

FLUCTUATING FACTORS

Assessing Food Insecurity in Afghanistan

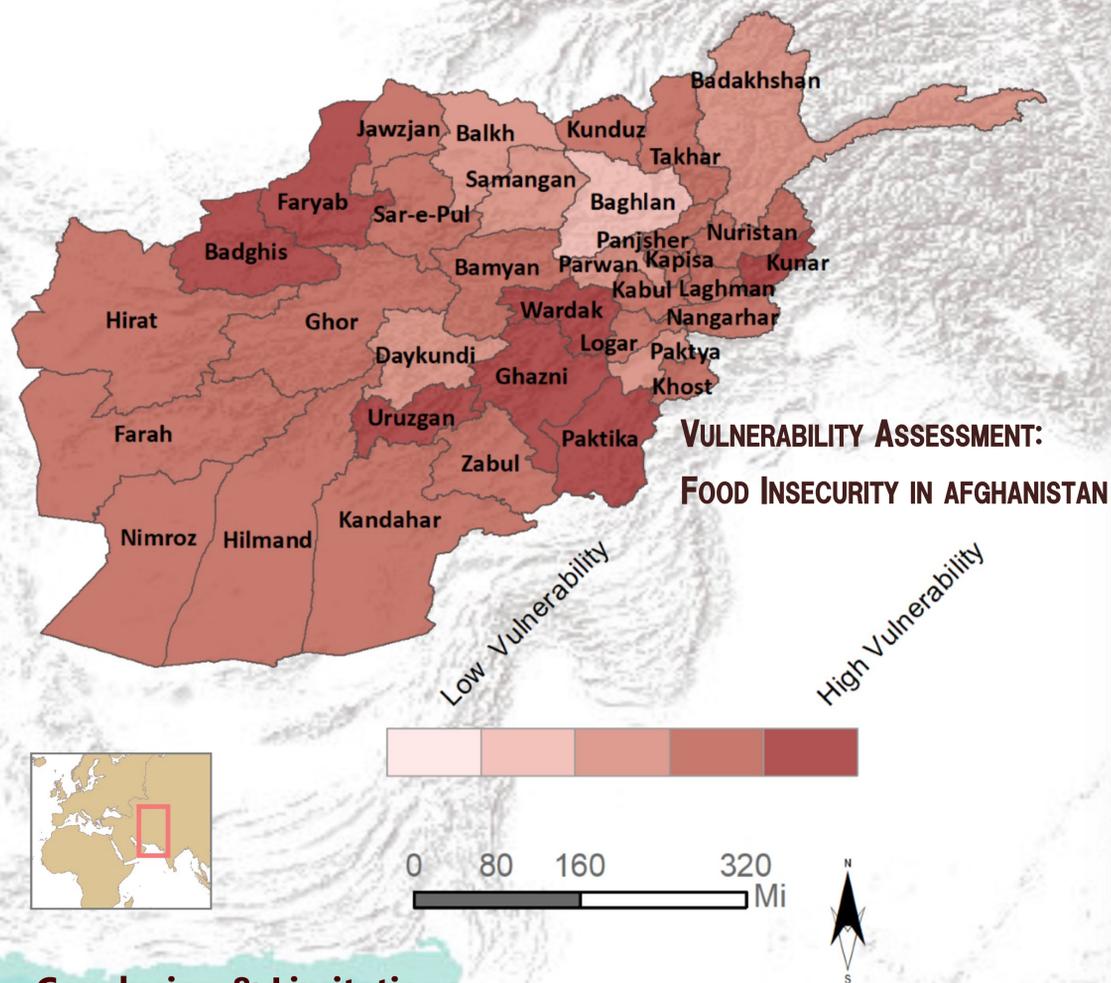
Introduction

Afghanistan has faced many challenges jeopardizing food security. Conflict and drought have greatly impacted the accessibility and availability of food throughout the country and low employment creates economic barriers to food procurement. The Food Security Cluster and the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) have identified several factors that determine a region's susceptibility to food insecurity.

Data & Methods

Eight factors food security factors were considered in this analysis of Afghanistan. Conflict density, population displacement within provinces, population distribution, square km of water coverage, and wheat production were all gathered in an attribute table and joined according to province. The data was then assigned to color ramps to visually represent the risk to food insecurity, the ramp levels were determined by 5 natural or "Jenks" breaks in the datasets. Increased conflict and displaced persons per province, higher population contributed to food insecurity and were assigned darker shades of red as their values increased. Whereas higher average rainfall, higher wheat production, higher access to medical facilities and increased presence of humanitarian operations were considered food insecurity deterrents and were assigned lighter shades of red on the color ramp.

A final risk map was created by assigning a vulnerability score to each province. These values were based upon a 1-5 score with 1 representing low risk and 5 representing high risk. The risk map was also assigned a color ramp with lighter shades of red representing low risk provinces and deeper shades of red representing higher risk provinces.



Conclusion & Limitations

This final risk map generally aligned with the IPC classification for food insecurity in Afghanistan; however, this analysis was missing key geocoded data, namely income distribution, prevalence of livestock raising, child mortality rate, and crude death rate which are food security determinants used by the Food Security Cluster and IPC (Afghanistan Food Security Cluster, IPC). Limited data is likely due to internal complications in the country. Regardless, it is interesting to note that the high-risk areas according to the IPC are Badghis, Badakhshan, Daykundi, and Kandahar aligned with this assessment's results for Badghis and Kandahar. It is also interesting to note that there are fewer humanitarian operations in Kandahar and Badakhshan, compared to Badghis and Daykundi.

