Resilience Index Measurement and Analysis (RIMA)

Survey in Afghanistan - First Round,2023

Basic Information Document

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

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1 Introduction

Recognizing the need to address basic human needs in Afghanistan, the United Nation has developed a new multi-year strategic planning framework, the United Nations Strategic Framework for Afghanistan (UNSFA) for the period 2023 to 2025. In alignment with this framework, the Resilience Capacity Index (RCI) of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Resilience Index Measurement and Analysis (RIMA) approach has been adopted by the different United Nation Agencies as one of the indicators to measure progress on the household resilience levels under the UNSFA Outcome 2.3.c (Improvement in Rural Household Resilience), and FAO is the custodian for measuring and reporting upon this indicator. Moreover, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Afghanistan has been investing, across all 34 provinces, in actions that focus on protecting agriculture livelihoods and local ecosystems, boosting local production of nutritious foods and cash-incomes, and safeguarding critical agriculture sectoral development gains achieved over the past couple of decades through revitalizing rural markets and economy.

In 2023, FAO, as custodian for measuring and reporting upon the UNSFA resilience indicator, conducted the Resilience Index Measurement and Analysis (RIMA) survey in Afghanistan. This survey's main objective is to gather multi-topic household data with a focus on analyzing resilience capacity to food insecurity. This initiative marks the start of the panel, with subsequent rounds planned. Covering all 34 provinces of Afghanistan, the survey was conducted in villages/communities, with a mix of male- and female-headed households represented. The survey is nationally and provincially representative, providing valuable insights into household resilience capacity across the country.

The RIMA survey in Afghanistan addresses the nation's critical need for household data to measure resilience capacity to food insecurity. To achieve this, the questionnaire incorporates modules that capture a wide range of demographic and socioeconomic variables, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of household dynamics.

This Basic Information Document provides detailed insights into the methodology employed during the 2023 wave of the survey. It includes information on the survey instruments utilized, the sample design, fieldwork procedures, and data management protocols, providing transparency and clarity regarding the survey implementation process.

2 The RIMA Survey Instrument

The RIMA analysis is based on household level data. The RIMA household questionnaire gathers information on various aspects including household demographic characteristics, experiences with shocks, food insecurity, assets, access to basic services, social safety nets, and adaptive capacity, conflicts, and some specific module for the assistance provided by FAO (as detailed in Table 1).

Table 1. RIMA household questionnaire modules

Section	Topic	Description
Cover	Cover	Includes household location, size, head's age, , gender, , age, and field staff identification.
1	Household demographic	Provides the number of household members categorized by gender and age.
2	Access to basic services	Covers access to drinking water, toilet facilities, electricity, and the distance to essential services such as schools, health facilities, markets, and public transport.
3	Assets	Includes ownership and quantity of durable assets, livestock, and input usage.
4	Social safety nets	Covers both formal and informal transfers, as well as participation in local group associations.
5	Adaptive capacity	Addresses literacy levels, the highest education attained by the household head, sources of household income, crop diversification, and the percentage of income used for purchasing food.
6	Migration and displacement	Captures intentions to return, members who have left the household, and related details.
7	Dispute	Covers the status of living conditions over the past 12 months, household problems, disputes over natural resources, types of disputes, parties involved, and resolution methods.
8	Shocks	Records any shocks experienced by the household in the past 12 months.
9	Food security	Includes measurements such as the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES), Reduced Coping Strategy Index (R-CSI), Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS), and Food Consumption Score (FCS) .

3 Sample Design

3.1 Design and coverage.

The first survey round consisted of a nationally representative household survey across 34 provinces, and representative at administrative level 1, at province level. The sample included households who were recipients of FAO interventions (FAO beneficiaries) and comparable vulnerable households without any interventions that meet the targeting criteria of FAO's interventions.

3.2 Sample size and allocation.

Households were randomly selected using a two-step cluster sampling method with a probability proportional to size. Data collection for the first survey round took place in two phases, in January/February and April/May 2023.

