PAKISTAN

IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY ANALYSIS

APRIL 2023 – JANUARY 2024

Published on October 19, 2023

High food prices, natural shocks (unprecedented monsoon rains/flooding in 2022), reduced employment and income opportunities, and livestock diseases/deaths are driving acute food insecurity in 43 districts of Pakistan.

CURRENT ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY APRIL - OCTOBER 2023

10.5M

29% of the population

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

IN NEED OF URGENT ACTION

Phase 5	0 People in Catastrophe
Phase 4	2,067,000 People in Emergency
Phase 3	8,454,000 People in Crisis
Phase 2	14,131,000 People Stressed
Phase 1	12,050,000 People in food security

PROJECTED ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY NOVEMBER 2023 - JANUARY 2024

11.8M

32% of the population

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

IN NEED OF URGENT ACTION

Phase 5	0 People in Catastrophe
Phase 4	2,212,000 People in Emergency
Phase 3	9,597,000 People in Crisis
Phase 2	13,369,000 People Stressed
Phase 1	11,524,000 People in food security

Overview

The IPC acute food insecurity analysis in Pakistan covered 43 flood affected rural districts. These districts, spread across Balochistan (18), Sindh (16), and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (9), encompass approximately 36.7 million people or 16 percent of Pakistan's total population. Notably, these provinces are marked by widespread food insecurity, malnutrition, and poverty.

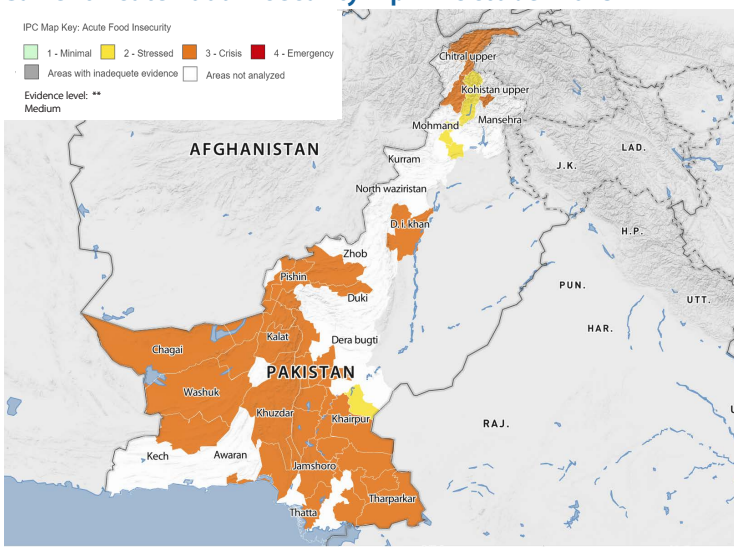
In the current period (April-October 2023), approximately 10.5 million people (29 percent of the 36.7 million rural analysed population) are in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) and IPC Phase 4 (Emergency), which corresponds to the Rabi post-harvest season, plantation and harvest of Kharif (summer) season crops, and the monsoon period. Across the 43 analysed districts, about 2.1 million people (6 percent of the population) are in Phase 4 and approximately 8.5 million people (23 percent of the population) are in Phase 3. Urgent actions are therefore required to protect livelihoods and reduce food consumption gaps of people in crisis and to save lives and livelihoods of people in emergency.

In the current analysis, 5 out of these 43 districts fall under IPC Phase 2 (Stressed), while the rest are classified in Phase 3. Over 20 districts have between 35 and 45 percent of their populations in Phase 3 or 4, and 17 districts have between 20 and 30 percent.

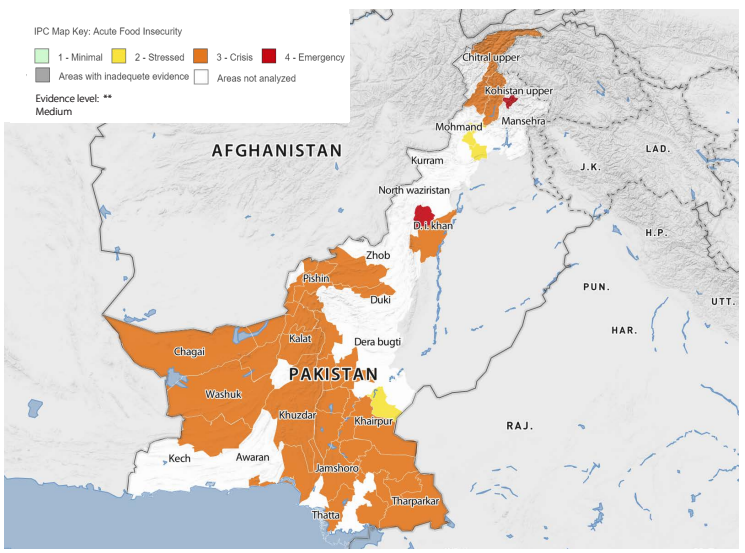
The projection period (November 2023-January 2024), which corresponds to the Rabi (winter) season, Rabi (wheat) crop plantation, and pre-harvest lean period, indicates that the number of people in Phase 3 and Phase 4 is expected to increase to 11.8 million from 10.5 million. It accounts for 32 percent of the rural population, representing a 1.29 million or 12 percent increase compared to the current analysis period. Of the 43 rural districts analysed, 4 are classified as Phase 2, 37 as Phase 3, and the remaining 2 as Phase 4.

Multiple shocks hit the analysed districts, including devastating 2022 monsoon rains/flooding – particularly in Sindh and Balochistan provinces – which affected food production, consumption, and livelihoods of flood-affected people while also limiting employment/livelihood opportunities. Furthermore, high food, fuel, and agricultural input prices as a result of the 2022 flooding and Russia-Ukraine crisis as well as an overall poor political and economic situation, livestock diseases, and adverse weather in 2023 – which affected the major crops of the Rabi season, including the staple crop, wheat, resulted in poor food security outcomes for the current period. Food security is likely to deteriorate further during the projection period due to decreased household wheat stocks, reduced employment/income opportunities during the lean season, high food and essential non-food prices such as fuel and agricultural inputs, anticipated climatic shocks, crop/plant diseases, and livestock diseases. Food access is a major issue which is aggravated by the 2022 flooding's spillover effects on food commodity prices and limited livelihood opportunities – preventing people in the analysed districts from becoming food secure.

Current Acute Food Insecurity April - October 2023



Projection Acute Malnutrition November 2023 - January 2024



Key Drivers

High food prices

In March 2023, the consumer price index (CPI) increased significantly, influencing access to food and the purchasing power of households, especially low-income groups such as farmers and daily wage labourers and households relying on petty trades, etc. The 2022 floods, currency depreciation, the Russia-Ukraine crisis, and other factors also increased prices.

Reduced employment/income opportunities

Pakistan's political and economic uncertainties have affected the economy, increased the cost of essential items, and hindered employment prospects. The lingering effects of the 2022 floods and border closures have added to these challenges for those areas.

Climatic shocks

With protracted impact on livelihoods - the 2022 floods as well as other extreme weather events in 2023 caused catastrophic situations, including the displacement of people, damage to crops, and loss of livestock.

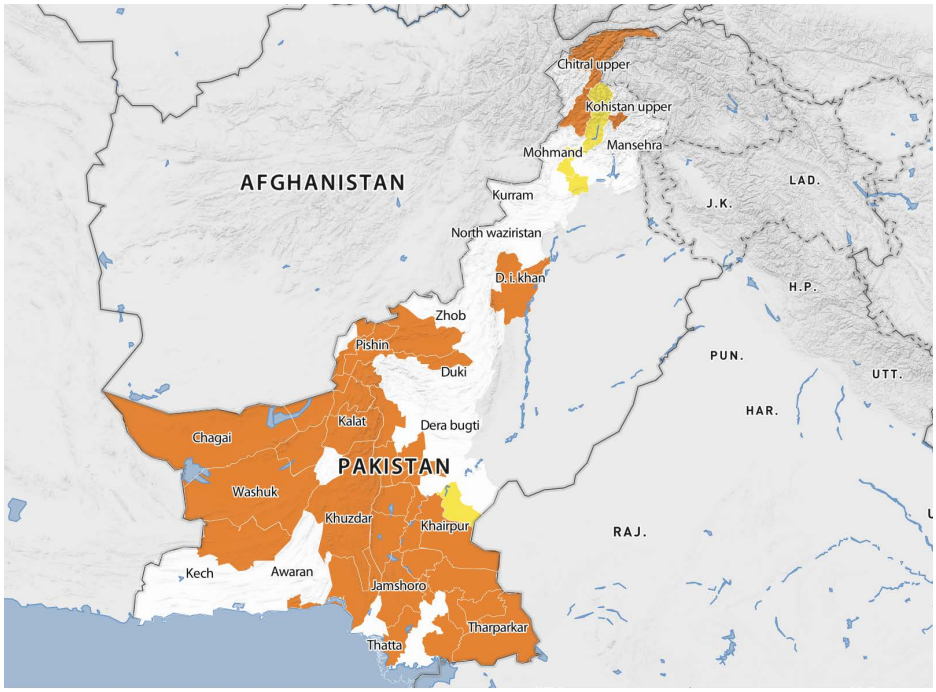
Livestock diseases/deaths

The floods of 2022 led to significant livestock mortality – impacting livelihoods reliant on livestock and poultry.

