PAKISTAN - BALOCHISTAN

Natural shocks (drought and unprecedented monsoon rains/flooding), high food prices, reduced employment and income opportunities and livestock diseases/ deaths are driving acute food insecurity in twelve districts of Balochistan.

IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY ANALYSIS
July - December 2022
Published on December 30, 2022

CURRENT JULY- AUGUST 2022

1.29M
(33% of the rural population analysed in 12 rural districts of Balochistan)

People facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above)

IN NEED OF URGENT ACTION

Phase 5	0 People in Catastrophe
Phase 4	351,000 People in Emergency
Phase 3	941,000 People in Crisis
Phase 2	1,367,000 People in Stress
Phase 1	1,330,000 People in food security

PROJECTED SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2022

1.61M
(41% of the rural population analysed in 12 rural districts of Balochistan)

People facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above)

IN NEED OF URGENT ACTION

Phase 5	0 People in Catastrophe
Phase 4	421,000 People in Emergency
Phase 3	1,191,000 People in Crisis
Phase 2	1,288,000 People in Stress
Phase 1	1,090,000 People in food security

Overview

Balochistan is the most vulnerable province in Pakistan, with a high prevalence of acute food insecurity, malnutrition and poverty. In the second half of 2022, the food security situation further deteriorated because of high food and fuel prices, drought, monsoon rains/flash flooding, livestock diseases and reduced employment opportunities. An estimated of 1.29 million people representing 33 percent of the rural population analysed are classified in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) and Phase 4 (Emergency) in the current period (July-August 2022), corresponding to the kharif crop season and monsoon period. These include around 0.94 million people (24 percent of the rural population) in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) and around 0.35 million people (9 percent of the rural population) in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) across the twelve districts analysed. Urgent action is therefore required to protect livelihoods and reduce food consumption gaps of people in Crisis and to save lives and livelihoods of people in Emergency.

All twelve analysed districts, namely Chagai, Gwadar, Harnai, Kech, Kharan, Killa Abdullah, Loralai, Nushki, Panjgur, Pishin, Washuk and Zhob are classified in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) during the current analysis period.

In the projection period (September-December 2022), corresponding to the harvesting of Kharif season crops and sowing of Rabi season crops, the number of people in Crisis and Emergency phases is expected to increase to 1.61 million from 1.29 million, representing 41 percent of the rural population, an increase of 0.32 million or 25 percent more people in need of urgent action compared to the current period. Area phase classification of all twelve analysed districts remains unchanged; all districts are classified in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis), as in the current period.

The analysed districts experienced multiple shocks that include high inflation associated with the country's internal economic situation and the Russia-Ukraine crisis, drought/inadequate rainfall and heat waves during the first half of 2022, followed by heavy monsoon rains and flooding beginning in July and livestock diseases/deaths, which resulted in poor food security outcomes for the current period. The food security situation in the projection period is likely to deteriorate further due to the devastating impacts of one of the worst monsoon floodings, which has damaged the Kharif crops, caused livestock losses and adversely affected the food production, availability of food and livelihood opportunities. Food access will be challenging because of the continuous increase in food commodity prices, and reduced livelihood opportunities post-flooding likely contributed to higher food insecurity during the projection period.

Key Drivers

Flooding and Drought

Most of the analysed districts are arid with high dependency on rainfall but they did not receive adequate winter rains and experienced moderate to severe drought conditions during the first half of 2022. Due to deficiency of rainfall, farmers experienced difficulties and a reduction in crop and livestock production. From early July, several spells of unexpected and unusual monsoon rains/flash flooding caused a catastrophic situation in most of the IPC focused districts and damaged the Kharif crops.

High food prices

High food prices of commodities (nationally food prices went up by 27 percent for rural consumers, on a year-over-year basis in June 2022 and 32.7 percent in September 2022) and high inflation, as a result of the Russia-Ukraine crisis and other domestic and international factors and flooding, led to low purchasing power of households, particularly for low-income groups e.g., small farmers, daily wage labourers, households relying on petty trades, etc.

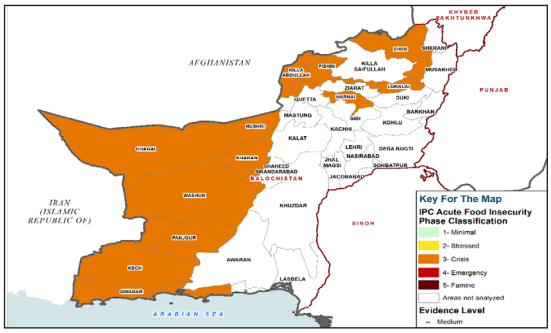
Reduced employment/income opportunities

Economic impact on income and purchasing power of households mainly due to limited income/employment opportunities, drought during the first half of 2022, flooding since July, local level conflicts and political/economic uncertainties.

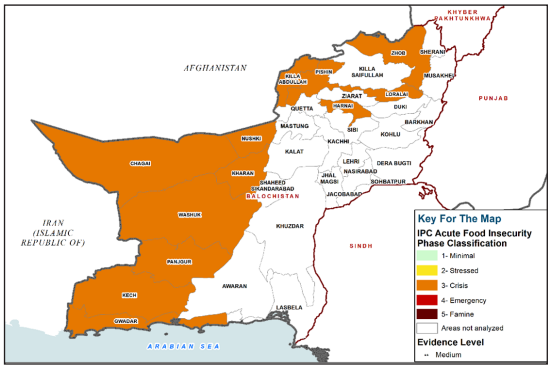
Livestock diseases or deaths:

Limited/unavailability of water, poor veterinary services, and declining of grazing pastures/fodder caused livestock diseases such as lumpy skin. The monsoon rains/flooding during July-September have further aggravated livestock diseases and resulted in livestock mortality, which has affected the livestock-based livelihoods adversely.

