part of the dehkan land tenure system and still grow cotton. In addition to cotton, households also produce wheat, fruits (lemon, grapes, apricots, peaches and pomegranates) and vegetables (mostly onions, potatoes, carrots, and cabbage). Some households also produce fruits. Better-off households cultivate larger areas of land, can afford tractor and thresher rental and hire agricultural laborers. Cattle, sheep, goats and chickens are the main livestock kept by households, though poorer households may only own some chickens, sheep or goats. Households in this zone are largely dependent on the market for their food. Generally, the harvest of better-off households lasts until December, with the remaining half of their food needs coming from the market and their own livestock. 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.

Remittances, agricultural labor and casual labor also play an important role and represent main source of income particularly for poor families.

This livelihood zone is classified in **Phase 2- Stressed** acute food insecurity in May-October 2013. It is estimated that more than a *half* of population living in the area is moderately food insecure and engages in some kind of unsustainable strategies to access food and income.

Localized natural disasters (floods, landslides, etc.), lack of clean drinking water, crop pest, spread of locust (in Farkhor, Vose, partly Khuroson), staple food price increase, and increase of prices for fuel and fertilizers were among the problems faced by population and affected access of poor households to income and food.

Heavy rains and hailstorms in Abdurahmon Jomy district inundated and destroyed seedlings and plantings on the sown areas (610 ha of cotton fields, 60 ha watermelon, 11 ha wheat grain, 1 ha under barley, 9 ha under sugar beet, 2 ha under alfalfa, 4 ha under maize and 128 ha of grapes). According to official estimation, costs of damages amounted to TJS1,336,852 (US\$274,507). Intensified rains also damaged some part of agricultural lands in Jilikul, Qumsangir and Khuroson districts. Unexpected fall of snow and strong cold winds in first half of March may have negative consequences on this year's fruit yield (almond, apricot, grapes, peach, and persimmon) and at least 50% of pomegranate and fig trees. It is estimated that 25 - 35 percent of expected yields may be lost.

In March, as a result of floods houses, household support facilities, kitchen gardens, fencing walls were severely damaged in Chubek, Yangiobod, Hayoti-Nav and Choilobkamar villages, in Hamadoni district. The natural disaster also destroyed arable lands (42 ha of cotton fields, 2 ha watermelon, 217 ha wheat grain, 1 ha potato, 31 ha vegetables and 36 ha under alfalfa) and caused livestock mortalities. According to the officials, the estimated cost of damage was equal to TJS3,138,000 (US\$644,353).

Food availability is not a limiting factor in this zone. Better wheat harvest (according to the regional statistics wheat harvest was better in Jilikul (up by 23 percent), Panj (51 percent), Farkhor (48 percent), Yovon (67 percent), etc.) as well as fruits, vegetables, improved livestock breeding, accessibility of markets contributed to better availability of food. Reports from the Statistical Department of Khatlon Region indicate overall increment of sown areas in the livelihood zone. Though due to unfavorable climatic conditions, farmers of Jilikul, A. Jomi and Yovon districts planted on fewer areas compared to 2011/2012 planting season (1,399 ha less), the overall areas planted for 2012/2013 in the zone increased by 2,425 ha.

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 are the main staple foods purchased by households.



High prices however 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-March 2013 prices for staple foods remained stable. In April prices for wheat flour first grade, potatoes, etc. started to decrease, yet remained significantly higher compared to the same period of last year. 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 almost one third of households. Though official statistics indicate lower numbers, the participants of the Forum pointed out that many households have one or two members working in Russia and Kazakhstan from March until November. The World Bank, FAO, GIZ (through “Securing and stabilizing livelihoods in the Tajik-Afghan border-area in Southwest-Khatlon” project) USAID, WFP and Save the Children also contributed to improvement of food security and livelihood sustainability.

Though there is a slight improvement in overall food consumption in this livelihood zone, still many households are not able to diversify their diet, especially in the context of high unemployment rate and high food prices. Many households rely on less preferred and less expensive food to cope with the situation. Others initially purchase food through credit until remittances are received to pay off. The poor may also switch expenditure patterns by reducing the amount of cash spent on non-food items and purchasing cheaper foods. 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 and sanitary measures.

