



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Agricultural Households with **Poor** Food Consumption Score (FCS)

Evidence from *DRC, Nigeria, Yemen,
Afghanistan*

DIEM, March 2026



Context and Definition

Defining “FCS Poor Agricultural Households”

A household is considered **FCS Poor Agricultural** when all three conditions apply:

- Engaged in crop or livestock production or sales in the past 12 months
- Food Consumption Score (FCS) < 21^{1,2} ("Poor" based on Food consumption Group)
- Household reports needing assistance to meet food and income needs in the next 6 months



Results are based on FCS only; estimates of food-insecure agricultural households may vary if other food security indicators are used alone or combined.

¹ IPC Acute Food Insecurity Reference Table: FCS <21 (or <28 in some contexts) corresponds to the “Poor” food consumption category and is considered compatible with IPC Phase 4+ (emergency or worse) outcomes. [Source: IPC Technical Manual v3.0, page 37.](#)

² Adjusted threshold: In AFG and YEM, a threshold of FCS <28 is used instead of <21 due to high consumption of oil and sugar, which can inflate FCS values without reflecting adequate dietary diversity or food security.

Phase 1 None/Minimal	Phase 2 Stressed	Phase 3 Crisis	Phase 4 Emergency	Phase 5 Catastrophe/ Famine
Households are able to meet essential food and non-food needs without engaging in atypical and unsustainable strategies to access food and income.	Households have minimally adequate food consumption but are unable to afford some essential non-food expenditures without engaging in stress-coping strategies.	Households either: • Have food consumption gaps that are reflected by high or above-usual acute malnutrition; or • Are marginally able to meet minimum food needs but only by depleting essential livelihood assets or through crisis-coping strategies.	Households either: • Have large food consumption gaps which are reflected in very high acute malnutrition and excess mortality; or • Are able to mitigate large food consumption gaps but only by employing emergency livelihood strategies and asset liquidation.	Households have an extreme lack of food and/or other basic needs even after full employment of coping strategies. Starvation, death, destitution and extreme critical acute malnutrition levels are evident. (For Famine Classification, an area needs to have extreme critical levels of acute malnutrition and mortality.)
Action required to build resilience and for disaster risk reduction	Action required for disaster risk reduction and to protect livelihoods	Urgent action required to: Protect livelihoods and reduce food consumption gaps		Save lives and livelihoods
				Revert/prevent widespread crisis and total collapse of livelihoods

Refer to characteristics of food consumption and livelihood change. Thresholds that correspond as closely as possible to the Phase description are included for each indicator. Although applied research and presented as global reference, correlation between indicators is often somewhat limited and findings need to be contextualized. The area is classified in the most severe phase if at least 20% of the population.

Quantity: Adequate energy intake	Quantity: Minimally Adequate	Quantity: Moderately Inadequate – Moderate deficits	Quantity: Very Inadequate – Large deficits	Quantity: Extremely Inadequate – Very large deficit
Dietary energy intake: Adequate (avg. 2,350 kcal pp/day) and stable	Dietary energy intake: Minimally adequate (avg. 2,100 kcal pp/day)	Dietary energy intake: Food gap (below avg. 2,100 kcal pp/day)	Dietary energy intake: Large food gap; well below 2,100 kcal pp/day	Dietary energy intake: Extreme food gap
Household Dietary Diversity Scoreⁱⁱⁱ: 5-12 food groups and stable	Household Dietary Diversity Score: 5-FG but deterioration ≥1 FG from typical	Household Dietary Diversity Score: 3-4 FG	Household Dietary Diversity Score: 0-2 FG (NDC to differentiate P4 and 5)	Household Dietary Diversity Score: 0-2 FG
Food Consumption Scoreⁱⁱⁱ: Acceptable and stable	Food Consumption Score: Acceptable but deterioration from typical	Food Consumption Score: Borderline	Food Consumption Score: Poor (NDC to differentiate P4 and 5)	Food Consumption Score: Famine (NDC to differentiate P4 and 5)

