

Climate Shocks, Household Food Security, and Welfare in Afghanistan based on the study by Hayatullah Ahmadzai and Oliver Morrissey (2024)

A newly published paper by Hayatullah Ahmadzai and Oliver Morrissey explores how climate shocks—like droughts and floods—impact food security and household well-being in Afghanistan. The research, based on data from over 6,000 Afghan households, reveals that the most vulnerable families—especially in rural, farming communities—are hit hardest by these shocks. As climate disasters strike, food prices rise and incomes fall, pushing many households into deeper poverty. Floods are the most frequent and devastating shock, significantly worsening food security and welfare. Affected households often shift from acceptable to moderate food diversity, face increased coping stress, and nearly two-thirds fall into moderate or severe hunger. Interestingly enough, the study finds that external help from the government and NGOs is often too little or too late. The authors call for stronger local safety nets, better-targeted aid, and long-term resilience-building policies. ■ What do you think, what kinds of locally grounded, evidence-based policy interventions could be designed to reduce the long-term food insecurity caused by climate shocks in Afghanistan? What new data do we need to understand these pathways better? Reference: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foodpol.2025.102910>

Comments