Reduced food production

Major crop production decreased for rice, maize, sugarcane, cotton, pulses, and orchards. The production of major Rabi crops, including wheat, also reduced in flood affected areas. Additionally, increased prices of agricultural and livestock inputs further hampered food production, particularly for flood-affected farmers.

CURRENT ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY SITUATION MAP AND POPULATION TABLE (APRIL – OCTOBER 2023)



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

Evidence Level

** Medium

CURRENT ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY SITUATION MAP AND POPULATION TABLE (APRIL – OCTOBER 2023)

Province	District	Total population analysed*	Phase 1		Phase 2		Phase 3		Phase 4		Phase 5		Area Phase	Phase 3+	
			#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%		#people	%
Balochistan	Chagai	272,410	95,343	35	95,344	35	68,103	25	13,621	5	-	-	3	81,724	30
	Jaffarabad	418,492	83,698	20	146,472	35	146,472	35	41,849	10	-	-	3	188,321	45
	Jhal magsi	156,379	39,094	25	54,733	35	39,095	25	23,457	15	-	-	3	62,552	40
	Kachhi	274,219	54,843	20	95,977	35	82,266	30	41,133	15	-	-	3	123,399	45
	Kalat	398,975	99,743	25	159,590	40	99,744	25	39,898	10	-	-	3	139,642	35
	Kharan	129,503	38,850	30	45,326	35	38,851	30	6,475	5	-	-	3	45,326	35
	Khuzdar	624,067	156,016	25	218,423	35	187,220	30	62,407	10	-	-	3	249,627	40
	Killa abdullah	758,504	265,476	35	227,551	30	227,551	30	37,925	5	-	-	3	265,476	35
	Killa saifullah	328,300	82,075	25	114,905	35	98,490	30	32,830	10	-	-	3	131,320	40
	Lasbela	334,036	133,614	40	133,614	40	50,105	15	16,702	5	-	-	3	66,807	20
	Loralai	381,539	114,462	30	133,539	35	95,385	25	38,154	10	-	-	3	133,539	35
	Mastung	279,284	83,785	30	125,678	45	55,857	20	13,964	5	-	-	3	69,821	25
	Nasirabad	478,486	95,697	20	167,470	35	167,470	35	47,849	10	-	-	3	215,319	45
	Nushki	159,285	55,750	35	63,714	40	31,857	20	7,964	5	-	-	3	39,821	25
	Panjgur	242,419	72,726	30	84,847	35	72,726	30	12,121	5	-	-	3	84,847	35
	Pishin	699,780	244,923	35	244,923	35	174,945	25	34,989	5	-	-	3	209,934	30
	Quetta	2,244,116	1,009,852	45	785,441	35	448,823	20	-	-	-	-	3	448,823	20
	Washuk	203,716	61,115	30	71,301	35	50,929	25	20,372	10	-	-	3	71,301	35
	Balochistan Total	8,383,510	2,787,067	33	2,968,847	35	2,135,888	25	491,708	6	-	-		2,627,596	31
Khyber Pakhtunkhawa	Charsadda	1,567,318	626,927	40	705,293	45	235,098	15	-	-	-	-	2	235,098	15
	Chitral upper	182,511	54,753	30	73,004	40	36,502	20	18,251	10	-	-	3	54,753	30
	D i khan	1,579,487	473,846	30	631,794	40	394,872	25	78,974	5	-	-	3	473,846	30
	Kohistan lower	238,738	47,747	20	95,495	40	59,685	25	35,811	15	-	-	3	95,496	40
	Malakand	754,308	301,723	40	339,439	45	75,431	10	37,715	5	-	-	2	113,146	15
	Nowshera	1,434,870	573,948	40	645,692	45	143,487	10	71,744	5	-	-	2	215,231	15
	Swat	1,718,952	859,476	50	601,633	35	257,843	15	-	-	-	-	2	257,843	15
	Tank	446,197	111,549	25	133,859	30	133,859	30	66,930	15	-	-	3	200,789	45
	Upper dir	1,097,733	274,433	25	329,320	30	384,207	35	109,773	10	-	-	3	493,980	45
	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Total	9,020,114	3,324,404	37	3,555,530	39	1,720,982	19	419,198	5				2,140,180	24

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 thus, they may be in need of continued action. Marginal inconsistencies that may arise in the overall percentages of totals and grand totals are attributable to rounding.

CURRENT ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY SITUATION MAP AND POPULATION TABLE (APRIL – OCTOBER 2023)

Province	District	Total population analysed*	Phase 1		Phase 2		Phase 3		Phase 4		Phase 5		Area Phase	Phase 3+	
			#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%		#people	%
Sindh	Badin	1,893,553	568,066	30	662,744	35	568,066	30	94,678	5	-	-	3	662,744	35
	Dadu	1,595,202	398,800	25	558,320	35	478,560	30	159,520	10	-	-	3	638,081	40
	Jacobabad	770,086	192,521	25	346,538	45	192,521	25	38,504	5	-	-	3	231,026	30
	Jamshoro	601,503	210,526	35	240,601	40	120,300	20	30,075	5	-	-	3	150,376	25
	Kambar shahdad kot	1,008,073	252,018	25	352,825	35	302,421	30	100,807	10	-	-	3	403,229	40
	Khairpur	1,800,416	630,145	35	720,166	40	360,083	20	90,020	5	-	-	3	450,104	25
	Larkana	903,511	271,053	30	316,228	35	271,053	30	45,175	5	-	-	3	316,229	35
	Matiari	665,700	199,710	30	266,280	40	166,425	25	33,285	5	-	-	3	199,710	30
	Mirpur khas	1,220,365	366,109	30	488,146	40	305,091	25	61,018	5	-	-	3	366,109	30
	Naushahro feroze	1,363,906	340,976	25	545,562	40	340,976	25	136,390	10	-	-	3	477,368	35
	Sanghar	1,678,397	419,599	25	671,359	40	419,599	25	167,839	10	-	-	3	587,439	35
	Shaheed benazir abad	1,241,097	496,438	40	434,384	35	248,219	20	62,054	5	-	-	3	310,274	25
	Sukkur	896,346	358,538	40	403,356	45	134,451	15	-	-	-	-	2	134,452	15
	Tharparkar	1,801,033	630,361	35	810,465	45	270,154	15	90,051	5	-	-	3	360,207	20
	Thatta	916,417	320,746	35	412,388	45	183,283	20	-	-	-	-	3	183,283	20
	Umer kot	942,819	282,846	30	377,128	40	235,705	25	47,141	5	-	-	3	282,846	30
	Sindh Total	19,298,424	5,938,457	31	7,606,492	39	4,596,913	24	1,156,562	6	-	-		5,753,475	30
Grand Total		36,702,048	12,049,928	33	14,130,868	38	8,453,784	23	2,067,468	6	-	-		10,521,252	29

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 thus, they may be in need of continued action. Marginal inconsistencies that may arise in the overall percentages of totals and grand totals are attributable to rounding.

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY SITUATION OVERVIEW, KEY DRIVERS AND LIMITING FACTORS

Current Situation Overview

This IPC analysis focuses on the rural population of 43 flood affected/vulnerable districts of Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) provinces in Pakistan. These analysed districts have diverse topography (desert, arid, irrigated, and mountainous areas). Several of these districts share borders with Afghanistan, Iran, and India. Thatta, Badin, Sujawal and Lasbela are coastal districts, whereas others are either bordering with India, Afghanistan, and Iran or located in the mainland.

Overall, around 10.52 million rural people (29 percent of the 36.7 million rural population analysed) are estimated to be in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) and IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) in the current period of April-October 2023. These include around 2.07 million people (6 percent of the rural population analysed) in Phase 4 Emergency and around 8.45 million people (23 percent of the rural population analysed) in Phase 3 across the 43 districts analysed. Furthermore, 14.1 million people (38 percent of the rural population) are in IPC phase 2 (Stressed). Out of 43 rural districts analysed, 5 are classified in Phase 2 and the remaining 38 are classified in Phase 3 and 21 districts have 35-45 percent of the rural population Phases 3 and 4, whereas 17 districts have 20-30 percent of the population in Phases 3 and 4.

Hazard and Vulnerability

Approximately 61 percent of the population in the analysed districts across three provinces is multidimensionally poor. In the household level Food Security and Livelihood Assessment (FSLA) conducted in February-March 2023, populations in the surveyed households (79 percent in KP, 58 percent in Sindh, and 43 percent in Balochistan) reported engagement in agriculture and livestock-based activities, whereas 39 percent of households were not involved in agricultural activities.. Agriculture is the primary source of livelihood for around 32 percent of the households surveyed; 42 percent reported non-agriculture wage labour, 14 percent are self-employed/employees/business in non-agriculture sector, 4 percent have other sources of income (pension allowance, charity/zakat/gifts, and remittances) and 8 percent reported no income source and surviving on savings/debts.

