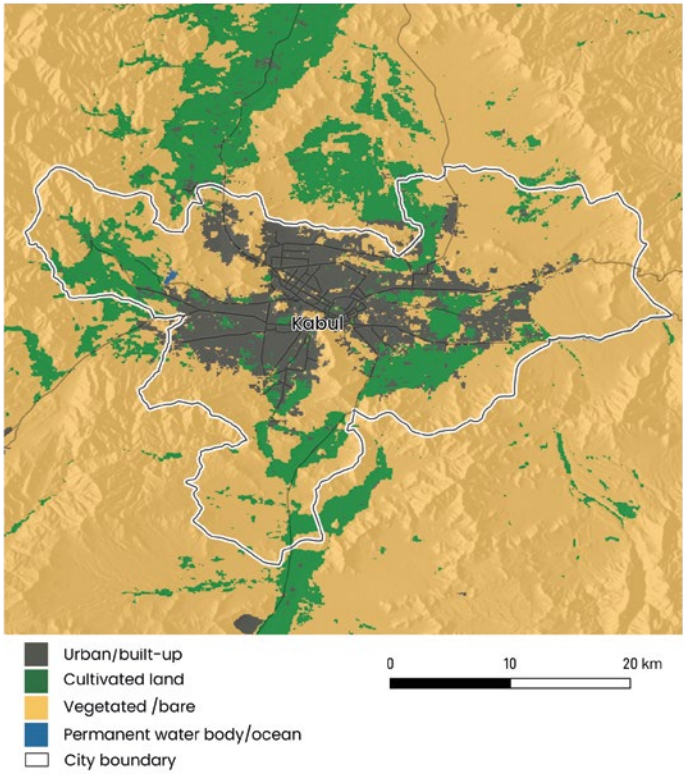
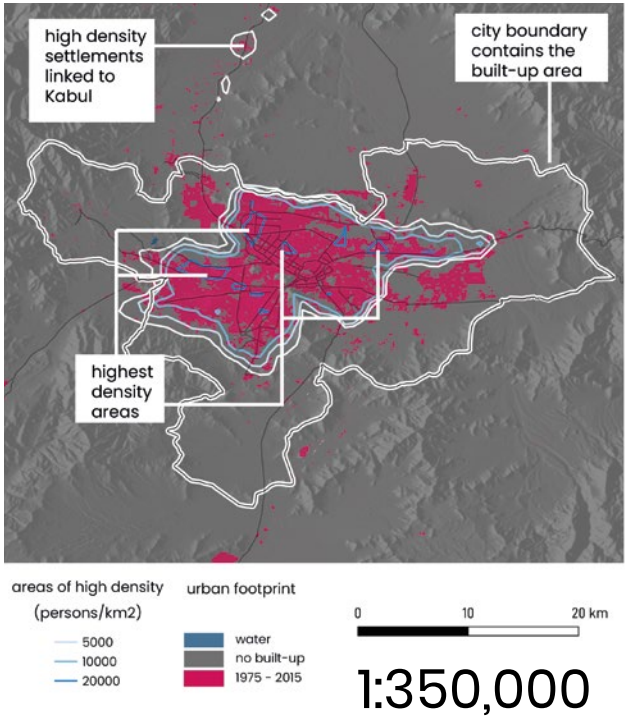
External drivers

The landcover and urbanisation maps illustrate some key external drivers that shape the food system in Kabul. These include the use of land and indications of where population density and growth are most intense, highlighting the relationship cities have with food production, and suggesting areas of higher vulnerability during crises that affect the food system

Landcover 2015



Urbanisation trends



Kabul is Afghanistan's largest city and the nation's capital. The city population has expanded considerably over the last two decades with population growing at on average 4% per annum, with the footprint of the city almost trebling in size since 1975. The amount of cultivated land in close proximity to the city is constrained by terrain and geography – rocky, with sparse vegetation. The majority of the urban population live within the official, city limits, with a handful of high density settlements existing to the north of the city.

Key spatial indicators

Indicator	Kabul	Average, 7 cities (excl. CXB)	Average, similar size LMIC cities in the region
Population density, persons per km2	13,651	9,468	13,337
Slum population	86% *		
Total built-up area in 2015, km2	108.7	471.0	82.1
Total resident population in 2015	4,381,842	11,002,460	
Surface of the built-up area per person in 2015, m2	24.8	37.3	20.3
Proportion of total resident population potentially exposed to floods in 2015 (%)	10%	38%	
Proportion of cultivated land in 50km radius	9.9%	33.3%	
Cultivated land in 50km radius per 100,000 persons, km²	19.4	44.0	
Number of supermarkets per 100,000 persons	0.5	4.8	
GDP per capita	1,314.5	4,200.4	
Growth rate	4	2.4	7.2
Proportion of population of the urban agglomeration living outside the formal boundaries of the city	24%	37%	

*of the urban housing stock nationally

Food supply chains

The following table illustrates the location of the suppliers and customers of surveyed private sector entities, giving an indication of the proximity of food supply chains to the city.

