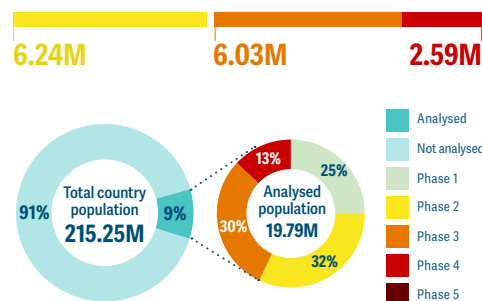


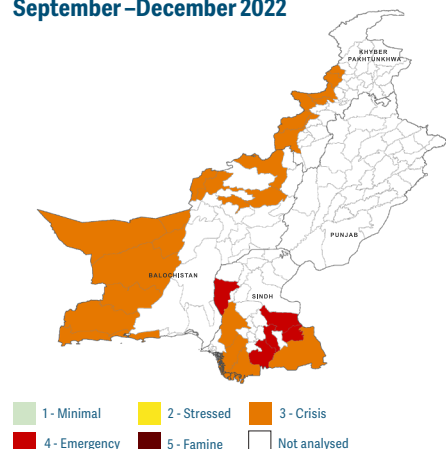
Pakistan (Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh)

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY PEAK 2022

8.62M people or **43%** of the analysed population in IPC Phase 3 or above, September–December 2022



IPC acute food insecurity situation, September–December 2022



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on these maps do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
Source: Pakistan IPC TWG, December 2022.

Food crisis overview

In the last quarter of 2022, the number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) reached 8.6 million in rural districts of the three analysed provinces of Pakistan as one of the worst monsoon floods in years caused devastation in the agricultural and livestock sectors. Of these people, 5.2 million were in nine districts of Sindh, 1.8 million in seven districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and 1.6 million in 12 districts of Balochistan.

When comparing the September 2022 IPC analysis with the previous one that took place in October 2021, an additional 4 million people faced high levels of acute food insecurity largely due to the impact of floods on food production, prices and livelihoods (IPC, January 2022; IPC, December 2022).

While this increase is partly due to greater coverage by around 1.2 million people (with three more districts analysed in Balochistan), the increase in severity, from 25 percent to 43 percent, indicates a significantly deteriorating situation in all provinces, especially in Sindh, where five areas that were previously classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) shifted to Emergency (IPC Phase 4). Overall, the share of the analysed population in IPC Phase 3 increased from 19 percent to 30 percent, while the proportion in IPC Phase 4 increased from 6 percent to 13 percent (IPC, December 2022).

Acute food insecurity since 2017

Pakistan has been defined as a 'major' food crisis since 2017 when over 50 percent of its analysed population was in IPC Phase 3 or above. In recent years, analyses were only conducted for the most vulnerable areas which often face natural and man-made shocks. The analyses of 2017 and 2018 only covered drought-affected areas of Sindh; those of 2019 included Balochistan and drought-affected areas of Sindh, while that of 2020 only covered Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Since 2021, the analyses have covered a number of rural districts in all three provinces.

Drivers of the crisis, 2022–23

Weather extremes Even before Pakistan was hit by the devastating monsoon floods in mid-June and the end of August, heatwaves in March and April, in conjunction with fertilizer shortages and lack of irrigation water, had affected 'Rabi' wheat crop yields (FAO-GIEWS, October 2022) and lowered livestock production in most of the analysed districts (IPC, December 2022).

Subsequently, flooding and landslides brought widespread destruction, disrupting the lives and livelihoods of about 33 million people in five of six provinces. Around 4.4 million acres of agricultural land were damaged, prompting the downward revision of 2022 production forecasts for rice, maize, sorghum and millet. Around 0.8 million livestock were estimated to have perished (FAO, December 2022).