The food security situation will improve in summer thanks to improved income from sales on months and more, accessibility to markets, employment opportunities, increased agricultural activity and seasonal remittances. Good rains may result in better harvest of wheat, which is mainly cultivated in rain fed lands. Availability of fresh vegetable and fruits may contribute to improvement of nutrients and diversity of the food during the summer.

Stressed: Khatlon Rainfed Wheat and Livestock Zone (Livelihood Zone 7)

This mixed-agriculture zone includes all hilly, rain-fed wheat areas in Khatlon Region and the southern *Jamoats* of the Rudaki district in District Direct Rule (DRD), providing wheat, beans, lentils, sesame and sunflower crops, fruits and pistachios. Animals raised in the zone are cattle, sheep, goats and poultry, mostly turkeys. Households’ own production is a significant source of food for the 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. Households may also sell some of the grain they receive as payment in-kind. Petty trading by poor households is done by purchasing sugar, salt and spices in large quantities then reselling the commodities in smaller portions. Most of the work opportunities in the zone are found locally however some may travel to Russia from March to November, or Dushanbe throughout the year.

This livelihood zone is classified in **Phase 2- Stress** acute food insecurity in May-October 2013. It is estimated that *about 54 percent* of the population have minimally adequate food consumption, but are unable to afford some essential non-food expenditures without using some coping strategies.

Localized natural disasters (floods, landslides, strong winds, heavy hail, etc.), lack of clean drinking water, crop pest, spread of locust, staple food price increase, and increase of prices for fuel and fertilizers were among the problems faced by the population, and affected the access of poor households to income and food. Large areas infested by locust in Farkhor, Nosir Khusrav and Shahrituz districts, reaching above 19,000 ha (Farkhor – 7,500 ha, Nosir Khusrav – 3,500 ha and Shahrituz – 7,500 ha; Rudaki District/Sari Kishti & Esanboi Jamoats – around 6,000 ha).

Heavy rains, hailstorms and the unexpected snow in March may have negative consequences on this year’s fruit yield (fig, almond, apricot, grapes, pomegranate, peach, and persimmon), particularly in Jamoats of Dahanakiik and Galaobod of Khuroson district, Shahrak and Tanobchi of Temurmalik district, as well as throughout of Farkhor, Shahrituz and Nosir Khusrav districts. Farmers expect 20 percent to 50 percent of loss of expected fruit yields.



According to the decree by Central Government of RT, issued in 3 December 2012 “Internal migration of families from land-poor districts and densely populated highland districts to valleys with abandoned areas for 2013-2015 years” (No. 677), a total of 118 families were relocated to this Zone, including to Khuroson (78 families), Nosir Khusrav (25 families) and Shahrituz (15 families) districts. Due to financial constraints, these families are poorly supported; they have lost their previous livelihoods and have to start with the new activity.

Food availability is not a limiting factor in this zone. The cereal harvest of the 2011/2012 season was better according to the regional statistics. Wheat production was higher by 16 percent in Khuroson, 20 percent in Shahrituz, 30 percent in Nosir Khusrav, 5 percent in Temurmalik and 9.6 percent in Danghara compared to previous season. Improved livestock breeding also contributed to overall better availability of food and agricultural products in the markets.

In April under Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) Project, WFP assisted 3,144 poor families (18,426 people) in Khuroson and Temurmalik districts with 445MT assorted food. These were mainly households with a few livestock and the lowest income, residing in the districts which were classified in phase 3 (crisis) by last IPC forum in January 2013. In addition, children under two years old in 965 families were supported with supplementary fortified blended food (Supercereal Plus) for better nutrition. WFP also supported vulnerable households in Qumsangir and other districts through Food For Work projects for assets creation and improvement of livelihoods. The World Bank, FAO, GIZ, USAID and Save the Children also contributed to improving food security and livelihood sustainability.

Market access in the zone is generally good and connects various village clusters are connected 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 major challenge 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. The high fuel prices also affected different sectors: irrigated agriculture, food and non-food prices and animal feed. High prices for fertilisers remain a challenge for poor families to collect better harvest from household plots.

