ASSESSMENT BACKGROUND AND METHODOLOGY

The locust infestation is a devastating natural disaster that has a negative impact on the crops and agriculture products. In Afghanistan, the locust infestation has been experienced in different parts of the country in the past and is continuously reported in the past few years in Badghis and Ghor provinces.

In 2016, a face-to-face locust infestation assessment was conducted by WFP VAM team with support from Food Security and Agriculture Cluster (FSAC) and Ministry of Agriculture Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) in Dawlat Yar district of Ghor province. The findings of the assessment indicated that 40 percent of the households in Dawlat Yar district reported between 75 to 100 percent loss of crops, another 40 percent reported between 50 to 75 percent loss of crops, and finally the remaining 20 percent of population reported between 25 to 50 percent loss of crops.

This year (2017), there were some initial indication and information from different agencies in Badghis and Ghor provinces related to the locust infestation in Bala Murghab and Qadis districts of Badghis province and Chaghcharan and Dawlat Yar districts of Ghor province. The locust also affected crops in Jawand district of Badghis province but was not assessed due to lack of contact details of the farmers. WFP mVAM team conducted a mobile survey in the mentioned districts to assess the locust infestation in order to provide a snapshot of the locust impact on the upcoming harvest as well as the food security situation of the affected population in the assessed districts. A total of 24 mobile interviews (6 interviews per district) were conducted by the WFP call operators during 30 – 31 May 2017. The information in this assessment was collected from the farmers, Community Development Councils (CDCs) and Shura leaders.
Key findings by district for Ghor and Badghis provinces

**Bala Murghab District — Badghis province**

**Impact of locust:** Around 50 percent of the cultivated lands are affected by locust. The impact of the locust this year (2017) is the same as last year (2016). The locust infestation will have an impact on the food stocks and income sources of the households mainly farmers which will lead to increase in the prices of staples and food insecure population during and after harvest time.

**Priority needs:** The main priority need of the farmers is chemicals/spray which eliminates locust from crops followed by need for appropriate trainings on topics related to agriculture production and prevention of crops from diseases including some effective manual locust control/prevention methods. No assistance has so far been provided by any agency to prevent the crops from locust.

**Income sources:** The main source of income for people in this district is agriculture and the second source of income is livestock. A limited number of households are relying on casual labour works and petty trades such as small scale shops, selling on roads/peddlers. The availability of the casual labour work is 1-2 days a week.

**Qadis District — Badghis province**

**Impact of locust:** Around 60 percent of the cultivated land is affected by locust. The impact of the locust this year (2017) is much worse compared to last year (2016). The locust infestation will have impact on the food stocks and income sources of the households mainly farmers which will lead to increase in prices of staples and food insecure population during and after harvest time.

**Priority needs:** The main priority need of the farmers is chemicals/spray which eliminates locust from crops followed by the need for agriculture inputs such as tools and equipment which can help farmers prevent the crops from diseases. No assistance has been so far provided by any agency to prevent the crops from locust.

**Income sources:** The main source of income for people in this district is agriculture and the second source of income is livestock. A limited number of households are relying on casual labour works and petty trades such as small scale shops, selling on roads/peddlers. The availability of the casual labour work is 1-2 days a week.

**Chaghcharan District — Ghor province**

**Impact of locust:** Around 20 percent of the cultivated land is affected by locust. The impact of the locust this year (2017) is less compared to last year (2016). The locust infestation will have impact on the food stocks and income sources of the households mainly farmers which will lead to increase in prices of staples and food insecure population during and after harvest.

**Priority needs:** The main priority need of the farmers is chemicals/spray which eliminates locust from crops followed by the need for agriculture inputs such as tools and equipment which can help farmers prevent the crops from diseases. The farmers were provided with assistance by government to prevent the crops from locust.

**Income sources:** The main source of income for people in this district is agriculture and second source of income is livestock. A limited number of households are relying on casual labour works and petty trades such as small scale shops, selling on roads/peddlers. The availability of the casual labour work is 2-3 days a week.

**Dawlat Yar District — Ghor province**

**Impact of locust:** Around 70 percent of the cultivated land is affected by locust. The impact of the locust this year (2017) is much worse compared to last year (2016). The locust infestation will have impact on the food stocks and income sources of the households mainly farmers which will lead to increase in prices of staples and food insecure population during and after harvest time.

**Priority needs:** The main priority need of the farmers is financial support to the farmers followed by need for chemicals/spray which can help farmers prevent the crops from diseases. No assistance was provided by any agency to prevent the crops from locust.

**Income sources:** The main source of income for people in this district is agriculture and the second source of income is livestock. A limited number of households are relying on casual labour works, petty trades such as small scale shops and selling on roads/peddlers. The availability of the casual labour work is 1-2 days a week.

Contact: mudasir.nazar@wfp.org and eric.kenefick@wfp.org