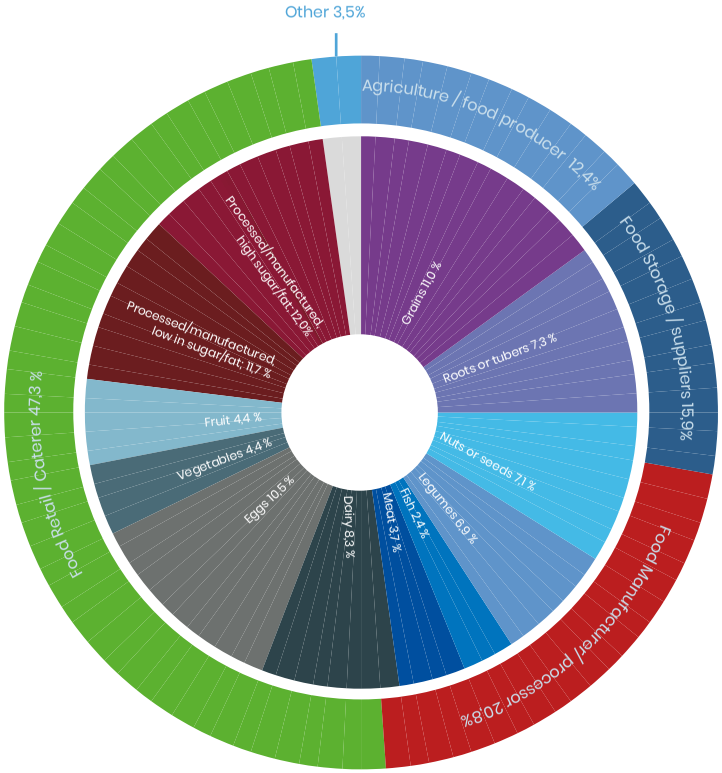
The proximity of food supply chains to the city

	Markets/ Customer locations	Supplier locations
Within the city	57.60%	69.30%
Surrounding region	35.70%	20.00%
Other regions of the country	4.90%	5.30%
Internationally	1.80%	5.30%

Food environment

The local food system actors and the types of food available in the local market are shown in the below figure. The inner circle consists of the types of food businesses while the outer circle shows the types of food the system produces, processes or sells.

Food system actors & foods available in the local market



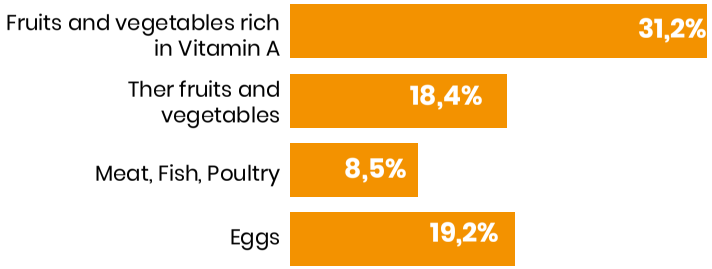
4. Outcomes & Pre-COVID-19 vulnerability

Nutritional status, dietary diversity and consumption of unhealthy foods

The following figures date from pre-COVID-19 and indicate vulnerabilities before the crisis, unless recent figures are available in which case a comparison between pre-COVID-19 and recent data is presented.

Children, 6-23 months

Foods consumed by breastfeeding children (6-23 months), Kabul



Minimum acceptable diet, children (6-23 months), Kabul

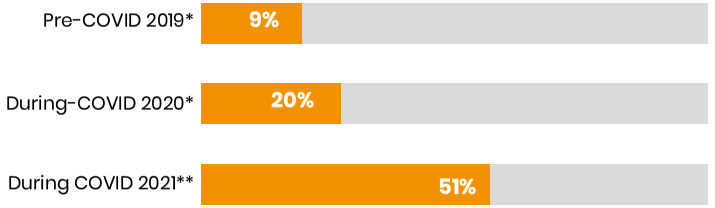
Children under 5 years

Proportion of wasted and stunted children, Kabul Province

Food security

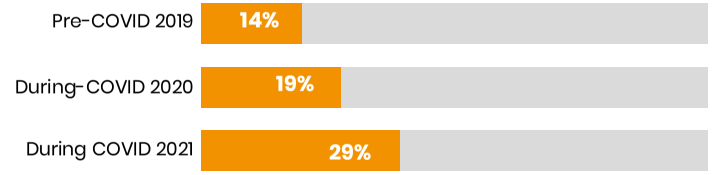
Changes in the food security levels of Kabul's population before and during COVID-19 is presented based on the available data, using the Food Consumption Score (FCS) and the Livelihood Coping Strategy Index (LCSI). Recent data using the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) was not available.