Due to remoteness and bad roads the permanent availability of food products in the localized markets was difficult in Tomchi, Ganjina and Naizabuloq villages of Khuroson district, Toshbuloq, Chagam, Tuyabuyun, Murodbakhsh, Bulbulon, Sartezi, Savda and Chavroki villages of Temurmalik district. This affected the prices for food commodities, keeping them high.

Overall food consumption in this livelihood zone slightly improved in comparison with the lean period due to better availability of food and income opportunities, although it is still remains a problem for poor families (according to FSMS household survey conducted in November 2012 over 56 percent of households have poor or borderline food consumption). Many households rely on less preferred and less expensive food to cope with the situation. Others initially purchase food through credit until remittances are received to pay off. The poor may also switch expenditure patterns by reducing amount of cash spent on non-food items. In general, food accessed by the population is also inadequately utilized by a large proportion of the population in many areas due to limited access to clean drinking water, and poor sanitary measures. Large part of the population in Ghalaobod Jamoat in Khuroson, Jamoats Kushkiya, Vatan and Bobounus in Temurmalik, many villages of Jamoat Sangtuda in Danghara, Buston, Navobod, Bobosafoli Bolo of Jamoat Gulshan in Farkhor, Navobod and Tuleganov villages of Jamoat Firuza in Nosir Khusrav districts have a year-round problem with accessing drinking water and have to transport it from long distances with carts, donkeys or vehicles. Some part of the required water is purchased and collected during rainy weather in special tanks.

The food security situation will improve in summer thanks to better accessibility to markets, employment opportunities, increased agricultural activity and seasonal remittances. Good rains may result in better harvest of wheat, which is mainly cultivated in rain fed lands. Availability of fresh vegetable and fruits may contribute to improvement of nutrients and diversity of the diet during the summer.



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

This agricultural zone's landscape is mostly flat and fertile agricultural land through the northern and southern borders of the zone slope to high elevations becoming increasingly hilly and less dependent on irrigation. The zone extends eastward from the border of Uzbekistan through most of Tursunzoda, Shahrinav, Hissor, southern Varzob, Vahdat, the northern parts of Rudaki and Vahdat Districts. The Tajikistan railroad traverses the center of the zone, connecting households with large commercial centers of Dushanbe with peri-urban areas, and with Uzbekistan.

Nearly 90% of the agricultural land is irrigated and households mostly cultivate vegetables such as tomatoes, cucumbers, carrots and cabbage. Fruit, such as grapes, apples, pear and apricots are also grown on family plots and on orchards. The hillier areas use the 600 to 800 mm of rainfall received to produce some wheat, legumes and oilseeds but these crops are mostly used as livestock fodder. Goats and chicken are the main livestock kept in the zone and are used for household consumption and for sale.

This livelihood zone is classified in **Phase 1- Minimal** acute food insecurity in May– October 2013. It is estimated that *more than 80 percent* of the population are able to meet essential food and non-food needs without engaging in unsustainable strategies to access food and income.

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 or in stage of completion in mountainous locations, are directed to the development of the fishing sector, bee production, chicken breeding, cattle breeding, and provide opportunities for employment 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. Population 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.

Remittances remained the main source of income for many households in the Zone. According to information received from the Banks the following amounts were received during first four months of 2013: in Tursunzoda- US\$42,350,000 from 7,230 migrants working outside Tajikistan, in Rudaki – US\$22.100.000 from approximately 15,000 migrant (however, as residents of other seven Jamoats of the district usually receive remittances through banks in Dushanbe, the total amounts should be significantly higher), in Varzob – US\$ 9.278.350 from approximately 5,400 labour migrants, in Hissor – US\$10.495.374.

Part of the population faces 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 limited in power supply and scarcity of cooking gaz.

Overall food consumption in this livelihood zone remains normal (as per FSMS in November 2012 only 7 percent of the population had poor or borderline food consumption). Food consumption remains 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 Zarafshon Valley Agro-pastoral Zone (Livelihood Zone 9)

This sparsely populated, mountainous zone is located in the portion of the Zarafshon Valley running from Kuhistoni Mastchoh district through Ayni district, and parts the eastern and southern part of Panjakent districts. The livelihood system is best characterized as agro-pastoral. Households depend largely on sheep and goats for food and income and, to a lesser extent, crop production.