DIEM Survey Coverage



Jun 2025 – Apr 2026



4 countries · mixed coverage

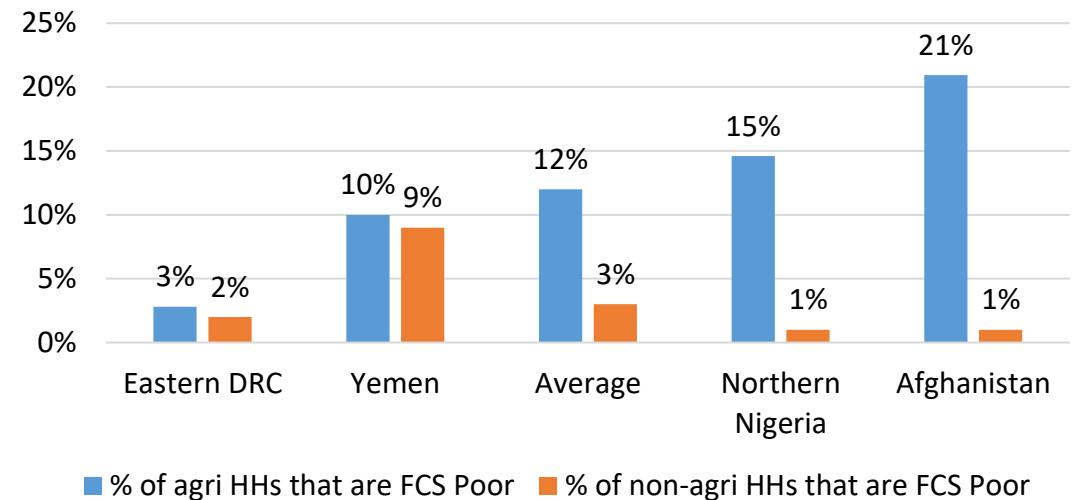
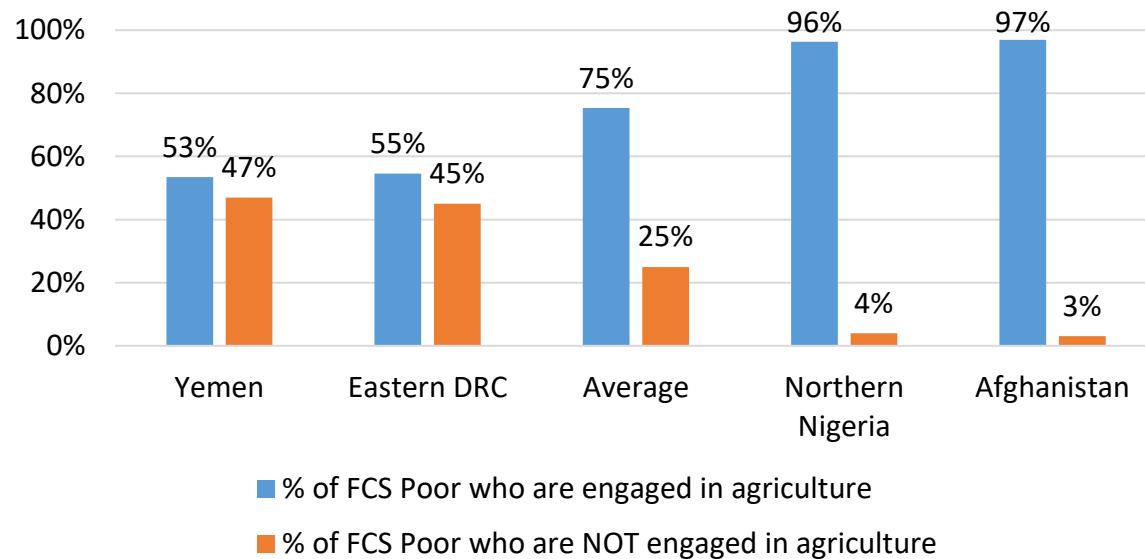
Country	Round	Survey period	Projection period	Coverage (admin 1)
Eastern DRC	10	Jun–Jul 2025	Aug 2025 – Jan 2026	Partial: 4/26 Admin 1 (Admin2 within 4 selected)
Northern Nigeria	8	Sep 2025	Oct 2025 – Mar 2026	Partial · 6/37 Admin 1
Yemen	30	Oct 2025	Nov 2025 – Apr 2026	Entire country (22/22)
Afghanistan	11	Sep 2025	Oct 2025 – Mar 2026	Entire country (34/34) · Rural

Target: General population (Yemen, Nigeria, DRC) · Rural population (Afghanistan)