Current: July-August 2022



Projection: Sept-Dec 2022



CURRENT IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY MAP AND POPULATION TABLE (JULY - AUGUST 2022)

Key for the Map

IPC Acute Food Insecurity Phase Classification

(mapped Phase represents highest severity affecting at least 20% of the population)

- 1 - Minimal
- 2 - Stressed
- 3 - Crisis
- 4 - Emergency
- 5 - Famine
- Areas not analysed

Evidence Level

** Medium

Population Table for the current period (July - August 2022)

District	Total population	Phase 1		Phase 2		Phase 3		Phase 4		Phase 5		Area Phase	Phase 3+	
		#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%		#people	%
Chagai	259,938	77,981	30	90,978	35	77,981	30	12,997	5	0	0	3	90,978	35
Gwadar	106,796	42,718	40	37,379	35	21,359	20	5,340	5	0	0	3	26,699	25
Harnai	75,933	30,373	40	22,780	30	15,187	20	7,593	10	0	0	3	22,780	30
Kech	727,894	254,763	35	291,158	40	145,579	20	36,395	5	0	0	3	181,974	25
Kharan	126,395	50,558	40	44,238	35	25,279	20	6,320	5	0	0	3	31,599	25
Killa Abdullah	740,724	259,253	35	259,253	35	148,145	20	74,072	10	0	0	3	222,217	30
Loralai	372,677	111,803	30	111,803	30	111,803	30	37,268	10	0	0	3	149,071	40
Nushki	154,246	69,411	45	53,986	35	30,849	20	-	0	0	0	3	30,849	20
Panjgur	247,366	98,946	40	74,210	30	61,842	25	12,368	5	0	0	3	74,210	30
Pishin	694,210	173,553	25	242,974	35	173,553	25	104,132	15	0	0	3	277,685	40
Washuk	176,414	52,924	30	61,745	35	52,924	30	8,821	5	0	0	3	61,745	35
Zhob	306,838	107,393	35	76,710	25	76,710	25	46,026	15	0	0	3	122,736	40
Total	**3,989,431**	**1,329,678**	**33**	**1,367,213**	**34**	**941,210**	**24**	**351,331**	**9**	**0**	**0**		**1,292,541**	**33**

Note: A population in Phase 3+ does not necessarily reflect the full population in need of urgent action. This is because some households may be in Phase 2 or even 1 but only because of receipt of assistance, and as a result they may be in need of continued action. IPC analyses produce estimates of populations by IPC Phase at area level. Marginal inconsistencies that may arise in the overall percentages of totals and grand totals are attributable to rounding.

CURRENT ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY SITUATION OVERVIEW, KEY DRIVERS AND LIMITING FACTORS (JULY-AUGUST 2022)

Current Situation Overview

This IPC analysis focuses on the rural population of twelve districts of Balochistan province, namely, Chagai, Gwadar, Harnai, Kech, Kharan, Killa Abdullah, Loralai, Nushki, Panjgur, Pishin, Washuk and Zhob. Chagai, Killa Abdullah, Nushki, Pishin and Zhob districts border with Afghanistan, and Chagai, Gwadar Kech, Panjgur, and Washuk border with Iran. Almost all analysed districts have rainfed areas and are prone to multiple natural shocks, particularly drought, flash flooding and earthquakes. Overall, an estimated 0.94 million people were classified in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) and around 0.35 million people were classified in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency). Furthermore, 1.37 million people are in IPC Phase 2 (Stressed). All twelve districts are classified in IPC Phase 3. Chagai, Loralai, Pishin, Washuk, and Zhob have 35 percent or more of their population in IPC Phase 3 or above, while Gwadar, Harnai, Kech, Killa Abdullah, Kharan, Nushki, and Panjgur have between 20-30 percent of their population in IPC Phase 3 or above.

Hazards and Vulnerabilities

Starting in July, several spells of unprecedented heavy monsoon rains (450 percent above the long-term average), have caused flash flooding, leading to human deaths, severe damage to houses and crops, livestock losses, and damage to irrigation infrastructure across Balochistan including in the districts analysed. The Government of Balochistan, through the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), has declared 32 districts of Balochistan as natural-calamity-hit, owing to recent monsoon heavy rainfall in July-August 2022. Of those 32 districts, 10 districts were included in the IPC analysis, namely, Gwadar, Harnai, Kharan, Killa Abdullah, Loralai, Nushki, Panjgur, Pishin, Washuk, and Zhob. As per the latest statistics by the provincial government, 9.2 million people were affected, 0.79 million acres of crop area were damaged, an estimated 325,000 livestock perished and over 2,000 animal shelters were damaged in the flood-affected districts of Balochistan.

Before the historic flooding, the main shocks affecting the areas have been drought during the first half of 2022, a high inflation rate, reduced employment opportunities, reduced crop production, and livestock diseases, affecting purchasing power and access to food. During the first half of 2022, the lack of winter rains and moderate to severe drought conditions adversely impacted food production and pasture conditions. As per Drought Alert issued by the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) on May 16, 2022, severe drought conditions were prevailing in Chagai, moderate drought conditions in Kharan, Nushki, and Washuk, whereas Gwadar, Kech, Panjgur, and Zhob were under mild drought conditions.

Furthermore, rural households' ability to raise an income or produce food for self-consumption was affected by much higher than usual food and fuel prices, sickness or death of a member/breadwinner, drought/heat stress, lost employment or work opportunities, plant diseases and animal diseases as reported by surveyed households in a household assessment conducted in April 2022[1]. Overall, more than half (55 percent) of the surveyed households reported agriculture and livestock-based activities as their primary source of livelihood in the analysed districts during the household assessment, 22 percent are self-employed/employees/own businesses in the non-agriculture sector, 12 percent reported non-agriculture wage labour as their primary source, 4 percent reported other sources (charity/zakat/gifts and remittances) and 7 percent reported having no income source (5 percent using their savings and 2 percent surviving on debts).

Overall, more than 43 percent of the surveyed households reported a reduction in their income from the main source of livelihood due to multiple crises/shocks. More than 82 percent of surveyed farming households faced crop production difficulties. Of those who faced crop production difficulties, 60 percent reported plant diseases and low quality of seeds each, 59 percent could not access fertilizer, 42 percent reported crop damages, 40 percent reported not enough irrigation/rainfall water, 36 percent could not access enough seeds and 35 percent could not access fuel or electricity. Similarly, 50 percent of the surveyed households reported their household livelihood/income was affected by border closure/fencing. Out of these, 38 percent reported it was severely affected, 37 percent reported it was moderately affected and 26 percent reported it was slightly affected. Furthermore, 27 percent of the surveyed households reported their livelihood/income was severely affected by limited rainfall/drought, 29 percent reported it was moderately affected, 15 percent reported it was slightly affected and 28 percent were not affected by limited rainfall/drought.