Potatoes and vegetables are the dominant foods grown and consumed in the zone. Potatoes are more heavily cultivated in Kuhistoni Mastchoh and Shahrison districts than in other parts of the zone because of the favorable growing conditions. Besides being used for household consumption, potatoes are also sold outside of the zone. Apricots, pear, and apple orchards are also a major income source for both the better-off and poor households. In addition to income from agricultural activities, a significant proportion of income comes from migration from which remittances are sent from Russia or Kazakhstan. Poor households are more heavily dependent on income from remittances to meet their food and basic survival needs. Income from livestock is mainly earned through livestock sales rather than livestock product sales like milk, yogurt or chaka.

Overall the Livelihood zone is classified in **phase 2- Stressed**. It is estimated that more than half the population has minimally adequate food consumption, yet is unable to afford some essential non-food expenditures without using some typical or unsustainable coping strategies, including purchase of food in credit, incurring debts, etc..

Mudslides and avalanches are common natural shocks that disrupt the agricultural and livestock practices. The poor are particularly affected by the loss of expected crop, vegetables or fruits caused by temperature and natural disasters. Late snowfalls in spring affected the crop and may decrease the expected harvest, particularly apricots and apples. Meanwhile, a sharp increase in caterpillar infestation becomes a major problem for agricultural lands.

Availability of food is not a limiting factor, although sometimes could be a problem (in short duration) in remote villages, due to difficulties in accessibility of roads and timely transporting food from district centers. Considerably higher cereal and potato production of last year and accessibility to markets of Istaravshan and Khujand contributed to permanent availability of food commodities in the market, although transportation costs result in higher prices of food in remote villages of Kuhistoni Mastchoh, mountainous villages in Varzob, Vahdat and Hissor and southern Panjakent, which were mostly isolated during the winter and spring.

Access to staple food due to high prices remains a main constraint for a major part of population, as many are highly dependent on the market for a large proportion of their food needs. In April 2013, prices for wheat flour decreased slightly in comparison to March, however still remained in high levels. As of 30 April 2013, the average price of one sack of locally produced first grade wheat flour (50 kg) in central markets reached US\$30.7, which was 38 percent higher than the same month of last year. High prices for fuel and fertilisers remain a challenge for poor families to collect better harvest from their farms and household plots.

In January 2013 WFP assisted around 7,000 vulnerable people in Ayni district through cash transfer safety net. 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. WFP also supported vulnerable households in Kuhistoni Mastchoh through a number of Food For Work projects, focusing on creation of assets and improvement of livelihoods.

Although there is a slight improvement in overall food consumption in this livelihood zone compared to the November 2012 (according to FSMS household survey conducted in November 2012 over 14 percent of households had poor or borderline food consumption), still many households are not able to diversify their diet, especially in the context of high unemployment rate and high food prices. Many households rely on less preferred and less expensive food to cope with the situation. Others initially purchase food through credit until remittances are received to pay off. The poor may also switch expenditure patterns by reducing amount of cash spent on non-food items and purchasing cheaper foods.



Like the 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 is also inadequately utilized due to poor cooking facilities (heavy power limitations and practices). Reducing the amount of food, eating cheap food and migration continue to be the strategy of the poorest and poor households.

The food security situation will improve in summer thanks to better accessibility to markets, labor opportunities, increased agricultural activity and seasonal remittances. Seasonal availability of fresh vegetables and fruits (apricots, pear, and apple) and livestock products may result in improvement of nutrients and diversity of the diet during the summer and also serve as a major source of income for many households.

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

This moderately populated zone mainly lies in Ghonchi and Istaravshan districts; south of the North Sughd Agro-Industrial zone and north of the Eastern and Central Zarafshon Valley Agro-pastoral zone. The livelihood system is primarily comprised of rain-fed cereal, viticulture, and vegetable agriculture as well as some livestock rearing. During the Soviet era, the zone was well irrigated, but in the past several decades the irrigation system has been disassembled. There are currently a limited number of newly renovated irrigation systems within the zone.

Many households use the wheat harvests for their own consumption. Better-off households tend to have higher yields than poorer households because of better access to quality seeds, fertilizer inputs, and tractors and threshers. Cattle, sheep, goat, and poultry rearing also play an important role as both an income and food sources for better-off and poor households. Households in this zone seem to be heavily dependent on remittances for income, as in most of Tajikistan.