Change in the prevalence of emergency coping strategies (LCSI), Kabul province and Kabul city



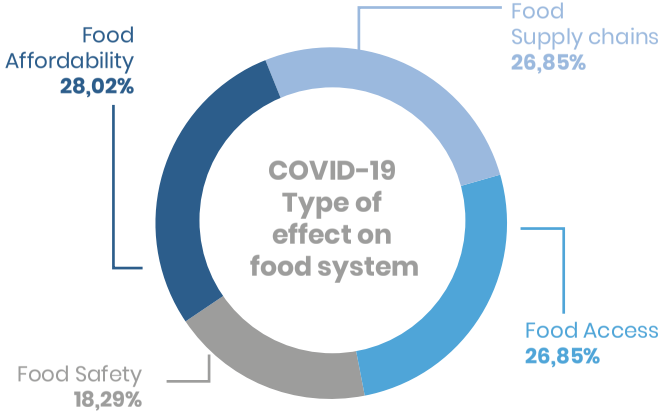
*Kabul province
**Kabul city

Change in the prevalence of households with a poor food consumption score, Kabul division



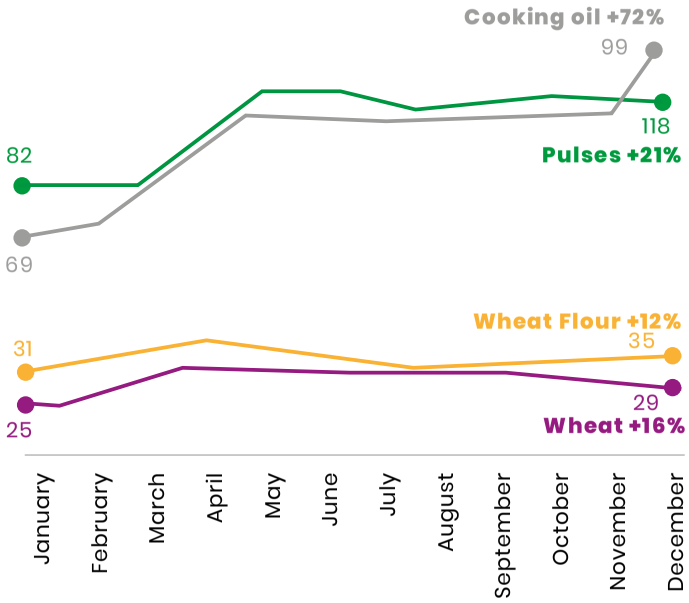
5. COVID-19 impact & response

This section explores the effects of COVID-19 on Kabul's food system, examining supply chains, food prices and responses.

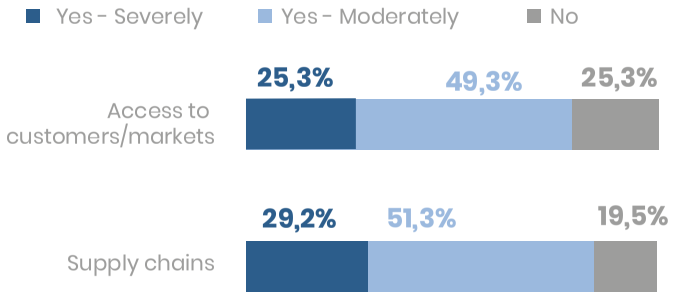


Change in food prices since COVID-19

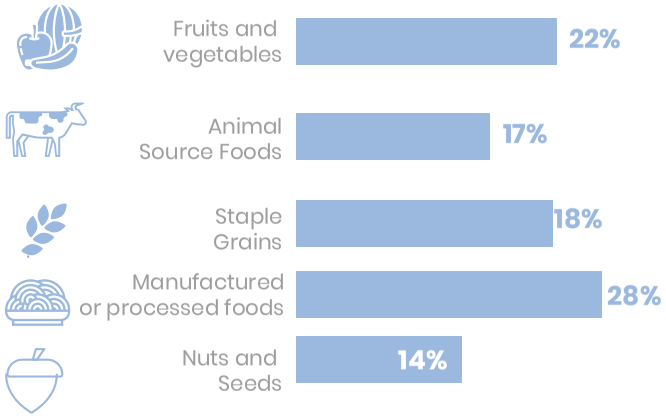
Change in food prices from January to December 2020 on four selected food items, AFN