[1] The household assessment was conducted in collaboration with the Provincial Disaster Management Authorities (PDMAs) of Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Food Security and Agriculture Working Group (FSAWG) members (Islamic Relief, Welthungerhilfe, Tameer-e-Khalq Foundation, CESVI and others) in FAO in 28 districts of Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in April 2022.

The overwhelming majority of livestock holders (75 percent) also reported difficulties in livestock production in the past three months preceding the assessment. The difficulty to access veterinary services and inputs, purchase feed (prices or market access), constrained access to pasture, livestock diseases, and constrained access to water, are the major difficulties reported.

Availability

Agriculture is one of the most important sources of livelihood for rural households in the analysed districts. The unprecedented rains and flash flooding have adversely affected the food production in the flood-affected districts which was already limited. An estimated 0.9 million acres of cropland were destroyed in 32 flood-affected districts across Balochistan. Due to the limited availability of water, small landholdings, and high dependence on rainfall, most farmers are engaged in small-scale subsistence-level crop production. The distribution of agricultural land ownership shows that 5% of households do not own any agricultural land, 17 percent own between one and three acres, 24 percent own between three and five acres, and 54 percent own more than five acres of agricultural land. For the 2021-22 Rabi season, 1 percent of households cultivated up to one acre of land, 24 percent cultivated between one and three acres, 21 percent between three and five acres, and 54 percent more than five acres. Around 61 percent of farming households have stocks lasting for six months and more than 21 percent of households have stocks for 3-6 months.

The main cereal crops grown in the analysed areas are wheat (the major cereal crop grown in all areas except Gwadar in winter (Rabi season), rice (mainly grown in Harnai and Kech), millet (cultivated mainly in Gwadar, Harnai, Kharan, Nushki, Panjgur, and Washuk), maize (grown in all areas except Gwadar, Kech and Killa Abdullah), sorghum (cultivated in all areas except Killa Abdullah and Pishin), and barley (grown in all districts except Gwadar). All districts also produce different varieties of vegetables and fruits, whereas the major cash crop – cotton – is mainly grown in Chagai, Kech, Kharan, Loralai, Nushki, Panjgur, and Washuk. Fruits such as grapes, apples, and melons are also grown in some of these districts. Official data from the Crop Reporting Services (CRS) of the Agriculture Department of Balochistan shows that wheat area (in hectares) has increased slightly by 4 percent, whereas wheat production (in tonnes) also slightly increased by 5 percent in the analysed districts compared to the previous year. Out of the twelve districts analysed, Chagai, Kharan, Loralai, Nushki, Panjgur, and Washuk have relatively more production of wheat compared to other districts. Importantly, the Balochistan province, including the analysed districts, relies on the import of wheat from neighbouring provinces (Punjab and Sindh) to meet its consumption needs.

The province is facing a significant reduction in the production of main staples, around two-fifths (40 percent) of the farming households reported a reduction in the planted area under the main crop and more than half (52 percent) reported a reduction in the production of the main crop of the 2021-2022 Rabi season due to multiple shocks compared to a normal year. Agricultural support required by farming households to improve crop and livestock production in the next 3-6 months includes cash assistance, agricultural loans, fertilizers, seeds, pesticides, marketing support, tools, and access to irrigation water, etc.

Livestock is one of the core assets for rural households in the analysed areas and is kept as a source of livelihood as well as for meeting household consumption needs. The livestock sector has also been adversely affected due to 2022 monsoon rains and flooding. As per the FSLA household assessment, around 65 percent of households own goats, 20 percent own sheep, and 11 percent cattle, the three most owned main livestock. Around one-fifth (19 percent) of livestock holders who own livestock reported death of their main livestock during the past six months preceding the household assessment, around one-third (36 percent) reported death of second main livestock, whereas 30 percent reported death of third main livestock. The three main reasons for the death of livestock reported are livestock diseases, shortage of fodder/feed, and limited availability of drinking water for animals. Among the households that sold livestock[2], 20 percent reported distress selling to meet food and other needs, 16 percent reported distress selling due to poor health of the animal, 10 percent reported distress selling due to limited availability of fodder, 5 percent reported distress selling due to limited availability of drinking water for livestock, whereas 42 percent reported normal sale for earning a livelihood.

Nearly 60 percent of livestock holders reported a reduction in the availability of pasture in the analysed areas compared to the three months preceding the assessment, which could be mainly due to drought and lack/limited rainfall in the areas. The livestock holders (56 percent) also reported difficulties in selling their livestock during the past three months preceding the assessment and the main difficulties reported are: higher marketing costs (such as transportation) reported

[2] Percentage of livestock holders who sold one or more livestock during past six months
[3] A multiple response question

by 83 percent, selling prices are too low (52 percent), and usual traders or local customers are not buying as much as usual reported by 41 percent[3].

The above evidence suggests that though own production of food for household consumption might not be available or does not last for long due to adverse impacts of flooding, sufficient food is available in the markets which are challenging to access due to low purchasing power and high food prices.

Access

Pakistan is going through high levels of inflation, including food inflation, which is most likely to have adverse impacts on the purchasing power of the population and their access to food, particularly of poor and middle-income groups for some time. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation data, released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) in July 2022, shows that CPI inflation (General) in Pakistan increased by 24.9 percent on a year-over-year basis in July 2022. Food prices went up by 27.4 percent for urban consumers and 29.6 percent for rural consumers, on a year-over-year basis in July 2022. In particular, prices of essential food items, such as rice, pulses, cooking oil, milk and meat, have spiked since January 2022. In the two major markets (Quetta and Khuzdar) surrounding the analysed districts, on average, the price of wheat flour rose by 2 percent since January 2022, rice by 8 percent, cooking oil /vegetable ghee by 20 percent, masoor and gram pulse by 15 percent each, moong pulse by 4 percent, mash pulse by 1 percent, beef by 5 percent, mutton by 15 percent, milk by 1 percent, and the price of chicken increased substantially by 63 percent.