Overall the Livelihood zone is classified in **phase 2- Stressed**. It is estimated that *about 51 percent of the population* in under this phase, having minimally adequate food consumption, yet being unable to afford some essential non-food expenditures without engaging in typical or unsustainable coping strategies. Rasrovut, I. Somoni, Vahdat Jamoats of Ghonchi and Guli Surkh, Poshkent and Zarhalol Jamoats of Istaravshan district are the locations where the most vulnerable population is concentrated.

Total rainfall from March to May 2013 was 15-20 mm for the overall area. The area usually receives from 9 to 15 mm of rain during the same period, meaning most of the area received above the normal percent of rainfall in 2013 spring. Due to heavy rainfall and hails in some areas agricultural lands and fruit trees were damaged and the cultivated crop was partly lost. This includes damages on cereal cultivated lands (20 percent losses), grapes (around 50 percent) and fruits trees (around 40-50 percent).

For the past months there were no other restrictions or challenges faced by the population regarding the availability of food, and market access in the zone also remained relatively good, with Istaravshan, a major cereal and vegetable wholesale market, located within the zone. Khujand is also easily accessible. A good rainfall last year contributed to wheat surplus for the zone, in the 2012/2013 season. Better harvest of potato also contributed to better stocks and availability of food products in the market.

Although prices slightly decreased during the past months, access to food due to high prices remains a main preoccupation 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 wheat flour remain higher by around 30 percent, meat by 7 percent, vegetables by 17 percent in comparison with the same period last year.

Food consumption has been slightly improving in both districts, Ghonchi and Istaravshan thanks to availability of early vegetables, and additional sources of income, particularly from agricultural activity and seasonal remittances.

Food utilisation is a limiting factor of food security, due to unprotected water sources and poor sanitation. Access to



drinking water remains one of the main problems for a number of communities in Ghonchi district. Insufficient irrigation water for agricultural lands is also reported by the population and the authorities.

The food security situation will improve in summer thanks to better accessibility to markets, labor planting spring crops, increased agricultural activity and seasonal remittances. Seasonal availability of fresh vegetables and fruits (apricot, pear, and apple) and livestock products may result in improvement of nutrients and diversity of the diet during the summer and also serve as a major source of income for many households.

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

This relatively fertile zone is located in the northern part of Sughd region, bordering Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan. The zone is most densely populated in the urban and agricultural areas with some inhabitants living in the mountain areas of Asht and Mastchoh districts. The agricultural land is primarily located in flatlands near the major water sources and only goes as high as the electric powered irrigation system will allow. However, even households living in the mountains depend on the irrigated agricultural land for their livelihoods. Households in this zone cultivate a variety of cash and fodder crops including rice, wheat, cotton, melons, tomatoes, cucumbers, apricots, pears, and apples. Cotton is grown throughout the zone. Crop sales and remittances are the major sources 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 32 percent of the population is moderately food insecure, having minimally adequate food consumption, however are unable to afford some essential non-food expenditures without engaging in unsustainable or typical coping strategies. Jabbor Rasulov, Bobojon Ghafurov and Konibodom districts, are classified a *Phase 1- Minimal*.

Food availability is not a limiting factor in this zone. A good rainfall last year contributed to wheat surplus for the zone. According to the regional statistics departments, in the 2012/2013 cereal production was significantly higher in the area compared to the year before, thanks to above average rainfall and accumulated precipitation.

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.

High prices however 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-March 2013 prices for staple foods remained stable. In April prices for wheat flour first grade, potatoes, etc. started slightly decreasing, although still remain significantly higher compared to the same period of last year. In April 2013 wheat grain and wheat flour prices remained 17 percent and 60 percent respectively higher compared to the same period of last year in Khujand markets. Since April 2012, prices for meat increased by 12 percent. The WFP FSMS household survey in November 2012 indicated that households spent around 71 percent of their income for purchasing food. High prices for fuel and fertilisers remain a challenge for poor families to collect better harvest from household plots.