The unprecedented monsoon rains/flooding between July to September 2022, high inflation rate, reduced employment opportunities, reduced crop production, livestock mortality and diseases greatly affect purchasing power and ability to access food. The provincial governments declared a number of districts as natural calamity hit (flood) owing to 2022 monsoon heavy rainfall and flooding as follows: 23 districts in Sindh (out of these, 16 were covered in this IPC analysis including one non-flood affected district), 17 in KP (9 were covered in this analysis) and 32 districts in Balochistan (18 were covered in this analysis including 1 non-flood affected district). Except for district Tharparkar from Sindh and district Chagai from Balochistan, all analysed districts experienced monsoon rains and flooding in 2022 which caused a devastating situation that affected millions of people and displacedmany. It also damaged the Kharif (summer) season food, cash and orchards crops, killed animals – resulting in reduced food production and consumption – and adversely affected livelihoods. As per the findings of the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) , a total of 4.4 million acres of crops were damaged including 3.04 million acres in Sindh, 786,527 acres in Balochistan, 92,120 acres in KP and 467,925 in Punjab. Further, around 800,000 animals were lost due to 2022 flooding: 324,824 in Balochistan, 327,563 in Sindh, 94,121 in KP and 571 in Punjab. Total damages and losses from monsoon rains and flooding amounted to $30.13 billion, of which around $12.9 billion (43% of total damages and losses) were incurred by the agriculture sector. Crop sub-sector contributed to 82 percent of the total damage and losses, livestock to 7 percent, and fisheries/aquaculture to 1 percent. In total, $16 billion is needed for recovery and reconstruction and $4 billion (25 percent) is required for the agriculture sector.

Early 2023 rainfall and hailstorms also affected the production of major Rabi crops (including wheat which is a staple crop). The prices of essential agricultural and livestock inputs have increased which also affected food production, particularly by the flood-affected farmers who lost their resources. Reduced domestic production will increase the food import throughout 2023. High prices of essential food and non-food items including fuel and agriculture inputs, caused by spillover effects of 2022 flooding, currency depreciation, the Russia-Ukraine crisis and other domestic and international factors. Nationally, the consumer price index (CPI) general increased to 35.4 percent on a year-on-year basis in March 2023, whereas food CPI went up by 50.2 percent in rural and 47.1 percent in urban areas on a year-over-year basis in March 2023. The high inflation is adversely affecting the access to food and purchasing power of households, particularly of low-income groups e.g., small farmers, daily wage labourers, and households relying on petty trade, etc.

Further, the rural households' ability to raise an income or produce food for self-consumption was affected by several other shocks

[1] The household level Food Security and Livelihood Assessment (FSLA) was conducted by FAO in collaboration with Provincial Disaster Management Authorities (PDMAs) of Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, WFP, UNICEF, Islamic Relief, Save the Children, Welthungerhilfe (WHH) and ACTED, in 43 flood affected/vulnerable districts of Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in February/March 2023.

[2] Conducted jointly the Government of Pakistan, UN, World Bank and Asian Development Bank in 2022.

such as much higher-than-usual food and fuel prices, sickness or death of a member/breadwinner, animal diseases, lost employment or work opportunities and plant diseases as reported by surveyed households in the FSLA. Overall, 82 percent of the surveyed households reported a reduction in their income due to multiple shocks. More than four-fifths (86 percent) of surveyed farming households faced crop production difficulties. Of those who faced crop production difficulties, 86 precent reported flooding a major constraint to crop production, 62 percent reported they could not access fertilizers, 19 percent reported insufficient irrigation/rainfall water, 52 percent reported plant diseases, 38 percent could not access to quality seeds, 15 percent could not access fuel or electricity and 39 percent could not access enough seeds. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 79 percent of the surveyed households reported reduction in their income due to multiple crisis/shocks. Around three-fourth of the farming households surveyed in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa reported crop production difficulties. Among those reported crop production difficulties, 55 percent reported flooding a major constraint to crop production. 63 percent reported they could not access fertilizers, 54 percent reported plant diseases, 52 percent could not access to quality seeds, 18 percent could not access fuel or electricity and 38 percent could not access enough seeds. In Sindh, 84 percent of the surveyed households reported reduction in their income due to multiple shocks. The majority (90 percent) of the farming households surveyed in Sindh reported crop production difficulties and among them, 97 percent reported flooding as a major constraint to crop production. 61 percent reported they could not access fertilizers, 52 percent reported plant diseases, 33 percent could not access quality seeds, 13 percent could not access fuel or electricity and 39 percent could not access enough seeds. However, in Balochistan, 78 percent of the surveyed households reported a reduction in their income due to multiple shocks. The majority (91 percent) of the farming households surveyed in Balochistan reported crop production difficulties and among those who reported crop production difficulties, the majority (96 percent) reported flooding as a major constraint to crop production. Around half (48 percent) of the surveyed households reported plant diseases, 63 percent reported thy could not access to fertilizer, 40 percent could not access to quality seeds, 23 percent could not access fuel or electricity and 44 percent could not access enough seeds. Overall, 69 percent of the crop producers (43 percent in KP, 77 percent in Sindh, 80 percent in Balochistan) experienced crop sales difficulties due to 2022 floods. The majority (90 percent) of the crop producers (87 percent in KP, 90 percent in Sindh and 97 percent in Balochistan) reported reduction in the crops area in Rabi in the 2022-23 season due to 2022 flooding. Overall, 87 percent of the crop producers (87 percent in KP, 85 percent in Sindh and 95 percent in Balochistan) reported a reduction in the area under wheat in the Rabi season due to 2022 flooding.

The overwhelming majority of livestock holders (74 percent) also reported difficulties in livestock production in the past three months preceding the assessment. The difficulties to purchase feed (prices or access to market), difficulties to access veterinary services, livestock diseases or injury, constrained access to pasture and access to veterinary inputs are the major difficulties reported. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, around two-third (67 percent) of livestock holders reported difficulties in livestock production during the past three months. The difficulties to purchase feed (87 percent), access veterinary services (65 percent), livestock disease/injuries (53 percent) and constrained access to pastures (46 percent) are the most reported constraints. In Sindh, more than three-fourths (78 percent) of the surveyed livestock holders reported difficulties in livestock production and difficulties to purchase feed (71 percent), difficulties to access veterinary services (55 percent), constrained access to pastures (51 percent), livestock disease/injuries (35 percent) and constrained access to water (28 percent). In Balochistan, the overwhelming majority of livestock holders (86 percent) reported difficulties in livestock production and livestock disease/injuries (57 percent), difficulties to purchase feed (56 percent), constrained access to pastures (53 percent), difficulties to access veterinary services (51 percent), and constrained access to water (22 percent). Overall, 59 percent of the livestock producers (KP, 23 percent; Sindh, 83 percent; and Balochistan, 77 percent) experienced difficulties in livestock production due to 2022 flooding.. Overall, 66 percent of the livestock producers (KP, 47 percent; Sindh, 74 percent; and Balochistan, 70 percent) experienced difficulties in the sale of livestock/livestock products due to 2022 floods.

More than three-fourths (77 percent) of the household' livelihood/income was affected by the 2022 monsoon rain/floods. Damages to the transport related livelihood assets (motor bikes, rickshaws, bicycles, carts, etc.) were reported by 32 percent of the households. Damage to agricultural tools was reported by21 percent of households, while 24 percent reported damage to non-agricultural tools and 25 percent reported damage to other livelihood assets. In KP, 16 percent of households reported damage to transport related livelihood assets, 21 percent reported damage to agricultural tools, 40 percent reported damage to non-agricultural tools and 25 percent reported damage to other livelihood assets. In Sindh, overall damage to the transport related livelihood assets were reported by 35 percent of the households, 22 percent reported damage to agriculture tools, 23 percent reported damage to non-agricultural tools, and 22 percent reported damage to other livelihood assets. In Balochistan, 36 percent reported damage to transport related livelihood assets, 31 percent reported damage to agricultural tools, 25 percent reported damage to non-agricultural tools, and 25 percent reported damage to other livelihood assets.