Agricultural calendar: Post-harvest season

Scale of FCS People

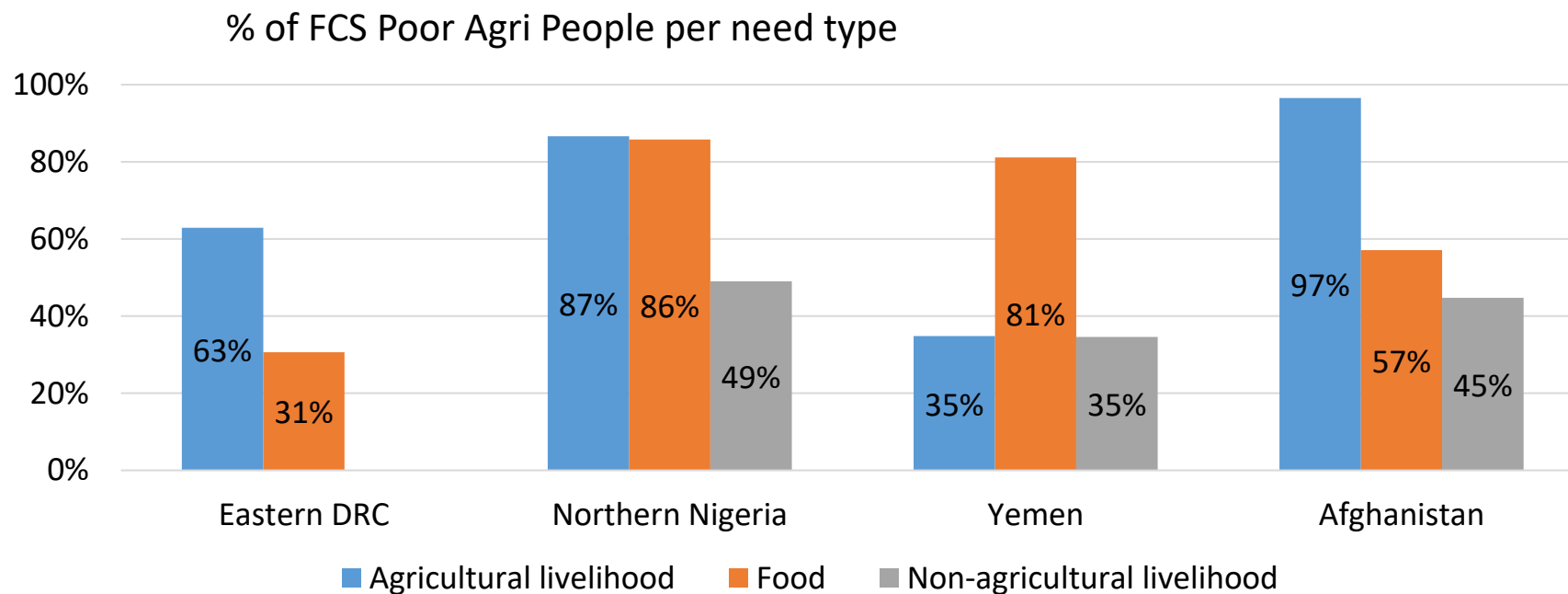
- Afghanistan: 8.1 million, Northern Nigeria: 5.2 million, Yemen: 3.4 million, Eastern DRC: 0.7 million
- 75% of FCS Poor households are engaged in agriculture.
- 12% of agricultural households are FCS Poor.



Source (total population): United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs COD-PS 2026 – Afghanistan; WorldPop 2020 – Northern Nigeria; UNOCHA Population Projections 2025 – Yemen; UNOCHA Population Estimates (Sep–Dec 2024) – Eastern DRC.

