



Price Monitoring and Analysis Country Brief

Afghanistan

January-April 2011

Key Messages

- In recent months, wheat prices have shown a downward trend in some major markets such as Kabul and Herat, although remain at very high levels. Prices sharply increased in Kandahar. Nominal rice price may soon approach the level observed in 2008.
- Food security conditions are likely to improve thanks to good 2011 main harvest prospects; however conflict affected areas are expected to suffer from food insecurity.
- Conflicts particularly in south, south-eastern and south-western areas are persistent and continue to displace households and disrupt their livelihoods.
- The government is supported by international agencies to provide households with agricultural inputs.

Background

The total population of Afghanistan is 29.8 million and the annual growth rate is 2%. Most of the population lives in rural areas (75%), however the contribution of agriculture to the GDP is 32%.

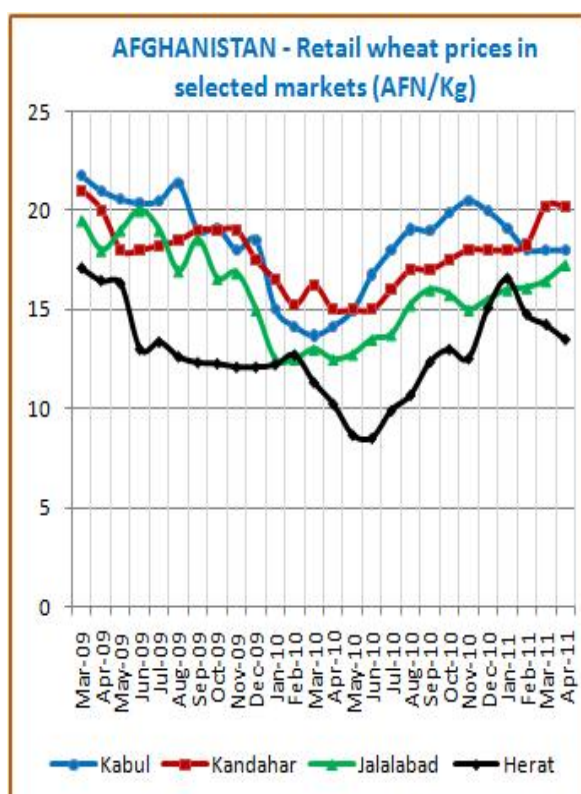
Economic Indicators	View Data
Total Population (millions) - 2009 (WB)	29.803
Population growth rate - 2009 (WB)	2%
GNI per capita, \$ PPP - 2008 (WB)	1100
Population below 1\$ PPP per day	n.a.
Rural population - 2009 (WB)	75%
Agriculture, value added (% of GDP) - 2009 (WB)	32%

Food Consumption	
Undernourished Population - 2005/2007 (FAO)	n.a.
Cereal share in total dietary energy consumption	n.a.
Meat share in total dietary energy consumption	n.a.

Health Indicators	
Pop. with sustainable access to improved sanitation - 2008 (WHO)	37%
Life expectancy at birth (years) both sexes - 2008 (WHO)	42
Pop. with access to improved drinking water sources - 2008 (WHO)	48%
Prevalence of HIV among adults aged >= 15 years - 2005 (WHO)	0.05%

Prices

In April 2011 prices of wheat in Herat (13.47 AFN/Kg) were 19 % lower compared to January prices; in Kabul, wheat retail prices decreased by 6% in the same period lowering to 18 AFN/Kg in April. In Kandahar, wheat was sold at 20.2 AFN/Kg in the same month, representing a 12% increase from January. Between January and April, bread prices stabilized at around 38, 35, 32 and 33 in Kabul, Kandahar, Herat and Jalalabad markets respectively. In March, wheat prices in Kabul (400 USD/T) were 20% higher compared to International market prices of Wheat No2 Hard Red Winter (333.8 USD/T).



Source: GIEWS Country Briefs

Food Security Situation Assessment

FEWSNET reports ameliorating prospects over the food security situation thanks to increased precipitation in late Jan and Feb. This rain will improve the 2011 harvest which suffered from a prolonged dryness during the first few months of the 2010/11 wet season. Households in the southern conflict affected areas are likely to be moderately to highly food insecure, with IDPs and refugees repatriated from Pakistan facing the worst food security conditions. WFP has enrolled some 30,000 people across the country in its food voucher programme, with 1500 food insecure people from Jalalabad. GIEWS estimates severe localized food insecurity. Moderately food insecure areas are in the centre and north-east of the country.

CURRENT EMERGENCY ASSESMENT

Exceptional shortfall in aggregate food production supplies	Widespread lack of access	Severe localized food insecurity	FAO/GIEWS CPFS 2010
---	---------------------------	----------------------------------	---------------------

Concerns of a failed wet season and its impact on the 2011 cereal harvest have shifted to flooding risks. As of mid-January, there has been a rapid increase in seasonal precipitation. USGS snow water volume models indicate relatively high levels of snow ...[more](#) [FEWSNET](#)

SCALE OF HUNGER (% of Undernourishment)