Availability

Agriculture is one of the most important sources of livelihood for rural households in the analysed districts. The unprecedented

[3]Death of one or more main, second or third main livestock during past six months
[4]Percentage of livestock holders who sold one or more livestock during past six months.
[5] A multiple response questions.

rains and flash flooding have adversely affected the already limited food production in the flood-affected districts. Due to small landholdings, most farmers are engaged in small-scale subsistence-level crop production. The distribution of agricultural land ownership shows that 7 percent of households own less than 1 acre of land, 31 percent own between 1 and 3 acres, 15 percent own between 3 and 5 acres, 18 percent own more than 5 acres of agricultural land, while 29 percent do not own any agricultural land. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 16 percent of households do not own agricultural land, while in Sindh and Balochistan, 24 and 35 percent of households do not own any agricultural land respectively. As far as land cultivation in the 2022 Kharif season is concerned, 7 percent of farming households cultivated up to 1 acre of land, 43 percent cultivated between 1 and 3 acres, 24 percent between 3 and 5acres and 25 percent more than 5 acres. Around 11 percent of farming households having stocks lasting for 6 months and more, 23 percent of households having stocks for 3-6 months, 22 percent having stocks for 1-3 months and 45 percent having stocks for less than 1 month. In Sindh, comparatively less (3 percent) of the farming households have cereals stock for more than 6 months, however, in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, this proportion is 25 and 16 percent respectively. The limited stocks of own produced cereals make households dependent on markets for their food needs. Although food is generally available in the markets, the financial access to food is the major problem for the households due to very high food inflation.

Overall, the main crops grown in the analysed areas are rice (reported by 31 percent of farming households), maize (by 13 percent), cotton (by 28 percent) and sugarcane (by 5 percent). In Balochistan, 32 percent of farming households cultivated rice, 11 percent cultivated cotton and 6 percent cultivated sorghum as a main crop while other vegetables and fruits also cultivated as a main crop by the farming households. In Sindh, 39 percent cultivated rice, 43 percent cultivated cotton as a main crop while other vegetables and fruits also cultivated as a main crop. However, In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 12 percent cultivated rice, 41 percent cultivated maize, and 14 percent cultivated sugarcane as a main crop. Official data from the Crop Reporting Services (CRS), Agriculture Departments of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh and Balochistan shows that the wheat cultivation area (in hectares) has decreased by 16 percent and wheat production (in tonnes) has decreased by 23 percent in the analysed districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa compared to the previous year. However, in Sindh, the wheat cultivation area increased by 1 percent, while wheat production decreased by 1 percent as compared to the previous year in the analysed districts. In Balochistan, the wheat cultivation area increased by 14 percent and wheat production (in tonnes) increased by 15 percent as compared to the previous year.

The farming households also reported a reduction in the crop area and production of the main crop. Around 25 percent of the farming households (42 percent in Balochistan and 23 percent each in Sindh and KP) reported a reduction in the planted area under main crop, whereas overall 59 percent (57 percent in Balochistan, 50 percent in KP and 63 percent in Sindh) reported a reduction in production of main crop of the Kharif 2022 season compared to a normal year. Agricultural support required by farming households to improve crop and livestock production in the next 3-6 months include cash assistance, fertilizers, seeds, animal feed, veterinary services, access to irrigation water, pesticides, restocking of animals, veterinary inputs, and agricultural loans.

Livestock is one of the core assets for rural households in the analysed areas and 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 household assessment, around 58 percent of households own cattle, 34 percent own goats and 5 percent own sheep – the three most owned livestock. Overall, 94 percent of livestock holders (97 percent in Balochistan, 91 percent in KP and 95 percent in Sindh) reported death of at least one of their main livestock during the 6 months preceding the household assessment. Overall 83 percent (92 percent in Balochistan, 50 percent in KP and 96 percent in Sindh) reported 2022 flooding as reason for death of their main livestock. More than half (56 percent) reported a death of their second main livestock, whereas 60 percent reported a death of the third main livestock . The three main reasons for deaths of livestock reported are: livestock diseases, shortage of fodder/feed, death/washed away by the flood, limited availability of drinking water for animals. These reasons are predominantly reported by livestock holders in Sindh and Balochistan, rather than in KP. Among the households that sold livestock , 20 percent reported distress selling to meet food and other needs, 13 percent reported distress selling due to poor health of animals, 10 percent reported distress selling due to limited availability of fodder, 6 percent reported distress selling due to limited availability of drinking water for livestock, whereas 22 percent reported normal sale of livestock for earning livelihood. Unsurprisingly, these reasons are more reported by livestock holders in Sindh and Balochistan and not in KP.

Around three-fifths (62 percent) of livestock holders reported a reduction in availability of pastures in the analysed areas compared to the three months preceding the assessment, which could be mainly due to the winter season. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, more than half (51 percent) of the livestock holders reported a reduction in the availability of the pastures, while in Sindh and Balochistan, 64 and 70 percent respectively reported so. Overall, 67 percent livestock holders reported difficulties in selling their livestock during the three months preceding the assessment and main difficulties reported are: higher marketing costs (such as transportation) reported by 72 percent, selling prices are too low (46 percent), and usual traders or local customers are not buying as much as usual reported by 26 percent. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, more than half (56 percent reported difficulties in selling livestock product, while in Sindh and Balochistan 70 percent and 75 percent livestock producers reported difficulties in selling their livestock products.

Overall, 67 percent of livestock holders reported difficulties in selling their main livestock/livestock product during the past three

months preceding the assessment and main difficulties reported are: higher marketing costs (such as transportation) reported by 72 percent, selling prices are too low (46 percent), and usual traders or local customers are not buying as much as usual (26 percent) . In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, more than half (56 percent) while in Sindh and Balochistan 70 percent and 75 percent livestock holders reported difficulties in selling their main livestock/livestock product.

The above evidence suggests that though own production of food for household consumption will not last for long due to adverse impacts of flooding. Although sufficient food is available in the markets, however, it is difficult 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 adversely impacting on the purchasing power of the population and their access to food, particularly for poor and middle-income groups for a prolonged period. On average, 72 percent of households' total expenditure as reported in the FSLA, is spent on food, while 42 percent of the households incur more than 75 percent of their expenditure on food.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation data released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) in April 2023, showed that CPI inflation (General) in Pakistan increased by 35.4 percent on a year-on-year basis in March 2023, which has slightly reduced to 29.4 percent in July 2023. Food inflation went up by 47.1 percent for urban consumers and 50.2 percent for rural consumers, on a year-on-year basis in March 2023, but registered some improvement and recorded at 40.8 and 41.5 percent respectively in July 2023. In particular, prices of essential food items, such as wheat flour, rice, cooking oil, pulses, milk and meat, have spiked from July 2022 to March 2023. On average, the price of wheat flour rose by 54 percent, rice (48 percent), cooking oil /vegetable ghee (12 percent), sugar (18 percent), masoor pulse (6 percent), moong pulses (41 percent), mash pulse (26 percent), gram pulse (12 percent), beef (3 percent), mutton (6 percent), fresh milk (23 percent), eggs (28 percent), whereas prices of chicken increased by 40 percent.

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

Although food is generally available in markets, the purchasing power of households is considerably low due to low income, high inflation (general and food) and high incidence of poverty. Moreover the distance to food markets in the remote areas

The Outcome Indicators

Food Consumption Score– Overall, more than half (54 percent) of households have 'acceptable' food consumption, 24 percent have 'borderline' and 22 percent have 'poor' food consumption. In Balochistan, 50 percent of households have acceptable food consumption, 25 percent have 'borderline' and 26 percent have 'poor' food consumption. In KP, 45 percent households have 'acceptable', 33 percent have 'borderline' and 22 percent have 'poor' food consumption. In Sindh, 59 percent households have 'acceptable', 21 percent have 'borderline' and 21 percent have 'poor' food consumption.

The Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS) — overall, 54 percent of households consumed five or more food groups 'High dietary diversity' during the past 24 hours reference period, 29 percent consumed between three and four food groups 'Medium dietary diversity', while 16 percent consumed two or less food groups 'Low dietary diversity'. In Balochistan, 38 percent households have 'high', 37 percent have 'medium' while 26 percent have 'low' dietary diversity. In KP, 66 percent households have 'high', 19 percent have 'medium', while 15 percent have 'low' dietary diversity. While in Sindh, 53 percent have 'high', 32 percent have 'medium', while 15 percent have 'low' dietary diversity.

Household Hunger Scale (HHS) – Overall, 18 percent of the households experienced moderate hunger, 10 percent experienced slight, whereas around three-fourths (72 percent) households experienced no hunger during the past 30 days reference period. In Balochistan, 24 percent households experienced moderate hunger, 14 percent experienced slight, whereas around 62 percent households experienced no hunger. In KP, 5 percent households experienced moderate hunger, 4 percent experienced slight, whereas majority 91 percent experienced no hunger. In Sindh, 22 percent households experienced moderate hunger, 12 percent experienced slight, whereas around 64 percent households experienced no hunger.

Reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI) Overall 25 percent of the households adopted 'High' food based (reduced) coping strategies and had a score greater than 19; 42 percent had a score of 4-18 (Medium), whereas 33 percent had a score of 0-3 (Low). In Balochistan, 27 percent households adopted 'High' food based (reduced) coping strategies, 38 percent adopted 'Medium', whereas 35 percent engaged in 'Low' coping strategies. In KP, 8 percent households adopted 'High', 45 percent 'Medium', whereas 47 percent adopted 'Low'. In Sindh, 32 percent adopted 'High', 42 percent 'Medium', whereas 26 percent adopted 'Low'. Households with a rCSI score 0f 4-18 (Medium), and 19+ (High) indicates that food gaps exist in these areas and households are adopting short-term coping strategies to meet their food needs.