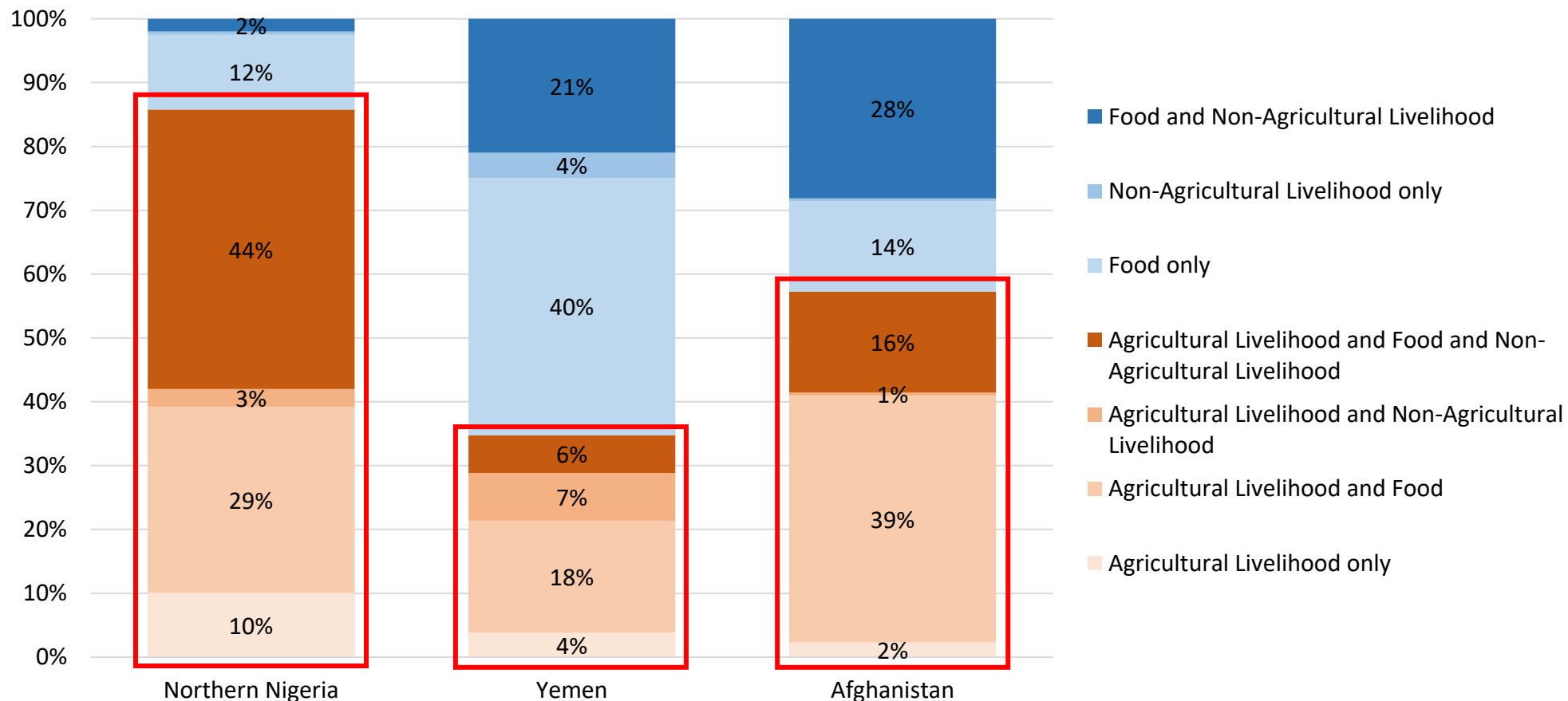
Types of Assistance Requested

- Agricultural livelihood related needs are the most frequently reported (*except in Yemen*); however, households also identify a range of other needs beyond agriculture.