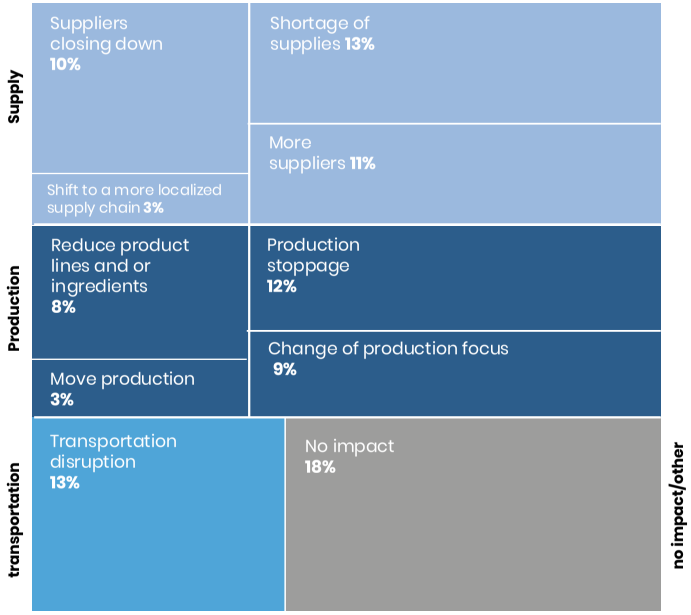
Extent of disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic on markets and supply chains



Foods that were short in supply



Effects of COVID-19 on company supply chains



Proportion of surveyed businesses whose income decreased between 25% and 50%

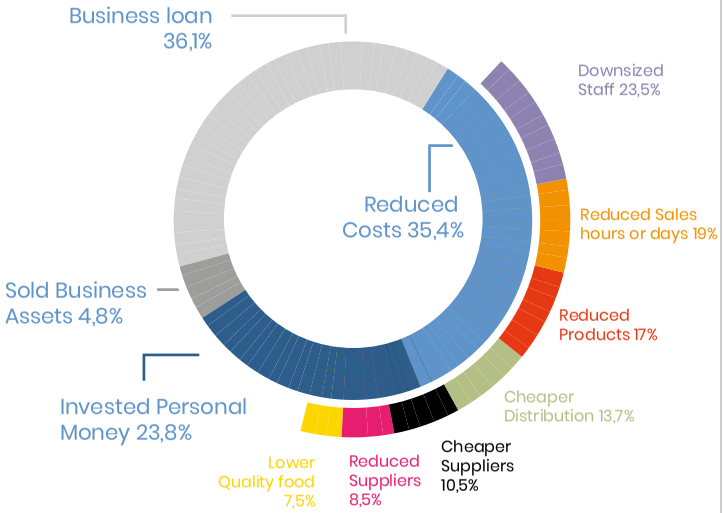
Data Sources

Foods consumed by breastfeeding children (6-23 months) Secondary analysis of the DHS 2015
Minimum acceptable diet Secondary analysis of the DHS 2015
Proportion of wasted and stunted children Afghanistan NNS 2013. Stunting prevalence is classified as high and wasting prevalence as medium by WHO standards.
Food Consumption Score (FCS) Seasonal Food Security Assessment (SFSA) 2019; Pre-Lean Season Assessment 2020; Pre-Lean Season Assessment 2021.
Livelihoods coping strategy index (LCSI) Seasonal Food Security Assessment (SFSA) 2019; Pre-Lean Season Assessment 2020; Pre-Lean Season Assessment 2021.
Monthly food prices WFP VAM
Sections Food supply chains, Food environment, COVID-19 impact and response Dikoda 2021

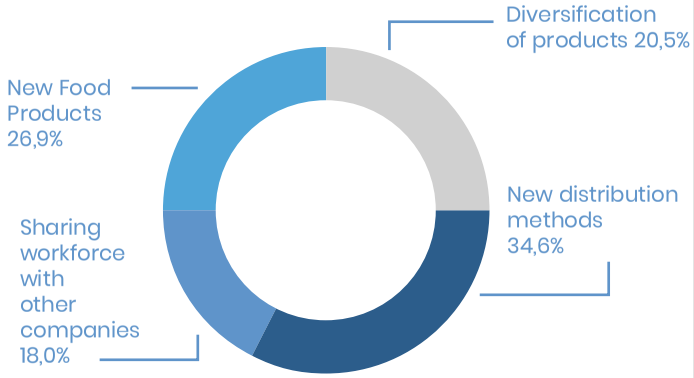
Responses and coping mechanisms

Impacts of COVID-19 on the food system are mitigated by responses by development partners and the government and by adaptations taken by food companies to changing conditions. This section illustrates some of these adaptations and responses, highlighting possible vulnerabilities and opportunities presented by the crisis