The **Prevalence of Moderate and Severe Food Insecurity based on Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)** — Overall, around half (45 percent) households had a FIES score lower than -0.58 which corresponds to IPC phase 1, 28 percent had a FIES score between -0.58 and 0.36 corresponding to IPC phase 2, whereas 27 percent had a FIES score higher than 0.36 which corresponds to IPC phases 3-5. In Balochistan, 43 percent households were in IPC phase 1, 23 percent in IPC phase 2, whereas 34 percent in IPC phases 3-5. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 62 percent households were in IPC phase 1, 28 percent in IPC phase 2, whereas 10 percent in IPC phases 3-5. In Sindh, 39 percent households in IPC phase 1, 29 percent in IPC phase 2, whereas 32 percent in IPC phases 3-5.

Livelihood-based coping strategies (LCS) — Overall, 13 percent households adopted 'emergency' livelihood coping strategies, 39 percent adopted 'crisis', 30 percent adopted 'stress', whereas 18 percent did not adopt any coping strategy during past 30 days reference period. In Balochistan, 18 percent households adopted 'emergency' livelihood coping strategies, 47 percent adopted 'crisis', 21 percent adopted 'stress', whereas 14 percent did not adopt any coping strategy. In KP, 13 percent households adopted 'emergency', 30 percent adopted 'crisis', 32 percent adopted 'stress', whereas 25 percent households did not adopt any coping strategy. In Sindh, 11 percent households adopted 'emergency', 41 percent adopted 'crisis', 31 percent adopted 'stress', whereas 17 percent households did not adopt any coping strategy to meet their food needs.

etc., further limits household access to food. The access to food markets has been further challenged by flooding which caused damages to road infrastructure which has not been rehabilitated yet.

Overall, more than half (57 percent) of the households travel more than 30 minutes to reach the food markets, with no considerable difference between the three provinces. However, livestock and agriculture inputs markets are located even farther, and around two-third of households travel more than 30 minutes to reach these markets, particularly in Balochistan and Sindh where around 90 and 71 percent households travel for more than 30 minutes. Majority of the households (90 percent) reported that they face problems reaching the food markets (100 percent in Balochistan, 93 percent in Sindh and 75 percent in KP) such as high cost of transportation, destroyed roads, unavailability of transport, and long distance to market. Market is far away, and access roads are destroyed reported by mostly households in Sindh and Balochistan.

Households have also contracted new debts to meet basic needs during the past three months preceding the assessment. Overall, 69 percent of the households (76 percent in Balochistan, 70 percent in KP and 67 percent in Sindh districts) accumulated new debts, mainly to cover food needs, medical expenses, purchase of livestock /agricultural inputs, business, and contribution to ceremonies. The average outstanding amount of debt per household is over Rs. 77,300. Considering the already limited household income and high inflation, people are likely to remain in a debt cycle for some time, as their monthly income is not enough to cover outstanding debt.

Humanitarian Food Assistance

The federal and provincial governments, in collaboration with the United Nations, international and national non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Pakistan and with generous financial support of international humanitarian and development donors provided extensive assistance to vulnerable and flood affected households/communities since 2022 flooding to improve their food security and livelihoods which have been affected badly by the devastating 2022 flooding/monsoon rains.

The UN and NGO partners of Food Security and Agriculture sector are also implementing flood response in the IPC focused districts, however, most of the flood response has been implemented during 2022 and due to funding gaps, the scale of the humanitarian assistance would not be sufficient to meet the caloric/ food needs of all IPC phase 3 and 4 population in the flood affected districts.

The above evidence indicates that access to food is the major issue in these areas and contributes to households' food insecurity.

Utilization

Across all assessed areas the proportion of households with access to improved sources of water was relatively high (84 percent overall, 78 percent in Balochistan, 84 percent in Sindh and 86 percent in KP). Out of the households who access drinking water from improved sources, 28 percent access water from other safe sources (tube well/boreholes/treatment plant/hand pump) followed by piped water (26 percent), public tap (16 percent) and protected well (12 percent). Around three-fourths (74 percent) of households have easy access to water from the main sources of drinking water . Access to improved sources of sanitation is more limited as around only 44 percent of households overall (31 percent in Balochistan, 33 percent in Sindh and 76 percent in KP) reported they usually use flush toilets; 25 percent use dry pit latrine; 13 percent use open pit; 9 percent use communal latrine; and 10 percent of households reported open field defecation. Access to improved drinking water and sanitation has also been affected adversely due to monsoon rains/flooding, particularly in the most flood affected areas.

As far as the housing status of households is concerned, more than half (53 percent) live in non-cemented (Kaccha) houses, 22 percent in semi-cemented homes (Semi Pakka), 14 percent in cemented (Pakka) houses and 8 percent in chhorra/wooden/thatch houses. Across analysed districts, 96 percent of households in Balochistan, 91 percent in Sindh and 68 percent in KP live in a structure other than Pakka houses. The unprecedented monsoon rains/flooding caused damages to kachha and semi-pakka houses and housing situation has drastically changed in the flood affected areas. Overall, 73 percent of the households have access to electricity from government sources, 10 percent use solar energy, 7 percent use lamps/petrol lamps and 9 percent have no access to electricity.

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 the majority of the districts in Balochistan and northern districts of KP because of limited production of staple cereals. Accessibility to food is a 'major' limiting factor for all districts, because of high food inflation, low purchasing power, and distance to food markets. The major limiting factors in term of accessibility are attributed to several factors such as: low income, higher share of food expenditure in total household expenditure, limited sufficiency of cereal crops, high cost of transportation, long distance to markets, reduction in income, and rising food and fuel prices. Similarly, utilization of food is also either a major or minor limiting factor for several districts, particularly in Sindh and Balochistan.

[6] Either water source is in the household/compound or within 10 minutes' walk

PROJECTED ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY SITUATION MAP AND POPULATION TABLE (NOVEMBER 2023 - JANUARY 2024)

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

Evidence Level

** Medium

PROJECTED ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY POPULATION TABLE (NOVEMBER 2023 - JANUARY 2024)

Province	District	Total population analysed*	Phase 1		Phase 2		Phase 3		Phase 4		Phase 5		Area Phase	Phase 3+	
			#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%		#people	%
Balochistan	Chagai	272,410	95,344	35	81,723	30	81,723	30	13,620	5	-	-	3	95,344	35
	Jaffarabad	418,492	83,698	20	125,547	30	167,396	40	41,849	10	-	-	3	209,246	50
	Jhal magsi	156,379	39,095	25	54,732	35	39,094	25	23,456	15	-	-	3	62,552	40
	Kachhi	274,219	54,844	20	95,976	35	82,265	30	41,132	15	-	-	3	123,399	45
	Kalat	398,975	99,744	25	139,641	35	119,692	30	39,897	10	-	-	3	159,591	40
	Kharan	129,503	38,851	30	38,850	30	38,850	30	12,950	10	-	-	3	51,801	40
	Khuzdar	624,067	156,017	25	187,220	30	218,423	35	62,406	10	-	-	3	280,830	45
	Killa abdullah	758,504	265,476	35	189,626	25	265,476	35	37,925	5	-	-	3	303,401	40
	Killa saifullah	328,300	82,075	25	114,904	35	82,075	25	49,245	15	-	-	3	131,320	40
	Lasbela	334,036	133,614	40	116,912	35	66,807	20	16,701	5	-	-	3	83,509	25
	Loralai	381,539	114,462	30	95,384	25	114,461	30	57,230	15	-	-	3	171,693	45
	Mastung	279,284	83,785	30	111,713	40	69,821	25	13,964	5	-	-	3	83,785	30
	Nasirabad	478,486	95,697	20	143,545	30	191,394	40	47,848	10	-	-	3	239,243	50
	Nushki	159,285	47,7856	30	55,749	35	39,821	25	15,928	10	-	-	3	55,750	35
	Panjgur	242,419	72,726	30	84,846	35	72,725	30	12,120	5	-	-	3	84,847	35
	Pishin	699,780	244,923	35	209,934	30	209,934	30	34,989	5	-	-	3	244,923	35
	Quetta	2,244,116	1,009,852	45	673,234	30	561,029	25	-	-	-	-	3	561,029	25
	Washuk	203,716	61,115	30	71,300	35	50,929	25	20,371	10	-	-	3	71,301	35
	Balochistan Total	8,383,510	2,779,103	33	2,590,846	31	2,471,922	29	541,640	6	-	-	3	3,013,561	35
Khyber Pakhtunkhawa	Charsadda	1,567,318	548,561	40	783,659	50	235,097	15	-	-	-	-	2	235,098	15
	Chitral upper	182,511	54,753	30	63,878	35	45,627	25	18,251	10	-	-	3	63,879	35
	D i khan	1,579,487	473,846	30	552,820	35	473,846	30	78,974	5	-	-	3	552,820	35
	Kohistan lower	238,738	35,810	15	107,432	45	47,747	20	47,747	20	-	-	4	95,496	40
	Malakand	754,308	264,008	35	377,154	50	75,430	10	37,715	5	-	-	2	113,146	15
	Nowshera	1,434,870	502,205	35	717,435	50	143,487	10	71,743	5	-	-	2	215,231	15
	Swat	1,718,952	773,528	45	601,633	35	343,790	20	-	-	-	-	3	343,790	20
	Tank	446,197	111,549	25	133,859	30	111,549	25	89,239	20	-	-	4	200,788	45
	Upper dir	1,097,733	274,433	25	329,319	30	384,206	35	109,773	10	-	-	3	493,980	45
	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Total	9,020,114	3,038,695	34	3,667,192	40	1,860,783	21	453,445	5				2,314,228	26