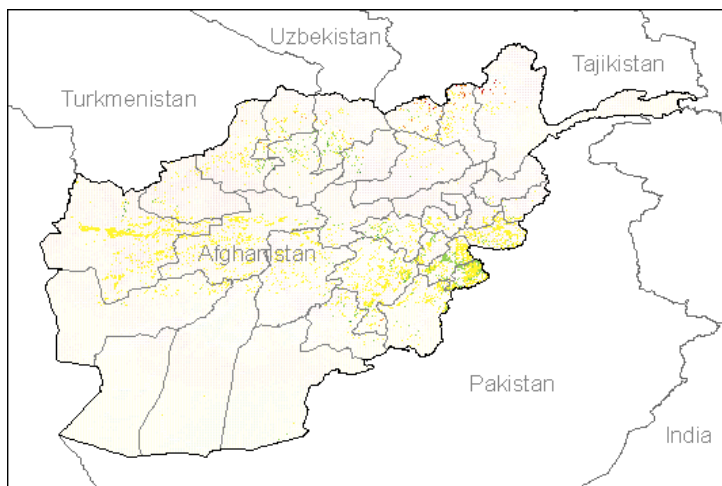
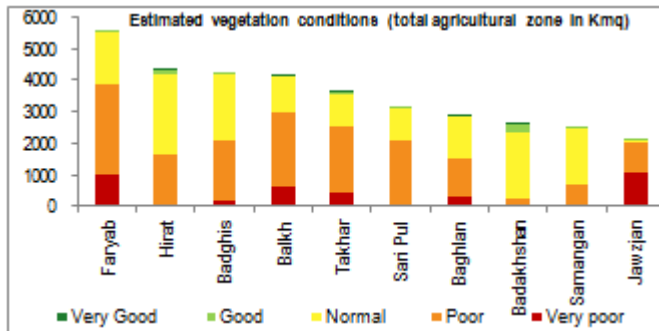
Very high (>= 35%)	High (25-34%)	Moderately high (15-24%)	Moderately low (5-14%)	Very low (< 5% under.)	FAO Hunger Map
--------------------	---------------	--------------------------	------------------------	------------------------	----------------

FAO Hunger Map classifies all countries of the world into five based on % of population undernourished.

Extremely alarming	Alarming	Serious	Moderate	Low	IFPRI/2010 GHI
--------------------	----------	---------	----------	-----	----------------

Vegetation Condition

At the beginning of the summer season, a delay of greenup onset is observed in the north of the country. The general indicator of vegetation conditions provided below is the relative difference between the NDVI for April 2011 and the average of the last 10 years, calculated on the agricultural zones derived from the FAO-UNEP map of Afghanistan (1993).



Source: JRC MARS – FoodSec

Crop phase in the reference period

Sowing	Spring wheat
Growing	Winter grains (Wheat and Barley)
Harvesting	No crops are harvested during the reference period

Natural Disasters, Drought and Conflicts

As of the 31st of March 2011, UNHCR estimated some 416,593 IDPs. It is also reported that between 2002 and 2011, between 5.5 and 6 million refugees returned to Afghanistan. Meanwhile continued insecurity has been reported in recent months particularly in southern, south-eastern and south-western provinces, while attacks and violence is widespread throughout the country.

Refugees and IDPs	2007	2008	2009
Total in the country	535632	515659	361985
Total outside the country	3609746	3371919	3279471

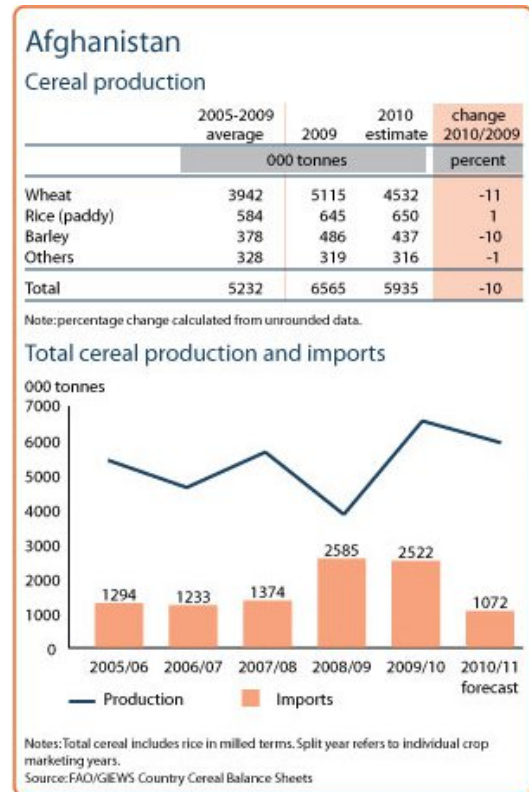
Source: UNHCR Statistical Online Population Database, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Data extracted on 01/12/2010.

Disaster Type (last year)	Date	Location	Alert
Earthquake	2011-03-21	Badakhshan Province	2/3
Earthquake	2011-04-21	Badakhshan Province	2/3
Flood	2010-07-27	Parwan	1/3

Source: Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System - 3 = 1000 or more people killed or 800000 or more people displaced. 2 = 100 or more people killed or 80000 or more displaced.

Food Balance Sheet

The 2010 winter wheat production was at 4.53 mlnT, about 11% below the 2009 record crop, but some 15% above average. Total cereal output for 2010 is estimated at 5.9 mlnT, some 10 % below the 2009 output and 13% above the 5 year average. Imports of wheat and rice for 2010/11 marketing year (July/ June) are expected to decline to around 1 mlnT compared to 2.5 mlnT in 2009/10.



Source: GIEWS Country Briefs

Government Policies

The Government has in place the National Seed Distribution Programme and it cooperates with different international agencies to distribute vouchers for agricultural inputs, and food aid to vulnerable households.

Consumer and market oriented measures	n.a.
Producer oriented measures	Support to inputs for crop production
Trade policy measures	n.a.
Safety net (increased or introduced)	Food transfers

Different sources

Current events to watch (Click to see the full report)

No News Found

For more information, contact: Information-for-action@fao.org
Website: www.foodsec.org

Powered By the [GIEWS Workstation](#)

The Programme on Linking Information and Decision Making to Improve Food Security is funded by the European Union and implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

* For a further analysis of prices in Afghanistan please see: [Annex](#)