The Russia-Ukraine crisis and other domestic and international factors are contributing to increasing prices of essential food and non-food items (fuel and fertilizer), which are major drivers of acute food insecurity, and are also expected to erode their purchasing power. Pakistan imports wheat, pulses, edible oil, milk, and dairy products, fuel, and fertilizer to meet its local demand, and the rise in international prices of these items also contribute to high local prices.

Although food is generally available in the markets, the purchasing power of households is considerably low due to low income, high food and fuel prices, and a high incidence of poverty. Additionally, the distance to food markets is a limiting factor for some remote areas in the analysed districts. Around two-thirds of households travel more than 30 minutes to reach the food markets. Nearly 85 percent of the households reported that they face problems reaching the food market, such as because of damaged or poor access to roads, high cost of transportation, long distance to markets, and unavailability of transport. The access to food markets has been further challenged by flooding, which has caused damage to road infrastructure.

Households have also contracted new debts to meet basic household needs during the past three months preceding the assessment. Overall, more than two-thirds (69 percent) of households accumulated new debts, mainly to: cover food needs, purchase of livestock/agricultural inputs, medical expenses, business, and contribution to ceremonies. Considering the already limited household income in the area and high inflation, people are likely to remain in a debt cycle for some time, as their monthly income is not enough to cover the outstanding debt.

The above evidence indicates that access to food is a major issue in these areas which contributes to the poor food security situation of the households.

Utilisation

Access to improved sources of water is 81 percent in the analysed districts, however, the quality of water based on any lab test was not assessed in the assessment. Of the improved water sources, 33 percent access water from other safe sources (tube well/boreholes/treatment plant/hand pump) followed by piped water and public tap (19 percent each) and protected well (10 percent). Around 77 percent of households easily access water from the main sources of drinking water. Around 33 percent of households usually use flush toilets; 48 percent use dry pit latrines; 12 percent use open pit, and 4 percent each use communal latrines and open field defecation. Access to water and sanitation has also been affected adversely due to monsoon rains/flooding, particularly in the most flood-affected areas.

In the case of housing status of households, 67 percent of the households live in non-cemented (Kaccha) houses, 24 percent live in semi-cemented homes (Semi Pakka), 6 percent in cemented (Pakka) houses, and 3 percent in chhorra/ wooden/thatch houses. Overall, 93 percent of the households have access to electricity from a government source and solar panel/generator, 5 percent use lamps/petrol lamps and 2 percent have no access to electricity. The unprecedented

monsoon rains/flooding caused damages to kachha and semi-pakka houses) and the housing situation has drastically changed in the flood-affected areas.

The limiting factors for the key dimensions of food security (Availability, Access and Utilization) vary across the analysed districts. Overall, food availability is considered a 'major' limiting factor for Chagai, Killa Abdullah, and Washuk districts. Access is considered a 'major' limiting factor for Chagai, Kech, Killa Abdullah, Nushki, Panjgur, Pishin, Washuk, and Zhob districts. The major limiting factors in terms of accessibility are attributed to several factors such as low income, a higher share of food expenditure in total household expenditure, inadequate availability of food commodities, limited sufficiency of cereal crops, high cost of transportation, long distance to markets, reduction in income and rising food prices. Utilization is considered a 'major' limiting factor for Loralai and Zhob districts only. For the other ten districts, utilization was considered a minor limiting factor.

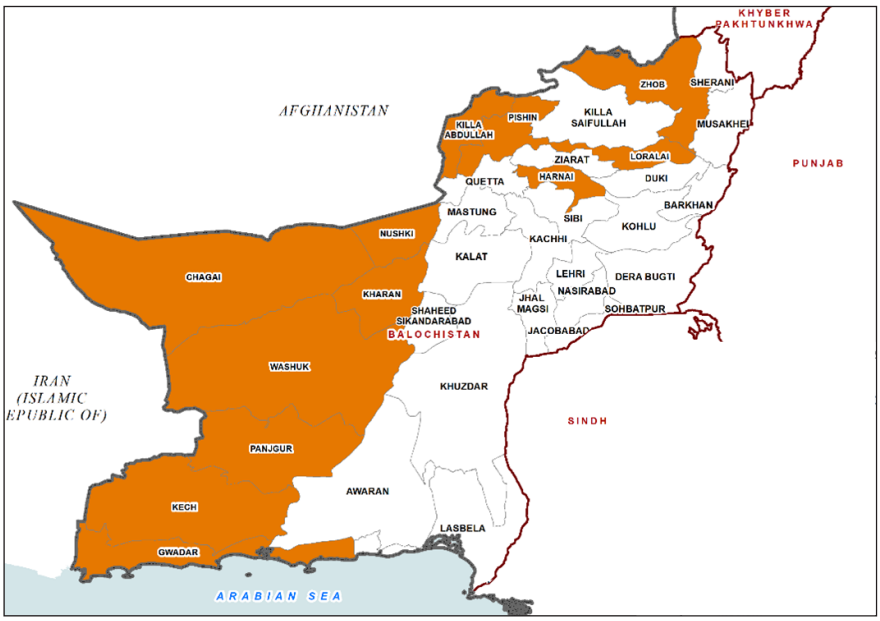
Humanitarian Food Assistance

In some districts, the United Nations, along with international and local non-governmental organizations (NGOs), provided support to help improve the livelihoods and food security situation of vulnerable households in 2022.

NGOs such as Islamic Relief and the Balochistan Rural Support Program (BRSP), partnered with WFP and the European Union, provided food assistance to 21,840 people in Killa Abdullah; cash assistance to 25,065 people in Killa Abdullah and Pishin, whereas FAO and BRSP provided crop inputs to 4,666 people and livestock inputs to 14,506 people in Kharan, Killa Abdullah, Loralai, Pishin, Washuk and Zhob.