PROJECTED ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY POPULATION TABLE (NOVEMBER 2023 - JANUARY 2024)

Province	District	Total population analysed*	Phase 1		Phase 2		Phase 3		Phase 4		Phase 5		Area Phase	Phase 3+	
			#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%		#people	%
Sindh	Badin	1,893,553	473,388	25	662,743	35	662,744	35	94,678	5	-	-	3	757,422	40
	Dadu	1,595,202	398,800	25	478,561	30	558,321	35	159,520	10	-	-	3	717,841	45
	Jacobabad	770,086	192,521	25	308,034	40	192,522	25	77,009	10	-	-	3	269,531	35
	Jamshoro	601,503	210,526	35	210,526	35	150,376	25	30,075	5	-	-	3	180,451	30
	Kambar shahdad kot	1,008,073	252,018	25	302,422	30	352,826	35	100,807	10	-	-	3	453,633	45
	Khairpur	1,800,416	630,146	35	720,166	40	360,083	20	90,021	5	-	-	3	450,104	25
	Larkana	903,511	271,053	30	271,053	30	316,229	35	45,176	5	-	-	3	361,405	40
	Matiari	665,700	199,710	30	232,995	35	199,710	30	33,285	5	-	-	3	232,995	35
	Mirpur khas	1,220,365	366,110	30	427,128	35	366,110	30	61,018	5	-	-	3	427,128	35
	Naushahro feroze	1,363,906	340,977	25	545,562	40	409,172	30	68,195	5	-	-	3	477,367	35
	Sanghar	1,678,397	419,599	25	587,439	35	503,519	30	167,840	10	-	-	3	671,359	40
	Shaheed benazir abad	1,241,097	496,439	40	496,439	40	186,165	15	62,055	5	-	-	3	248,220	20
	Sukkur	896,346	358,539	40	403,356	45	134,452	15	-	-	-	-	2	134,452	15
	Tharparkar	1,801,033	540,310	30	720,413	40	360,207	20	180,103	10	-	-	3	540,310	30
	Thatta	916,417	320,746	35	366,567	40	229,104	25	-	-	-	-	3	229,104	25
	Umer kot	942,819	235,705	25	377,128	40	282,846	30	47,141	5	-	-	3	329,987	35
	Sindh Total	19,298,424	5,706,587	30	7,110,532	37	5,264,383	27	1,216,923	6	-	-		6,481,305	33
Grand Total		36,702,048	11,524,384	31	13,368,570	36	9,597,087	26	2,212,007	6	-	-		11,809,094	32

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 thus, they may be in need of continued action. Marginal inconsistencies that may arise in the overall percentages of totals and grand totals are attributable to rounding.

PROJECTED SITUATION OVERVIEW (NOVEMBER 2023 - JANUARY 2024)

In the projection analysis period (November 2023-January 2024), corresponding to the Rabi (winter) season, plantation of Rabi (wheat) crops, pre-harvest lean period, the total population facing high acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) is expected to increase to 11.81 million from 10.52 million representing 32 percent of the analysed population. This shows 1.29 million or 12 percent increase of people facing high levels of acute food insecurity from the current to the projection period. Out of 43 analysed districts, 4 (Sukkur, Charsadda, Nowshera and Malakand) are classified in IPC phase 2 (Stressed), 37 are classified in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) and remaining 2 (Tank and Kohistan Lower) are classified in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency).

An increase of 1.29 million people in numbers and severity is expected particularly due to the high inflation (high prices of food and essential non-food items such as fuel and agricultural inputs), reduced employment/income opportunities in the lean season, reduced wheat stocks of households, anticipated climatic shocks, crops/plant diseases, and livestock diseases.

Furthermore, own production of wheat, other cereals, and pulses from Rabi and Kharif seasons are not expected to meet the required needs of households to ensure adequate household consumption. Therefore, the majority of households are likely to remain dependent on markets to access food during the projected period, most likely at higher prices.

Except for Upper KP (Upper Chitral, Upper Dir, Swat, Malakand, Kohistan Lower) and a few Lower Sindh districts, rainfall in other IPC-focused areas is predicted to be normal or below normal. It is a sigh of relief for the rural population, particularly the agro-pastoralist communities who faced devastating flooding in 2022. Most of the analysed districts have rain-fed areas and inadequate or untimely rainfall at critical stages of crop production which will result in low production of cereals and vegetables of kharif season which will have adverse impacts on the income and consumption in the projected period.

General as well as food inflation are likely to continue and are expected to result in low purchasing power of households particularly for low-income groups e.g., small farmers, wage labors, households relying on petty trades, etc., and might place further stress on food security of vulnerable households, ending up with food consumption gaps.

Livestock diseases such as lumpy skin and other infectious diseases are also likely to surface post monsoon rains/floods which will have adverse impacts on the health, production and sale of livestock.

The cultivation of Rabi (winter) crops will be completed during November/December and food stocks of farming households from own production will be going to end during the projection period. Though, labour opportunities are expected to increase slightly during the plantation period in November to December, contributing to the food and income for the people associated with the wage sector for some period, but mainly it would be a lean season particularly in northern districts of KP and Balochistan, and desert areas of Sindh and Balochistan, with limited employment/income opportunities.

Key Assumptions:

- High price levels (both food and non-food such as energy, fuel and agri inputs prices) are expected to continue due to exchange rate depreciation, disruption of the internal food supplies markets and other domestic and international factors.
- 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.
- Own produced food stocks are not expected to be adequate for household consumption, making households dependent on markets and higher food prices which will have adverse impacts on their access to food.
- Livelihood opportunities for farming households are expected to increase slightly due to Rabi planting season during first two months of the projection period. However, it would not be adequate because of limited employment/income opportunities in the lean season, particularly in northern districts of KP, Balochistan and the arid regions of Sindh and Balochistan.
- Climatic shocks such as heavy monsoon rain/flooding in 2023, "winterized emergency" (i.e. above normal or exceptional snowfall/rainfall in winter season, particularly in areas of Balochistan and KP) in late 2023 or early 2024 will also have adversely impacts on livelihoods, food consumption and food security.
- Livestock diseases such as lumpy skin may also surface during second half of 2023 as its incidence reported in Sindh and Balochistan.

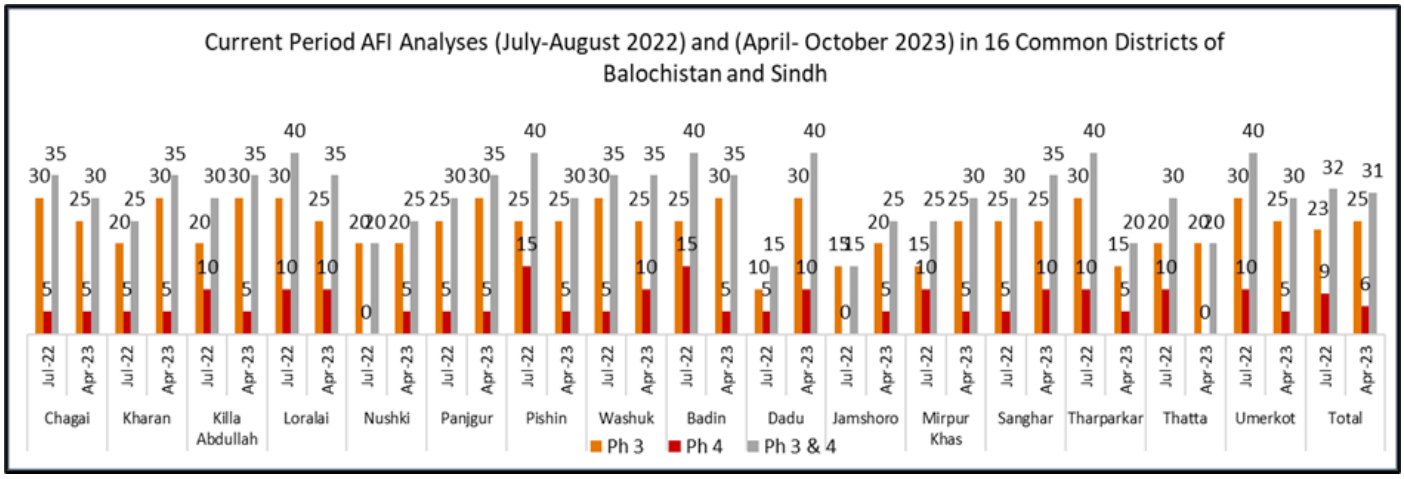
Considering the above-mentioned factors, less opportunities for agriculture and non-agriculture-based livelihoods and market-related activities are expected, which would result in less income, lower food consumption and high food insecurity during the projection period (November 2023-January 2024).