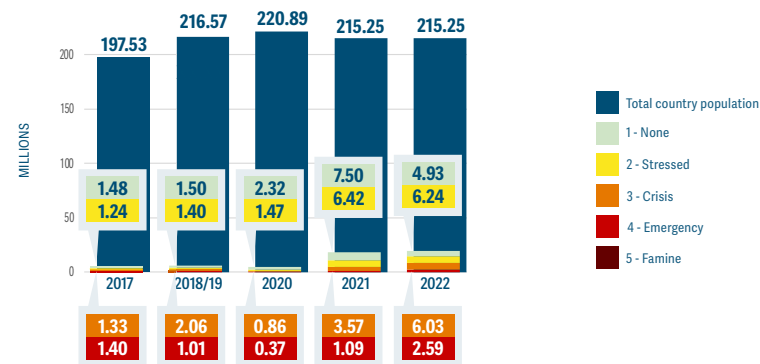
As of October 2022, over 7.9 million people were still temporarily displaced and 589 000 people were living in camps (OCHA, October 2022).

The total damage and loss in the agriculture sector was estimated at almost USD 13 billion, consisting mainly of crops (82 percent) followed by livestock (17 percent) (FAO, October 2022).

The October–December planting of the 'Rabi' wheat crop was hampered in localized areas that were still under flood water. The loss or damage of agricultural inputs, including seed stocks, fertilizers, machinery and irrigation infrastructure, may result in a contraction in the area planted with a negative impact on 2023 production (FAO-GIEWS, October 2022).

Economic shocks Strong domestic demand and high global commodity prices – largely linked to COVID-19-related disruptions and the war in Ukraine – led to the largest current account deficit in four years by the end of June 2022. The currency depreciated by 23.1 percent against the US dollar and inflation reached an average of 12.2 percent by the end of June, an 11-year high (WB, October 2022). By August 2022, prices of wheat flour were about 30 percent higher year-on-year and domestic prices of rice were at record

Numbers of people by phase of acute food insecurity, 2017–2022



Source: Pakistan IPC TWG; WFP CARI (2018).

levels (FAO-GIEWS, October 2022). Prices continued to increase until the end of the year and, by December 2022, the price of a basket of basic food items was 36 percent higher year-on-year (WFP, January 2023).

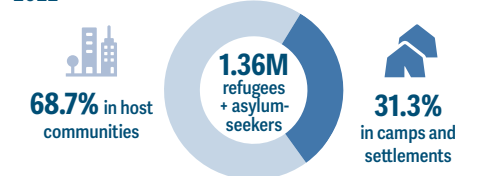
A damage, loss and needs assessment estimated total flood damages to exceed USD 14.9 billion, and total economic losses to reach about USD 15.2 billion (WB, October 2022). Due to higher domestic energy prices, flood disruptions, high agricultural input costs and the weaker rupee, inflation is projected to rise to 23 percent in the year to the end of June 2023 (WB, October 2022).

Conflict/insecurity The analysed districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were characterized by poor security conditions and localized tribal disputes in some areas that affected food access and availability, and limited agricultural activities (IPC, December 2022).

The increase in militant activities poses a major challenge to the country in 2023 – and to food access and availability (DW, December 2022; IFRC, January 2023).

DISPLACEMENT

Refugees and asylum-seekers from Afghanistan, 2022



Source: UNHCR December 2022.

Refugees Pakistan has hosted Afghan refugees for more than 40 years (UNHCR, December 2022) – one of the largest displaced populations in the world – with the number of arrivals increasing since the change of the regime in August 2021. In 2022, there were an additional 28 500 asylum-seekers and 3 500 refugees (UNHCR, March 2023).

An estimated more than 3 million Afghans are living in Pakistan (Refugee Response Plan, 2022), of whom only around 1.35 million hold a Proof of Registration (PoR)

card issued by the Government of Pakistan, giving them access to employment, education, health services, bank accounts and SIM cards.

The 840 000 refugees who hold an Afghan Citizen Card (ACC) have some protection but can face deportation at any time, while the estimated 780 000 unregistered Afghan nationals do not have any protection status and cannot access services.

At least 50 percent of the more than 1.5 million ACC holders and unregistered Afghans are categorized as highly to extremely vulnerable to poverty (HRP 2021, May 2021).