The UN and NGO partners of the Food Security and Agriculture sector are also implementing flood response in the analysed districts, however, the scale of the response is not that big to meet the food needs of all IPC Phase 3 and 4 population in the affected districts.

PROJECTED ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY MAP AND POPULATION TABLE (SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2022)



Key for the Map

IPC Acute Food Insecurity Phase Classification

(mapped Phase represents highest severity affecting at least 20% of the population)

- 1 - Minimal
- 2 - Stressed
- 3 - Crisis
- 4 - Emergency
- 5 - Famine
- Areas not analysed

Evidence Level

** Medium

Population Table for the projection period (September - December 2022)

District	Total population	Phase 1		Phase 2		Phase 3		Phase 4		Phase 5		Area Phase	Phase 3+	
		#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%		#people	%
Chagai	259,938	77,981	30	77,981	30	77,981	30	25,994	10	0	0	3	103,975	40
Gwadar	106,796	37,379	35	42,718	40	21,359	20	5,340	5	0	0	3	26,699	25
Harnai	75,933	22,780	30	22,780	30	22,780	30	7,593	10	0	0	3	30,373	40
Kech	727,894	218,368	30	291,158	40	145,579	20	72,789	10	0	0	3	218,368	30
Kharan	126,395	44,238	35	44,238	35	31,599	25	6,320	5	0	0	3	37,919	30
Killa Abdullah	740,724	185,181	25	222,217	30	259,253	35	74,072	10	0	0	3	333,325	45
Loralai	372,677	111,803	30	93,169	25	130,437	35	37,268	10	0	0	3	167,705	45
Nushki	154,246	61,698	40	53,986	35	30,849	20	7,712	5	0	0	3	38,561	25
Panjgur	247,366	61,842	25	86,578	35	74,210	30	24,737	10	0	0	3	98,947	40
Pishin	694,210	138,842	20	208,263	30	242,974	35	104,132	15	0	0	3	347,106	50
Washuk	176,414	52,924	30	52,924	30	61,745	35	8,821	5	0	0	3	70,566	40
Zhob	306,838	76,710	25	92,051	30	92,051	30	46,026	15	0	0	3	138,077	45
Total	3,989,431	1,089,746	27	1,288,065	32	1,190,817	30	420,803	11	0	0		1,611,620	41

Note: A population in Phase 3+ does not necessarily reflect the full population in need of urgent action. This is because some households may be in Phase 2 or even 1 but only because of receipt of assistance, and as a result they may be in need of continued action. IPC analyses produce estimates of populations by IPC Phase at area level. Marginal inconsistencies that may arise in the overall percentages of totals and grand totals are attributable to rounding.

PROJECTED ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY OVERVIEW (SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2022)

During the projection analysis period (September to December 2022), corresponding to the harvesting of Kharif season crops (primarily cash crops) and sowing of Rabi season crops (including wheat), the total population facing high acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) is expected to increase to 1.61 million from 1.29 million, representing 41 percent of the analysed population. This shows a 0.32 million or 25 percent increase in people facing higher acute food insecurity from the current to the projection period. Out of twelve analysed districts, all districts will remain in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis). An increase of 0.25 million people in numbers and severity is expected particularly in IPC Phase 3. The main drivers of the deterioration are the continuous rise in prices of food and non-food items, reduced employment opportunities/ income, and the recent monsoon rains/flooding which has caused crop damages, livestock losses, and irrigation infrastructure damages on a large scale.

Most of the analysed areas have mountainous and desert/arid regions, which do not typically receive adequate rainfall during the monsoon season (usually from July-September). However, in the 2022 rainy season, almost all districts received heavy rains, which resulted in flash flooding. Moreover, as a consequence of the heavy rainfall, several dams have been broken in Balochistan, which resulted in even more flooding. The floods damaged houses, government infrastructure, and agricultural land as well as losses of livestock and food stocks.

In a typical year, the own production of wheat, other cereals, and pulses from the Rabi season are expected to be depleted during the projection period, therefore, the majority of households are likely to remain dependent on markets to access food during the projected period. The loss of food stocks in the 2022 flooding is expected to increase the proportion of households relying on markets.

Considering the current inflation trends and economic situation, price levels are expected to continue to rise, placing further stress on vulnerable households that are market-dependent. General, as well as food inflation, is likely to continue, which are expected to result in low purchasing power of households, particularly for low-income groups e.g., small farmers, wage labourers, households relying on petty trades, and especially those households affected by recent monsoon rains/flooding. Physical access to markets is expected to continue to be a challenge in the projection period, caused by damaged roads and transport infrastructure due to the floods.

Key Assumptions

1. The impacts of the damages to agricultural land and losses of livestock caused by recent monsoon rains/ flooding are expected to continue in the projection period.
2. Food stocks are not expected to improve because of damaged Kharif crops, and expected delay in sowing of Rabi crops during the projection period.
3. Access to markets is expected to remain challenging in the projection period,
4. Price levels (food and fuel prices) are expected to increase further due to ongoing Russia-Ukraine crisis, other domestic and international factors as well as the 2022 flooding.
5. Low purchasing power is expected to continue for rural households because of lingering effects of high food prices, fuel prices and damages/losses due to 2022 flooding.
6. Employment opportunities and income would be affected due to border closure and fencing which would continue to affect the livelihoods of traders and wage workers in areas neighbouring Afghanistan and Iran.
7. Livelihood opportunities for farming households are expected to increase slightly due to planting season during last two months of the projection period.

The cultivation of Rabi (winter) crops will be completed during November/December and food stocks of farming households from their own production are expected to be depleted during the projection period. Labour opportunities are expected to increase slightly during the plantation period in November-December, contributing to the food and income for the people associated with the wage sector for that period. Moreover, due to recent flooding conditions, some improvement in agriculture conditions is expected for some areas due to an increase in soil moisture in historically arid areas. If the growing conditions improve, there may be a positive impact on agriculture, livestock, and wage labour opportunities.

Livestock diseases such as lumpy skin disease and other infectious diseases are also likely to surface post-floods, which will have adverse impacts on the health and productive capabilities of livestock, as well as limiting households' ability to sell livestock as a source of income.