Overall food consumption in this livelihood zone remains acceptable (in November 2012 according to the FSMS household survey, only 13 percent had poor or borderline food consumption).

The food security situation will improve in summer thanks to better accessibility to markets, labor planting spring crops, increased agricultural activity and seasonal remittances. Seasonal availability of fresh vegetables and fruits (apricot, pear, and apple) and livestock products may result in improvement of nutrients and diversity of the diet during the summer and also serve as a major source of income for many households.



Minimal: 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. Market-based shocks are the most common shocks in this zone.

This livelihood zone is classified in **Phase 1- Minimal** acute food insecurity in May-October 2013. It is estimated that *more than 80 percent* of the population are able to meet essential food and non-food needs without engaging in unsustainable strategies to access food and income.

Spread of locust in Vakhsh (1800ha), Sarband and Rumi (200ha) and a heavy rains damaging crops and fruit harvest (grape, fig, pomegranate and partly persimmon) in 420 ha in Jamoat “20-solagi” in Vakhsh, Jamoats Guliston and Uzun in Rumi and Jamoat Bustonqala in Bokhtar districts, may affect food security status of the households engaged with the sale of fruits and vegetables.

There was no reported restriction to physical food access for the area. Large markets and shops are easily accessible for most. Increased remittances provided more access to food. The unemployment rate decreased in this period. Increased income sources among all groups improved financial access to food. The slight decrease of fuel prices (2 percent during the month) impacted different sectors: irrigated agriculture, food prices and animal feed due to transport costs. The price of wheat flour however remained significantly high compared to same period last year; prices for other basic food commodities went down in the last 3 months, such as cereals (7 percent), pulses (4 percent), wheat flour 1st grade (3 percent) and potato (7 percent). Good road networks and affordable transportation allow unhindered access to markets throughout the year.

Remittances are considered an important source of revenue for the population. The number of people leaving the areas to Russia, mainly for the purpose of finding temporary employment, increased during the first quarter of the current year. Amount of remittances received by population in Rumi and Bokhtar in January-March through the banks was 58 percent and 26 percent higher than the total amount transferred during the first quarter of 2012.

Overall food consumption in this livelihood zone has improved due to availability of better sources of income, including agricultural activity, sale of first crops and increased remittances.

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 the communities use the rain water as an alternative or to pay for water, which is transported from outside the area. Scarcity of clean drinking water and poor household health environment leads to inadequate food utilization by some communities in mentioned Jamoats.

Better accessibility to markets, employment opportunities, increased agricultural activity and seasonal remittances may contribute to improving the food security situation in some areas. Availability of fresh vegetable and fruits should improve the nutrients and diet diversity during the next few months.

**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

Based on discussions leading to consensus, experts recommended to:

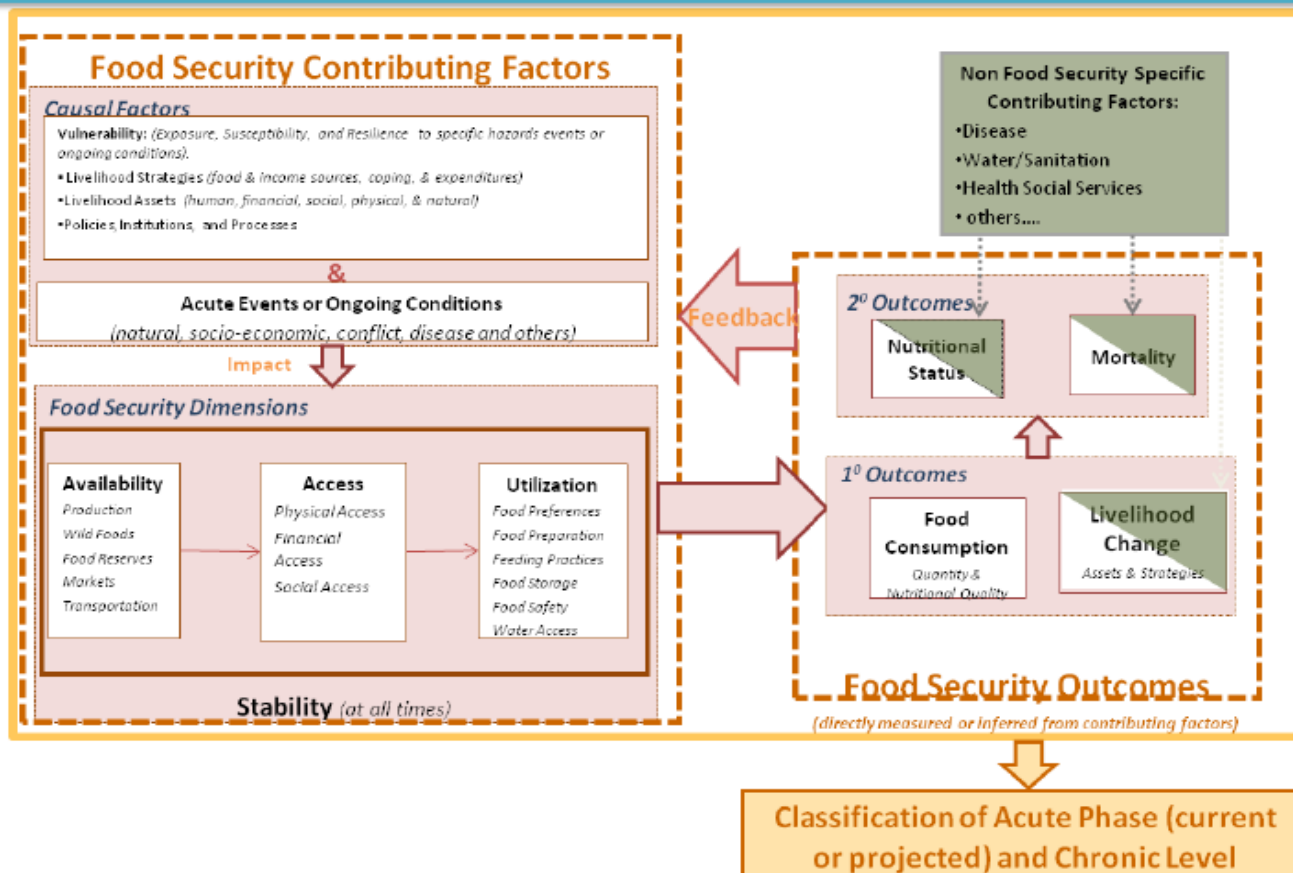
Short term interventions:

- **Design interventions in the most vulnerable areas** to address the current food insecurity of the most vulnerable households. These interventions should focus on the needs of the population, but also on the preparation for the next cultivation season.
- **Assist local population in implementation projects on disaster risk reduction, building resilience and protecting livelihoods.** This could be activities directed to improving lands productivity, rehabilitation/reconstruction of infrastructure, roads to markets, bridges, etc. Cash-for-Work and Food-for-Work projects creating community assets are also needed.
- **Provide agricultural expertise to help farmers and households combat pests** in fruit and potato cultivation and to advise households to use the best quality seeds and pesticide.
- **Provide good quality seeds and fertilizers to the farmers on favorable terms.**
- **Provide credit with low interest rates and favorable terms to farmers.**

Medium/long term interventions:

- **Rehabilitate existing governmental (“Tojikmatlubot”) warehouses in the districts and (if necessary) construct new warehouses.** The local governments should store sufficient reserves of agricultural products, including fruits and vegetables, to supply the markets when there is gap on timely provision of food and demand outweigh supply.
- **Increase efforts in job creation.** The Government should partner with international organizations to better coordinate small- and medium-scale income-generation projects.
- **Increase investment in construction of greenhouses** for a longer growing season for vegetables.
- **Continue support and emphasis on programs that aim to improve irrigation systems and the access to water.** The Government, World Bank, UN agencies and other actors should coordinate with local authorities to identify geographical priorities for upcoming water resource management projects.
- **Maintain consistent and regular 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.
- **Establish inter-regional markets** between Jergatol of Tajikistan and Osh regions of Kyrgyzstan.

Analytical Framework Area and Household Classification



This Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) bulletin is made possible by the participation of representatives of the Government counterparts, International and National Organizations. Based on technical consensus among a wide range of food security stakeholders, the IPC is an efficient and transparent tool for decision-makers, including donors, assistance agencies and governments, to identify priorities for intervention.

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