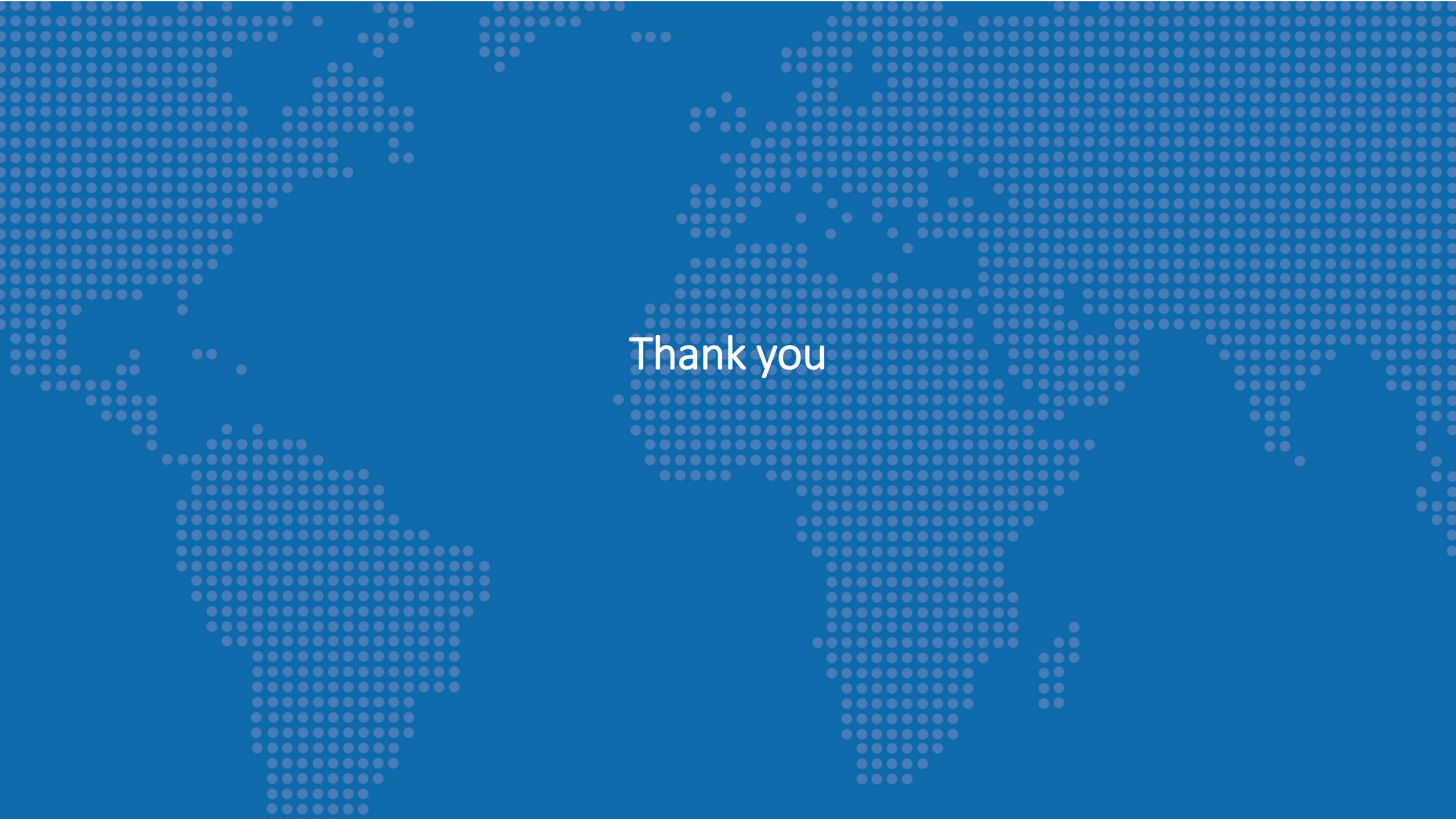
Types of Assistance Requested

- Agricultural livelihood related needs alone or coupled with any other type of need are the most requested needs by FCS poor agri people in Nigeria (86%) and Afghanistan (57%).



Key messages

- **Food deprivation is an agricultural issue.** In 4 key food crisis countries (Afghanistan, DRC, Nigeria, Yemen), more than half of the households who have a Food Consumption Score compatible with IPC phase 4 and above are engaged in agriculture in 2025.
- Levels of food consumption deprivation are broadly comparable across agricultural households in Eastern DRC, Northern Nigeria, Yemen and Afghanistan (from 3% to 21%).
- Across Eastern DRC, Northern Nigeria and Afghanistan, agricultural households with a poor food consumption score **prioritize agricultural livelihood support** to respond to their immediate food and income needs (from 63% to 97%). In Yemen, Food aid is prioritized over agricultural livelihood support.
- Agricultural livelihood support is often requested **in combination with food assistance** and, to a lesser extent, support to non-agricultural livelihoods. As a corollary, a minor proportion of this segment of the population requires food assistance only.
- **Context matters** too. While requested needs are mostly agricultural in Nigeria and Afghanistan, 40% of agricultural households having a poor food consumption score in Yemen express a need for food assistance only, highlighting a more immediate consumption gap. This implies that responses must be context-specific, sensitive to seasonality, and multi-dimensional.
- In short, the engagement of households with a poor food consumption score in agriculture and their preference for agricultural livelihood support indicate that emergency agriculture shouldn't be limited only to households in IPC Phase 3.

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Thank you