A two-stage cluster random sampling approach was used to select the sample of households to be interviewed. The first stage involves selecting an equal number of clusters per province, using a probability proportional to Size for cluster selection. In the second stage, a fixed number of households per cluster were randomly selected who had received wheat cultivation packages, livestock protection packages, cash for work, unconditional cash transfer, poultry, small farm equipment, summer crop and home gardening interventions. The sampling was based on the complete lists of beneficiaries of different FAO projects. Using the beneficiaries list, a random sample of households was drawn. In addition, non-beneficiary households were randomly selected among those households that did not receive any assistance (neither from FAO nor from other organizations) in the assessment period. Table 2 shows the total number of households that were sampled.

Table 2. Table 2. Sample and household interviewed by Province

Provinces	**Total**
Badakhshan	456
Badghis	456
Baghlan	456
Balkh	455
Bamyan	456
Daykundi	456
Farah	456
Faryab	456
Ghazni	456

Ghor	456
Hilmand	456
Hirat	456
Jawzjan	456
Kabul	456
Kandahar	456
Kapisa	455
Khost	456
Kunar	456
Kunduz	455
Laghman	456
Logar	456
Maidan Wardak	455
Nangarhar	456
Nimroz	456
Nuristan	456
Paktika	456
Paktya	456
Panjsher	456
Parwan	456
Samangan	455
Sar-e-Pul	455
Takhar	455
Uruzgan	456
Zabul	456
Afghanistan	15,497

4 Training, Data Collection, and Monitoring

Field staff, enumerators, and supervisors underwent a comprehensive three-day training session. The training of enumerators conducted in two batches for both male and female enumerators and provincial supervisors. The first batch conducted from 6th to 9th December 2022, and the second batch conducted from 13th to 15th December 2022. The training covered the content of the questionnaires and Survey Solutions CAPI, as well as their practical applications in data collection and supervision. All participants had previous experience with surveys and CAPI.

The data collection is completed in two phases. From 26 January to 12 February 2023 a pilot round of data face-to-face and phone survey data collection was conducted, and 1,042 households were reached using two data collection modalities in 11 provinces. The results from the analysis brought out quality findings. The second phase of the field work was conducted in

all 34 provinces. From 15 March to 31 May 2023 14,462 households were interviewed using phone survey with female beneficiaries and face to face interview with male beneficiaries.

The data were collected through computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI) with digital tablets. The data were transmitted daily through Kobo Toolbox, allowing for the use of remote data control protocols.

5 Data Management and Description of Datasets

Final data cleaning has been completed for all data files. Errors that could be clearly and confidently corrected by the team have been addressed.

The datasets are organized by questionnaire and follow a filename scheme that combines the prefix 'sect' with the section number and a suffix 'hh_w1' for wave 1 data. For example, the dataset corresponding to section 1 of the household questionnaire is named 'sect1_hh_w1'. Exceptions to this naming convention include sections where the data is divided further, such as assets. In these cases, the files are named 'sect4a_hh_w1', 'sect4b_hh_w1', 'sect4c_hh_w1', and 'sect4d_hh_w1'.

Each dataset includes a unique identification variable, 'household_id'. To maintain confidentiality, the datasets have had contact addresses, names of respondents, and names of field and data entry staff removed. GPS coordinates have also been excluded to prevent the precise location of households and fields.

Table 3. Household Data Files

Section	Topic	Dataset filename	Unique identification variable
Cover	Cover	sect_cover_hh_w1	household_id
1	Demographic variables	sect1_hh_w1	household_id
2	Access to basic services	sect2_hh_w2	household_id
3a	Assets	sect3a_hh_w3	household_id
3b	Input use	sect3b_hh_w4	household_id
3c	Livestock	sect3c_hh_w5	household_id
3d	Crop production	sect3d_hh_w6	household_id
4	Social safety nets	sect4_hh_w7	household_id
5	Adaptive capacity	sect5_hh_w8	household_id
6	Displacement	sect6_hh_w9	household_id
7	Dispute	sect7_hh_w10	household_id
8	Shocks	sect8_hh_w11	household_id
9	Food security	sect9_hh_w12	household_id

6 Using the RIMA Public Data

The data should always be used in conjunction with the questionnaire. For wave 1, each household is uniquely identified by the variable ‘household_id’. This variable serves as the unique key for merging all household-level data files.