Although the overall security situation is stable in most of the analysed districts, Gwadar, Kech, Panjgur, Washuk, and Killa Abdullah experience sporadic security issues that may have adverse implications for food security in the projection period, as any security incidents are likely to limit access to markets and livelihood opportunities.

Chagai, Killa Abdullah, Nushki, Pishin, and Zhob districts are bordering Afghanistan, whereas Chagai, Gwadar, Kech, Panjgur, and Washuk border Iran. Formal and informal trade takes place between Pakistan and Afghanistan and Iran through Chaman, Taftan, and porous borders. However, the closure and fencing of the border would continue to affect the livelihoods of the bordering communities.

Considering the above-mentioned factors, lower opportunities for agriculture and non-agriculture-based livelihoods and market-related activities are expected, which would result in less income, lower food consumption, and high food insecurity during the projection period (September-December 2022). Therefore, although a change in the phase classification from the current period (July-August 2022) to the projected period (September-December 2022) is not expected, it is likely that there will be an increase in the number of people (0.32 million or about 25 percent), facing high acute food insecurity (IPC Phase or above) during the projection period.

The Conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine and its Possible Impacts on Food and Agriculture Markets in Pakistan

Both the Russian Federation and Ukraine are major players in agricultural production and are suppliers of two critical inputs to production, namely fertilizers and energy. In 2021, both countries stood among the top ten exporters of wheat, maize, oilseeds, and vegetable oils globally. Given a considerable concentration of exportable surplus of agricultural commodities and inputs to agricultural production in the Russian Federation and Ukraine, the conflict between the two countries has exposed global food and agricultural markets to increased volatility and vulnerability to shocks.

Pakistan imports significant amounts of wheat, pulses, and oilseeds from the Russian Federation and Ukraine. Last year, imports from Russia and Ukraine contributed 77.3 percent of total wheat imports, 19.3 percent of total pulses imports, and 10.4 percent of total oilseed imports into the country. Moreover, although Pakistan is not primarily dependent on these two countries for fertilizers and fossil fuels, it is withstanding the negative effects of rising international prices for fertilizers and energy. Pakistan continues to be impacted by the conflict in terms of rising prices for wheat, edible oils, chicken meat, fertilizers and fossil fuels. During the third week of June 2022, the domestic price of wheat went up by 31 percent, edible oils by 82 percent, chicken meat by 51 percent, DAP fertilizer by 82 percent, petrol by 110 percent, diesel by 133 percent, and Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) by 61 percent, compared to their levels 12 months ago.

Due to high fertilizer prices and below-average rainfall in some parts of the country, Pakistan did not meet its wheat production target of 28.90 million metric tons (MMT) for the 2021-22 season. Therefore, the government has decided to import 3.0 MMT of wheat in the next few months. Wheat prices were already rising to historic levels, but with the ongoing conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine, international wheat prices are at their highest level in the last few decades. The increased cost of production domestically due to increased fertilizer and energy costs are expected to raise the price of wheat in the Pakistani market.

Cooking oil and ghee are also essential food commodities in Pakistan. In 2021, Pakistan produced only 8 percent of the edible oil required for domestic consumption, and the remaining 92 percent was imported. Since the beginning of the conflict, the price of cooking oil in Pakistan has increased by 25 percent, and that of vegetable ghee has risen by 35 percent. This increasing trend is likely to persist as the international edible oils market may experience a considerable shortfall due to the conflict.

Pulses are classified as essential food commodities in Pakistan. Pakistan caters to a major portion of pulses demand through imports. In 2021, the country imported $758 million worth of pulses, out of which 17 percent were from Russia and 2.25 percent from Ukraine. Any shock to the global supply of pulses is likely to impact the availability and prices of pulses in Pakistan.

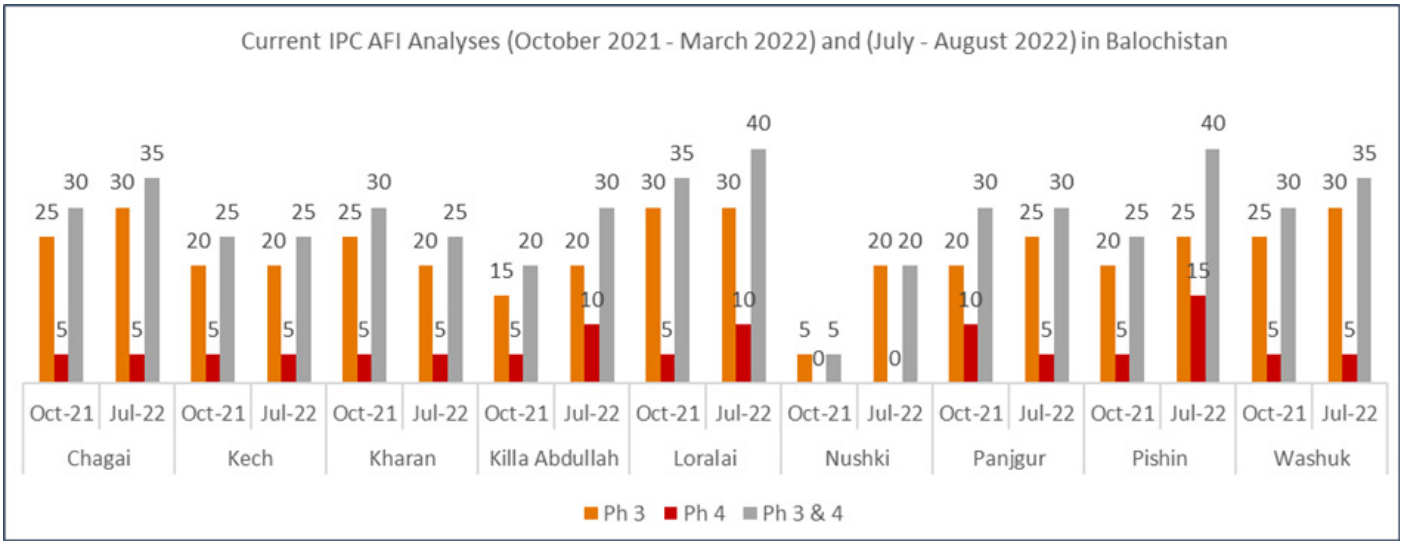
The rise in global prices will ultimately affect local food prices and access to food, especially for the low-income groups with severe implications for the poor population who spend a significant portion of their incomes on food. (Source: FAO)

COMPARISON WITH THE PREVIOUS IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY ANALYSIS

The previous IPC Acute Food Insecurity (AFI) analysis was conducted in nine districts of Balochistan in October 2021, and all nine districts are also included in this analysis. The previous AFI analysis was conducted mainly in the context of drought and COVID-19. Due to different analysis periods and fewer areas analysed in the previous round, a direct comparison of numbers is not possible. However, some of the key drivers identified in the previous analysis were also key drivers for this round, and high food prices, reduced employment opportunities, drought conditions, and livestock diseases/deaths continued to impact household food security.