Based on the above- mentioned factors, the phase classification of Kohistan lower and Tank is expected to change from Phase 3 to 4 and of Swat from Phase 2 to 3 in the projection period (November 2023-January 2024). Therefore, it is likely that there will be an increase in the number of people (1.29 million or about 12 percent) facing acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 crisis or above) during the projection period.

COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY ANALYSES

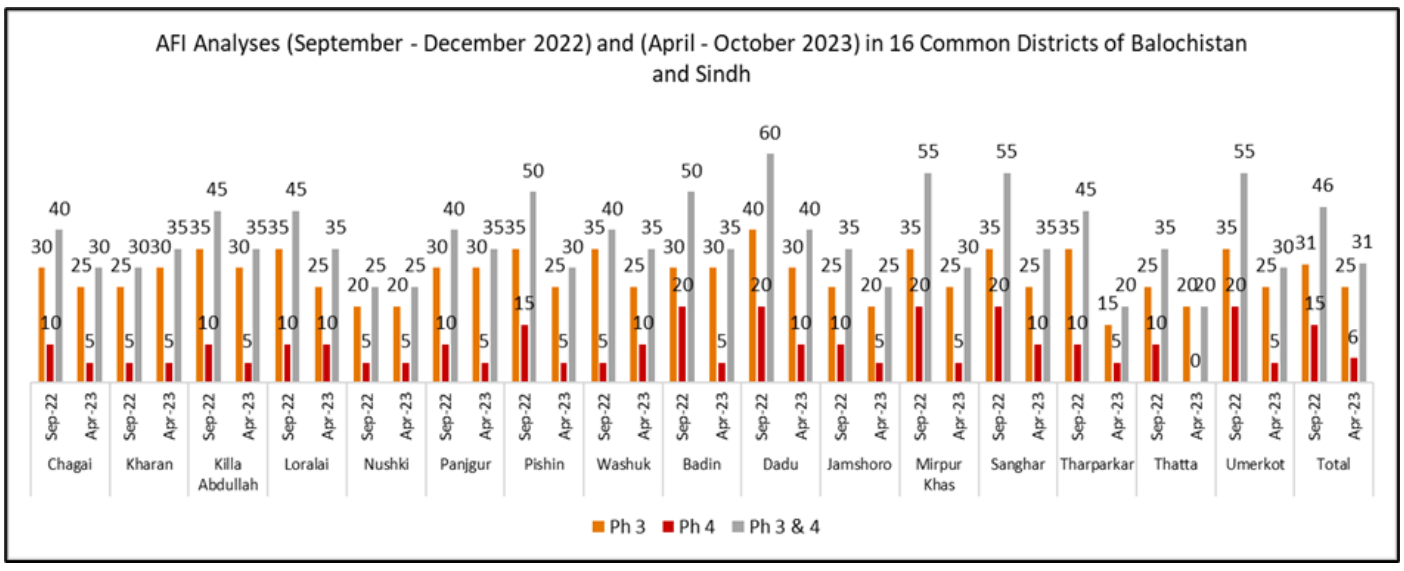
CURRENT: Comparison of Acute Food Insecurity situation with previous analysis | July 2022 and April 2023

In terms of magnitude, the population in IPC Phases 3 and 4 has increased in this analysis compared to the previous analysis. However, a direct comparison cannot be made as the number of districts and rural population analysed have increased from 28 to 43 districts and 19.8 million to 36.7 million people. The comparison of this (April 2023) IPC Acute Food Insecurity analysis with the previous one conducted in July 2022 (pre-flooding situation) for the common districts in both analyses shows that the overall food insecurity situation appears to have remained same (32-31 percent of the rural population in IPC phases 3 and 4) in the 16 districts which were also covered in the previous analysis. However, the proportion of the population facing high levels of acute food insecurity increased in four districts each of Sindh (Dadu, Jamshoro, Mirpur Khas and Sanghar) and Balochistan (Kharan, Killa Abdullah, Nushki and Panjgur); and reduced in four districts of Sindh (Badin, Tharparkar, Thatta and Umerkot) and three districts of Balochistan (Chagai, Loralai and Pishin); and remained the same in Washuk compared to July 2022 (pre-flooding analysis).



PROJECTION: Comparison with previous analysis | September 2022 and April 2023

The comparison of the 2022 projected period (post-flooding period: September-December 2022), which captured the immediate aftermath of the floods, with the 2023 current period (April-October 2023) shows that the overall acute food insecurity situation has improved substantially in the same 16 districts of Sindh and Balochistan provinces. Acute food insecurity has reduced in all eight districts of Sindh (Badin, Dadu, Jamshoro, Mirpur Khas, Sanghar, Tharparkar, Thatta, and Umerkot) and6 districts of Balochistan (Chagai, Killa Abdullah, Loralai, Panjgur, Pishin and Washuk), increased in 1 district of Balochistan (Kharan), whereas it remained the same in the Nushki district of Balochistan compared to the 2022 (post-flooding period) analysis. The overall improvement is attributed to flood waters receding completely in the eight months (post-flood impact), allowing a return to relatively normal livelihood conditions for most households. Moreover assistance, both through formal (government and humanitarian agencies) and informal (community support and private charity drives) channels and resilience of households have played a major role in preventing worse food security and livelihood outcomes.



5 F Crisis in Pakistan; Russia-Ukraine Conflict and Food & Agriculture Market Disruptions

The Russia-Ukraine crisis has had a negative impact on Pakistan's economy, leading to a trade deficit and balance of payments issues due to the increase in import value of energy, agriculture-related commodities such as wheat, palm oil, and other goods and services. The depreciation of the rupee has also made imports more expensive, causing high prices for goods and services and a substantial increase in inflation. Although Pakistan is not primarily dependent on imports from Russia, the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine has disrupted the international commodity supply chain, leading to higher prices for food commodities, energy, and fertilizer. Rising international prices for fertilizers and energy are also negatively affecting Pakistan's agricultural production. Inflation has risen dramatically in 2022-23, with rates increasing from 13 percent in January 2022 to 35.4 percent in March 2023. Specifically, rural inflation increased from 11.8 percent in January 2022 to 50.2 percent in March 2023, while urban inflation increased from 13.3 percent to 47.1 percent during the same period.

Pakistan's agricultural sector, which is crucial to its economy, is facing a crisis in the areas of food, feed, fuel, fertilizer and finance, commonly referred to as the 5 F crisis.

Food: The Russia-Ukraine conflict has had a significant impact on food commodities, with wheat and palm oil being particularly affected by the rise in international prices and trade restrictions. Despite not being producers of palm oil, Russia and Ukraine are major exporters of wheat and oil seeds, and disruptions in the supply chain for corn, canola, and sunflower have boosted the demand for palm oil, driving up its prices in the global market. Despite being self-sufficient in wheat in the past, Pakistan is now facing a shortage and importing 5-10 percent of its wheat requirement, mainly from Russia and Ukraine. The conflict led to an increase in the price of wheat on the international market and higher import costs for Pakistan.

Food prices in Pakistan have rapidly increased in the second half of 2022 with wheat flour prices increasing by 118 percent , chicken prices by 39 percent , pulse gram prices by 45 percent, rice by 87 percent , milk by 41 percent and cooking oil by 34 percent in May 2023 as compared to a year ago. This sudden spike in prices can have a significant impact on individuals and households, leading to food insecurity, malnutrition, and even hunger, as well as contributing to inflation.

Fuel: The Russian Federation, as the world's largest exporter of oil, has a significant impact on energy prices and on Pakistan's agriculture, as it is heavily dependent on energy, and the rise in energy costs has translated into higher production costs, making food more expensive in Pakistan. In Pakistan, the rising fuel prices in 2022 have had a significant impact on the country's economy, particularly in the agriculture and food security sectors. The increase in fuel prices has made it more difficult for farmers to transport their goods to market and export their products, which has threatened food security. The high cost of fuel has also made it challenging for individuals and businesses to maintain financial stability, leading to economic difficulties.

Fertilizer: The conflict between Russia and Ukraine has caused a shortage and higher prices for Nitrogen and Phosphorus fertilizers, particularly Urea and DAP, as Russia is the major supplier of fertilizer in the international market. The prices of Urea and DAP rose by 33 percent and 53 percent , respectively, by the end of 2022, mainly due to an increase in international prices for fertilizers. Although the international prices of agriculture-related commodities have started to decrease in the third quarter of 2022, Pakistan's currency depreciation and high fuel prices have prevented the impact reflected in the domestic markets. The increase in fertilizer prices in Pakistan has made it difficult for farmers to afford these essential inputs, leading to higher production costs and potentially lower crop yields, ultimately threatening food security in the country.