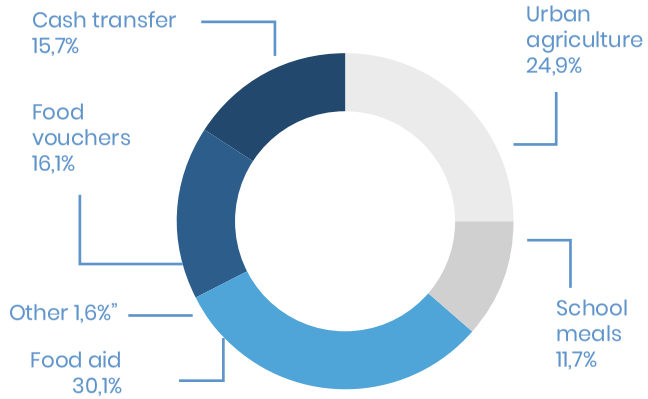
Private sector's methods to cope with lower income with breakdown of reduced costs



Other methods of adaptation by companies during COVID-19

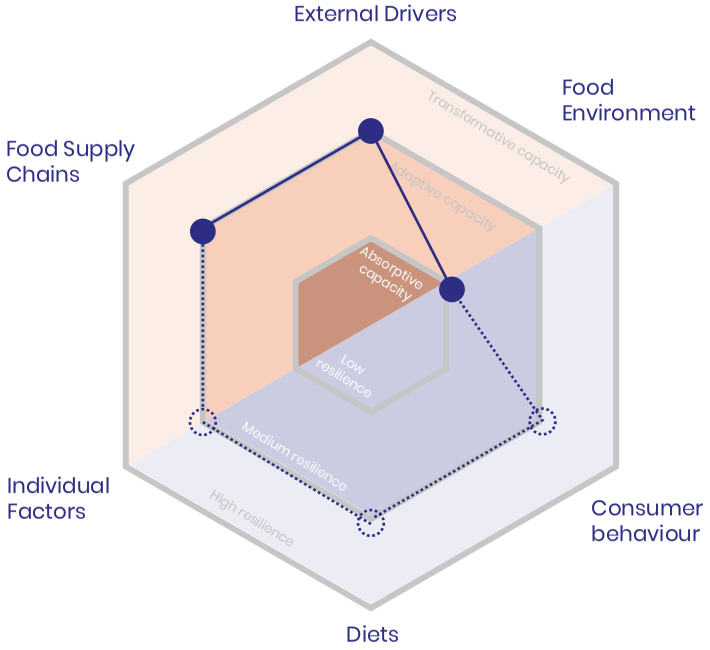


Response by Development Partners to food insecurity



Typology

The typology contains one core indicator for each dimension, giving an indication to the food system's vulnerability and resilience in the face of COVID-19. No indicator was chosen for consumer behaviour.



Methods and data sources

The brief describes the city's food system based on the Food Systems Framework presented in the report, with focus on available data and components that are likely to be impacted by COVID-19. All data is on city level unless indicated otherwise. Sources for the city brief include primary and secondary data and are listed after each figure or table. DHS data has been disaggregated to strata level to obtain figures specific to the city. Dikoda surveys took place in March 2021 and were carried out on governance, NGO and private sector stakeholders. The development of the typology and the full survey methodology is detailed in the report.
Key spatial indicators apart from slum population are from 2015 because data was consistently available across cities.

Population density, persons per km2	Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (2015). State of Afghan cities 2015. GoIRA: Kabul.
Slum population	Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (2015). State of Afghan cities 2015. GoIRA: Kabul.
Cultivated land in 50km radius, km2	Calculated using GIS spatial analysis techniques by Dikoda using Copernicus Global Land Service data (2019) Buchhorn, M. et al. Copernicus Global Land Service: Land Cover 100m: collection 3: epoch 2019: Globe 2020. Accessed Feb 2020
Cultivated land in 50km radius per capita, km2	Copernicus as above
Number of markets/supermarkets per 100,000 persons	Calculated using GIS and OPenStreetMap data for each city