In addition, ACC holders and unregistered Afghan nationals face multiple challenges in ensuring their freedom of movement and accessing markets and services such as employment, education, housing, telecommunication, banking services and healthcare (IOM, January 2023).

IDPs As a result of the catastrophic flooding, over 14 million people lost their homes or had their houses damaged, forcing many to seek immediate shelter on roads and in makeshift camps. According to the Provincial Disaster Management Authority of Sindh, over 240 000 people remained displaced in the province as of 3 December 2022, down from 6.5 million in early September.

Nearly 90 percent of flood-displaced people were reportedly living with host communities, while the remaining are in tent cities and relief camps. Available data indicate that the relief response to date has fallen well short of need (OCHA, December 2022).

NUTRITION

In June–August 2022, about 1.6 million children in flood-affected areas were suffering from severe wasting and another 6 million from stunting. Post floods, UNICEF expects this situation to have worsened exponentially (UNICEF, January 2023).

In January 2023, around 4 million children were still living near contaminated and stagnant flood waters, which have caused diarrhoea, malaria, dengue fever, typhoid, acute respiratory infections and painful skin conditions as well as malnutrition (UNICEF, January 2023). Prior to

this flooding, Critical (IPC AMN Phase 4) levels of child wasting were recorded in eight out of nine analysed districts of Sindh province where 636 000 children under 5 years were estimated to be suffering from wasting in April 2021–February 2022. Of them, 126 000 were severely wasted. Wasting in these provinces ranged from 15.2 percent to 26.4 percent (IPC, October 2021).

Drivers of undernutrition

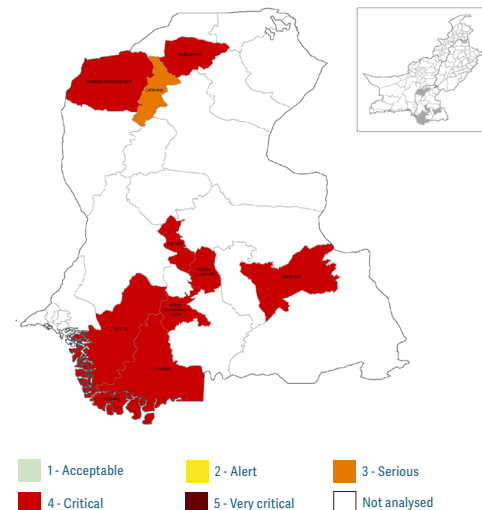
Poor household environment During the 2022 monsoon season, catastrophic flooding contaminated the drinking water supply. In affected areas, 30 percent of water systems were estimated to have been damaged, with people resorting to open defecation and drinking unsafe water, increasing the likelihood of disease outbreaks (UNICEF, September 2022). In 2020, only 36 percent of households had access to drinking water sources (UNICEF, 2020).

High prevalence of infectious diseases High rates of diarrhoea, acute respiratory infection and fever as well as low prevalence of health-seeking behaviour underlie the malnutrition crisis. By the end of 2022, there were still high numbers of malaria and cholera cases in some districts in Sindh and Balochistan where standing water remained. In November 2022, around 70 suspected cases of diphtheria were reported from the flood-affected provinces of Khyber Patunkhwa, Sindh and Punjab (OCHA, December 2022).

Food insecurity and lack of access to healthy diets Inadequate quality and quantity of food linked to high levels of household food insecurity are contributors to child malnutrition. Deteriorating quality and quantity of food consumption due to the impacts of flooding as well as high food prices and limited livelihood activities were likely to worsen child wasting.

Inadequate maternal and child-feeding practices Anaemia levels were a severe public health concern (>40 percent prevalence) among children under 5 years and women of reproductive age (UNICEF, 2019). Low exclusive breastfeeding (48.4 percent), high prevalence of early childbearing, high prevalence of low birth weight, and high prevalence of malnutrition among pregnant and lactating women were of concern in several analysed districts in Sindh (IPC, October 2021).

IPC acute malnutrition situation, Sindh province December 2021–February 2022



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