Feed: Despite being self-sufficient in livestock feed, the poultry industry relies on imported soybean for its feed. The shortage of soybean has led to a rise in the cost of poultry bird, causing a major concern for both consumers and the industry. The prices of live chicken increased substantially, highlighting the extent of the impact of the international prices and import restrictions on the industry.

Finance: The Russia-Ukraine crisis has affected Pakistan's imports, leading to a trade deficit and currency depreciation. The country's foreign reserves declined steadily in 2022 and early 2023 and the depreciation of the rupee has impacted the economy, agriculture and food security. The rise in international prices of commodities has exacerbated the trade deficit. The trade deficit in the food sector highlights the need for Pakistan to focus on increasing exports and reducing dependence on imports.

Source: FAO, Pakistan

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

Response Priorities

This analysis shows a poor food insecurity situation in the analysed districts due to exposure to multiple shocks experienced during 2022-23. In response to the IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) and IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) acute food insecurity situation in the analysed districts, the following immediate response actions are suggested to help save lives and livelihoods:

Provision of the critical humanitarian assistance

- Improve access to healthy and nutritious food through appropriate modalities such as cash and voucher assistance and in-kind provision aimed at reducing the food consumption gaps and saving lives of the populations classified in Phase 3 and Phase 4.
- Refocus Food for Asset (FFA) from ex-post recovery to ex-ante resilience in order to address emergent and slow-onset climate hazards that are likely to increase food insecurity over time.

Livestock and agriculture programmes

- Restoration of livelihoods to support families affected by flooding and price hikes, through initiating income-generation/ employment-creation livelihood support interventions.
- Ensure timely provision of quality seeds for high-yielding crops, fodder, vegetables, and toolkits, especially to subsistence level farmers including women farmers and provide training on climate-smart crop and fodder production including guidance on kitchen gardening, agroforestry, good agriculture practices to help farmers adapt and boost productivity.
- Scale-up livestock protection and management interventions such as vaccination and deworming campaigns to prevent livestock diseases.
- Livestock and agriculture programmes should target vulnerable smallholder farmers including women farmers.

Rehabilitation of water infrastructure

- Construct and rehabilitate water infrastructure for agricultural activities such as tube-wells, water channels and reservoirs for better conservation and efficient management and utilization of the water. Resilient water infrastructure can help reduce the impact of recurring floods and droughts.

Livelihood diversification and skills development trainings

- Support livelihood diversification activities for local communities to increase income-generation and employment opportunities through skills development linked to market demand.
- Skills development trainings for livelihoods diversification to initiate and scale-up in different trades in the most vulnerable areas for households and women facing acute food insecurity, high incidence of poverty and worsening socio-economic conditions.
- Build the capacity of communities on processing and preservation of the seasonal products to enable them to earn higher income from processed fruits and vegetables and meet food requirements in the lean seasons.

Market development

- Improve market access and infrastructure to support small-scale farmers to earn more and find new business options.

Provision of small grants for businesses development

- Provision of small grants for business development in the areas where agriculture is not the primary source of livelihoods such as the bordering districts, wherein the loss of employment due to border closure has adversely affected the food security.

Disaster Resilience Building Programmes

- Initiate/scale-up disaster preparedness interventions in recurring climate shocks prone districts such as those affected by floods or drought, etc.
- Initiate/scale-up disaster resilience building programmes and skill development trainings in different trades in most vulnerable areas through conditional food/cash programmes for households facing worsening socio-economic crisis conditions.

Economic empowerment of women

- Inclusion of women in economic growth activities to improve their livelihoods. Provide finance and grant access to loans and training programs, as well as encourage women's involvement in the decision-making process.

Use IPC data/analysis findings.

- Use findings from the IPC data/analysis to inform targeting and prioritization, including government led social safety programmes

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, uncertain political and economic situation, and any climatic shock occurs, 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 and IPC Acute Food Insecurity analyses to monitor the food security situation in these areas and other vulnerable districts to inform policy makers on the food security situation in the vulnerable areas.

- The IPC analysis guides on district vulnerability ranking and provides population numbers in crisis and emergency in current period as well as short term projections and can serve as an important tool for advocacy to prioritize 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 is a major risk to the food security of households which is also expected to erode their purchasing power that needs to be monitored.

- **The reduced food production –** The food production will reduce due to any riverine/flash floods in 2023, high prices of pesticides and fertilizers, pest attack/plant diseases and livestock diseases. Hence, it should be monitored.

- **Climatic conditions -** Climatic conditions are crucial to be monitored regularly, as they may impact agricultural production and livelihoods and subsequently food security.

- **Livestock diseases -** Livestock diseases such as lumpy skin and other infectious diseases are also likely to surface post monsoon rains/floods.

- **Loss of employment/income -** Due to the economic situation and exchange rate depreciation, fuel prices and cost of production are fluctuating which may cause loss of employment and may affect the livelihoods further.

PROCESS AND METHODOLOGY

The IPC Acute Food Insecurity analysis was conducted for two time periods. The initial current period of analysis was April-October 2023 which was mainly based on data of household level Food Security and Livelihood Assessment (FSLA) conducted in February/March 2023[7] along with other secondary information sources. The projected period of analysis is November 2023-January 2024, which was based on data of FSLA, other secondary information sources and forward-looking assumptions on rainfall, food prices, crop harvests and livelihood opportunities. The analysis covered 43 districts of Sindh, Balochistan and KP provinces, of which 41 were calamity (flood) notified by the provincial governments after the devastating monsoon rains/flooding in July-September 2022.

A joint training and analysis workshop was held from 10-16 April 2023 in Karachi, Pakistan. The workshop was attended by officials/staff of Federal and Provincial government ministries/departments, UN organizations, international and national 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 (MNFS&R), Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC), Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives (MoPD&SI), National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), Bureaus 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), International and National NGOs (including: Welthungerhilfe (WHH), Save the Children (SC), Islamic Relief (IR), ACTED, Concern Worldwide (CW), Action Against Hunger (ACF), Secours Islamique France (SIF), International Rescue Committee (IRC), Nutrition International (NI), OXFAM, Muslim Hands, Care International, Health and Nutrition Development Society (HANDS), Rural Support Programme Network (RSPN), Youth Organization, Tameer-e-Khalaq Foundation (TKF), Fast Rural Development Program (FRDP), Taraqee Foundation (TF), Foundation For Rural Development (FRD), EHSAR Foundation, NIDA, IDEA, Balochistan Rural Support Programme (BRSP), Community Development Foundation (CDF), Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO) and Research and Development Foundation (RDF). The active participation and support of officials/staff from the above ministries/departments/organizations is highly acknowledged.

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

Sources

Data sources used for this analysis included:

- The Household Food Security and Livelihood Assessment (FSLA) carried out in 43 flood affected/vulnerable districts of Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in February/March 2023.[8] 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 (LCS) 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 Departments of Balochistan, Sindh and KP.
- Food prices data from Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS).
- Projected population based on 2017 Population Census by Bureaus of Statistics, Balochistan, Sindh and KP.
- Food and cash assistance, agriculture support, livelihood support/other distribution from WFP, FAO, INGOs and NGOs.
- Precipitation/rainfall/flood sitreps and Seasonal Agro-Climate Outlook from PMD and PDMA Sindh.
- Flood damages/losses data on crop area affected, livestock perished, houses damaged and number of people affected from the provincial government departments (PDMA, PDNA).

The Evidence Level of this analysis is Medium**.

[7] The household level Food Security and Livelihood Assessment (FSLA) was conducted by FAO in collaboration with Provincial Disaster Management Authorities (PDMAs) of Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, WFP, UNICEF, Islamic Relief, Save the Children, Welthungerhilfe (WHH) and ACTED, in 43 flood affected/vulnerable districts of Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in February/March 2023.

[8] See above footnote 5.

Limitations of the analysis

Limitations of the Analysis and Recommendation for Future Analyses

- Adequate Humanitarian Food Assistance (HFA) data was not available in the format allowing to extrapolate Kilo-calories coverage.
- The household assessment and the IPC analysis have covered only rural areas and population of 43 districts. As such, the results should not be extrapolated or generalized as representative of the whole population in the area or province or Pakistan, but only of rural households of the focused districts.

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The IPC training was facilitated by Feroz Ahmed (IPC Regional Coordinator for Asia) and co-facilitated by Raja Ajmal Jahangeer (FAO), Aman ur Rehman Khan and Asifa Ghani (WFP), Akbar Khan (Bureau of Statistics, KP), Habib Wardag (Save the Children), Fahim Khan (FRD) and Amir Ali.

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Further, financial support from ECHO, IPC GSU, WFP and Save the Children for co-financing this IPC workshop is highly acknowledged.

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

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