Compared to the previous analysis in October 2021, the number of people in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) or 4 (Emergency) has:

- Increased: in Chagai, Killa Abdulah, Loralai, Nushki, Pishin, and Washuk.
- Decreased: in Kharan.
- Stayed the same: in Kech and Panjgur.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

Response Priorities

This analysis shows a worsened food insecurity situation in the analysed districts due to exposure to multiple shocks experienced during 2022. In response to the Crisis and Emergency acute food insecurity situation in the analysed districts, the following immediate response actions are suggested to help save lives and livelihoods:

- Improve access to food through appropriate modalities such as food or cash and voucher assistance to reduce the food consumption gaps and to protect asset depletion for the populations classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and Crisis (IPC Phase 3).
- The restoration of livelihoods to be scaled up along with initiating income-generation/employment-creation livelihood support interventions and recovery projects to support families affected by multiple shocks including monsoon flooding, persistent droughts, and price hikes.
- Timely provision of quality seeds for high-yielding crops and vegetables, and agriculture tools, especially to subsistence-level farmers.
- Training on climate-smart crop and fodder production, including guidance on kitchen gardening.
- Scale-up livestock protection and management interventions such as vaccination and deworming campaigns to prevent diseases and access to fodder, multi-nutritional feed, and pastures, to help in preventing distress sales. Livestock programmes should target vulnerable households and women farmers. Seeding of rangelands to produce quality fodder.
- Provision of livestock/poultry to vulnerable households.
- Construction and rehabilitation of water infrastructure for agriculture and livestock such as tube wells, water channels, and reservoirs for better conservation and management. De-silting of critical sections of irrigation channels would be required after the recent flooding. Resilient water infrastructure can help in reducing the impact of recurring floods and droughts.
- Construction and rehabilitation of animal sheds/shelters damaged by recent flooding.
- Introduction of livelihood diversification activities for local communities to increase income generation and employment opportunities. Support local communities for alternate business/employment opportunities to increase income generation who were involved in border trade and lost their businesses due to border closure/fencing.
- Inclusion of women in economic growth activities (agriculture and non-agriculture) to improve their livelihoods.
- Capacity building of communities on processing and preservation of the seasonal produce to enable them to earn higher income from processed fruits and vegetables and meet food requirements in the lean seasons.
- Disaster preparedness interventions to be initiated/scaled up in recurring climate shock prone districts such as those affected by floods, earthquakes, drought, etc.
- Resilience building programmes and skill development trainings to be initiated/scaled-up in different trades in the most vulnerable areas through conditional food/cash programmes for households facing worsening socio-economic crisis conditions.

Situation monitoring and update

- The food security situation in the analysed areas needs to be monitored regularly due to the high levels of acute food insecurity and malnutrition, in addition to the high incidences of poverty and vulnerability of households.
- If macroeconomic trends persist in Pakistan with rising inflation and climatic conditions (flooding, drought, heatwaves, etc.), there could be more adverse effects on the food security situation in the coming months. Projections may also be revised to reflect those changes if necessary.

- It is recommended to conduct regular or seasonal household food security and livelihood assessments/surveys and IPC Acute Food Insecurity analyses to monitor the food security situation in these areas and other vulnerable districts of Balochistan to inform policymakers on the food security situation in the vulnerable areas. The next IPC Acute Food Insecurity analysis is planned for February 2023.
- The IPC analysis guides district vulnerability ranking and provides population numbers in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) in the current period as well as short-term projections, and can serve as an important tool for advocacy to prioritize the right areas and population. It is recommended to use the IPC analysis findings for informing geographic targeting and prioritization of Government-led social safety programme (BISP/EHSAS).

Risk Factors to Monitor

- Prices of essential food items – The increasing prices of essential food and non-food items are a major risk to the food security of households which is also expected to erode their purchasing power that needs to be monitored. The prolonged Russia-Ukraine crisis and damages/losses of food due to the 2022 monsoon rains and flooding can further contribute to rising food, fuel, and fertilizer prices.
- The reduced food production – Food production will reduce due to floods and high prices of pesticides and fertilizers. Flash/riverine flooding and torrential rains usually damage agriculture production, this has to be monitored which could further reduce food production and could damage assets as well.
- Climatic conditions – The climatic conditions are crucial to monitor, which may impact agricultural production and livelihoods, and may also cause outbreaks of livestock diseases. Of those 12 analysed districts, 10 are affected by floods that have caused a reduction in crop production because of damage to agricultural land with ripe crops under water, damages to irrigation infrastructure, and losses of livestock.
- Livestock diseases – Livestock diseases such as lumpy skin and other infectious diseases are also likely to surface post floods.
- Loss of employment/income – Due to economic instability and exchange rate depreciation, fuel prices and cost of production is increasing which may cause loss of employment and may affect the livelihoods further.
- Border fencing & closure – The livelihood opportunities have been reduced for those engaged in informal trade due to the closure of the border with Afghanistan and Iran. The border fencing has resulted in the stoppage of informal trade and access to markets on both sides of the border. The community at the border now has to travel long distances to reach the market which increased their food cost and adversely affects their livelihoods. This factor needs to be monitored in the projected phase.
- Afghanistan situation – Any escalation or political instability in Afghanistan can cause cross-border displacement of Afghan nationals. The displacement would put enormous pressure on the local market structures, labour market, and natural resources that can negatively affect the food security dimensions.

PROCESS, METHODOLOGY AND LIMITATIONS

Process and Methodology

The IPC Acute Food Insecurity analysis was conducted for two time periods. The initial current period of analysis was July-November 2022 which was mainly based on data from household assessment conducted in April 2022[4] along with other secondary information sources, whereas the initial projected period of analysis was December 2022-March 2023 which was based on data from household assessment, other secondary information sources and forward-looking assumptions on rainfall, food prices, crop harvests, and livelihood opportunities. However, due to unprecedented monsoon rains and flooding situation which have caused the catastrophic situation in almost the entire Balochistan, the periods of the analysis have been changed and the projected period analysis has been updated in September using the flood damages/losses data on the advice of the IPC Global Support Unit (GSU) and in consultation with the IPC partners. The revised current period of the analysis is now July-August 2022 whereas the revised projected period is September-December 2022. The analysis covers the twelve districts of Balochistan, namely: Chagai, Gwadar, Harnai, Kech, Kharan, Killa Abdullah, Loralai, Nushki, Panjgur, Pishin, Washuk, and Zhob.

A joint training and analysis workshop was held from 1-7 July 2022 in Karachi, Pakistan. The workshop was attended by officials/staff of Federal and Provincial government ministries/departments, UN organizations, and international and local NGOs. This analysis has been conducted in close collaboration with IPC stakeholders at national and provincial levels, including the Ministry of National Food Security and Research (MNFSR), Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination (MNHR&C), Pakistan Agriculture Research Council (PARC), Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives (MPD&SI), National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Bureau of Statistics of Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Provincial Disaster Management Authorities (PDMAs) of Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Agriculture and Livestock Departments of Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, UN Organizations (FAO, WFP, UNICEF), and International and National NGOs (including: Welthungerhilfe (WHH), Concern Worldwide, ACTED, Action Against Hunger (ACF), Secours Islamique France (SIF), Islamic Relief (IR), HANDS, Tameer-e-Khalaq Foundation (TKF), Fast Rural Development Program (FRDP), Taraqee Foundation (TF), Foundation For Rural Development (FRD), Balochistan Rural Support Programme (BRSP) and RDF. The analysis for the revised projection period has also been updated by the same group of analysts. The active participation and support of officials/staff from the above ministries/departments/organizations are highly acknowledged.

The data used in the analysis was organized according to the IPC analytical framework and included data on food security contributing factors and outcome indicators. The data was collected from multiple sources listed below and analysis was conducted in ISS.

Sources

Data sources used for this analysis included:

- The Household Food Security and Livelihood Assessment carried out in 28 districts of Sindh, Balochistan, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in April 2022[5]. The assessment provided information on a wide range of indicators: both outcome and contributing factors. The outcome indicators included in the analysis are Food Consumption Score (FCS), Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS), Household Hunger Scale (HHS), Reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI), Livelihood Coping Strategies, and Prevalence of Moderate and Severe Food Insecurity based on Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)
- Crop production data from the Crop Reporting Services (CRS), Agriculture Department, Balochistan.
- Food prices data from the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS);
- Projected population based on the 2017 Population Census by PBS
- Food and cash assistance, agriculture support, livelihood support/other distribution from WFP, FAO, INGOs, and NGOs;
- Precipitation/rainfall/flood notifications and Seasonal Agro-Climate Outlook from PMD and PDMA Balochistan;
- Flood damages/losses data on crop area affected, livestock perished, houses damaged and the number of people affected from the provincial government departments (PDMA, Agriculture and Livestock Departments).

The Evidence Level of this analysis is Medium**.

[4, 5] The household assessment was conducted by in collaboration with Provincial Disaster Management Authorities (PDMAs) of Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Food Security and Agriculture Working Group (FSAWG) members (Islamic Relief, Welthungerhilfe, Tameer-e-Khalq Foundation, CESVI and others) in FAO in 28 districts of Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in April 2022.

Limitations of the Analysis and Recommendations for Future Analyses

- Due to limited availability of evidence informing the projection and with a highly probabilistic weather forecast, the analysis was revised after getting notifications regarding heavy rains/flooding.
- Humanitarian Food Assistance (HFA) data was not available in the format that allowed extrapolation Kilo-calories coverage.
- The household assessment and the IPC analysis have covered only rural areas of 12 districts. As such, the results should not be extrapolated or generalized as representative of the whole population in the area, but only of rural households.
- This IPC analysis was conducted in July 2022, just before the flood started. It has been updated in September to account for flood damages/losses, yet this analysis does not fully capture the food insecurity situation in the province which has aggravated due to flooding. The next IPC AFI analysis is planned for February 2023 which will provide an updated food insecurity situation. Furthermore, the discussion is also ongoing with partners to consider extrapolation of IPC findings of flood-affected districts to non-IPC flood-affected districts and prepare a consolidated snapshot. However, it will be decided based on the need for this information, availability, and interest of the partners.

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What is the IPC and IPC Acute Food Insecurity?

The IPC is a set of tools and procedures to classify the severity and characteristics of acute food and nutrition crises as well as chronic food insecurity based on international standards. The IPC consists of four mutually reinforcing functions, each with a set of specific protocols (tools and procedures). The core IPC parameters include consensus building, convergence of evidence, accountability, transparency and comparability. The IPC analysis aims at informing emergency response as well as medium and long-term food security policy and programming.

For the IPC, Acute Food Insecurity is defined as any manifestation of food insecurity found in a specified area at a specific point in time of a severity that threatens lives or livelihoods, or both, regardless of the causes, context or duration. It is highly susceptible to change and can occur and manifest in a population within a short amount of time, as a result of sudden changes or shocks that negatively impact on the determinants of food insecurity.

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Classification of food insecurity and malnutrition are conducted using the IPC protocols, which are developed and implemented worldwide by the IPC Global Partnership - Action Against Hunger, CARE, CILSS, EC-JRC , FAO, FEWSNET, Global Food Security Cluster, Global Nutrition Cluster, IGAD, Oxfam, PROGRESAN-SICA, SADC, Save the Children, UNICEF and WFP.

IPC Analysis Partners: