BALOCHISTAN-PAKISTAN

IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY ANALYSIS
JANUARY – NOVEMBER 2019
Issued July 2019

CURRENT PERIOD (JANUARY – JULY 2019)			PROJECTED PERIOD (JULY – NOVEMBER 2019)		
1.79 Million (48% of the rural population in 14 drought-affected districts) People facing severe acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3+) IN NEED OF URGENT ACTION	Phase 5	0 People in Catastrophe	**1.78 Million** (48% of the rural population in 14 drought-affected districts) People facing severe acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3+) IN NEED OF URGENT ACTION	Phase 5	0 People in Catastrophe
	Phase 4	418,674 People in Emergency		Phase 4	490,288 People in Emergency
	Phase 3	1,369,493 People in Crisis		Phase 3	1,294,235 People in Crisis
	Phase 2	904,155 People in Stress		Phase 2	861,509 People in Stress
	Phase 1	1,039,337 People minimally food insecure		Phase 1	1,085,627 People minimally food insecure

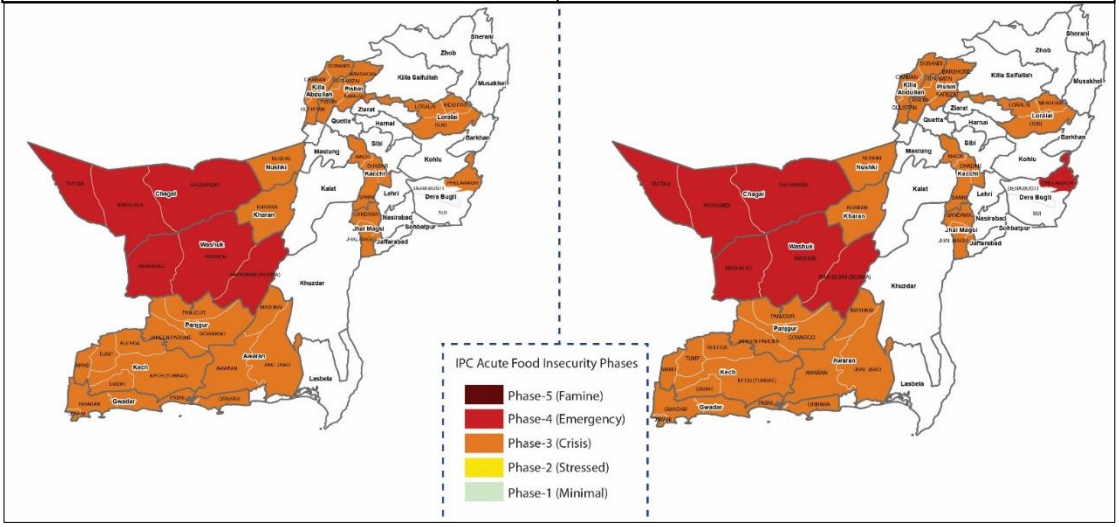
How Severe, How Many and When: Around 1.79 million people (48% of the rural population) in 14 drought-affected districts (Awaran, Chagai, Dera Bugti, Gwadar, Jhal Magsi, Kacchi, Kech, Kharan, Killa Abdullah, Loralai, Nushki, Panjgur, Pishin and Washuk) are estimated to currently be in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) and Phase 4 (Emergency). An estimated 0.42 million people are classified in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) across the 14 drought-affected districts and require urgent action to save lives and livelihoods, whereas around 1.37 million people are in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) and urgent action is required to protect their livelihoods and reduce food consumption gaps or deficits. The analysis of the projection period (July to November 2019) indicates that the number of people in Phase 3 and Phase 4 is expected to reduce slightly to 1.78 million. Rural areas of two districts (Chagai and Washuk) currently in Phase 4 (Emergency) are likely to remain in the same emergency phase; however, rural areas of the Dera Bugti district are likely to move from Phase 3 (Crisis) to Phase 4 (Emergency) during the projection period. Drought-affected rural areas in the remaining 13 districts are likely to remain in Phase 3 (Crisis) between July and November 2019.

Where: Out of 14 districts analysed, rural areas of 2 districts (Chagai and Washuk) have been classified in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency), based on the 20% rule of the IPC (i.e. area has at least 20% of the population in the worst phase), whereas drought affected areas in 12 districts (Awaran, Dera Bugti, Gwadar, Jhal Magsi, Kacchi, Kech, Kharan, Killa Abdullah, Loralai, Nushki, Panjgur and Pishin) are classified in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis).

Why: The population in these districts has been experiencing drought-like conditions for the past few years, which aggravated (moderate to severe) from August to December 2018. The current episode of drought has adversely affected the livelihoods of the rural population in these districts. The drought also adversely affected the food (cereals) production and livestock in these districts, and subsequently affected the livelihoods and food security situation.

Phase summary
Current period: January – July 2019
2 districts are in Phase 4
12 districts are in Phase 3

Phase summary
Projected period: July – November 2019
3 districts are in Phase 4
11 districts are in Phase 3



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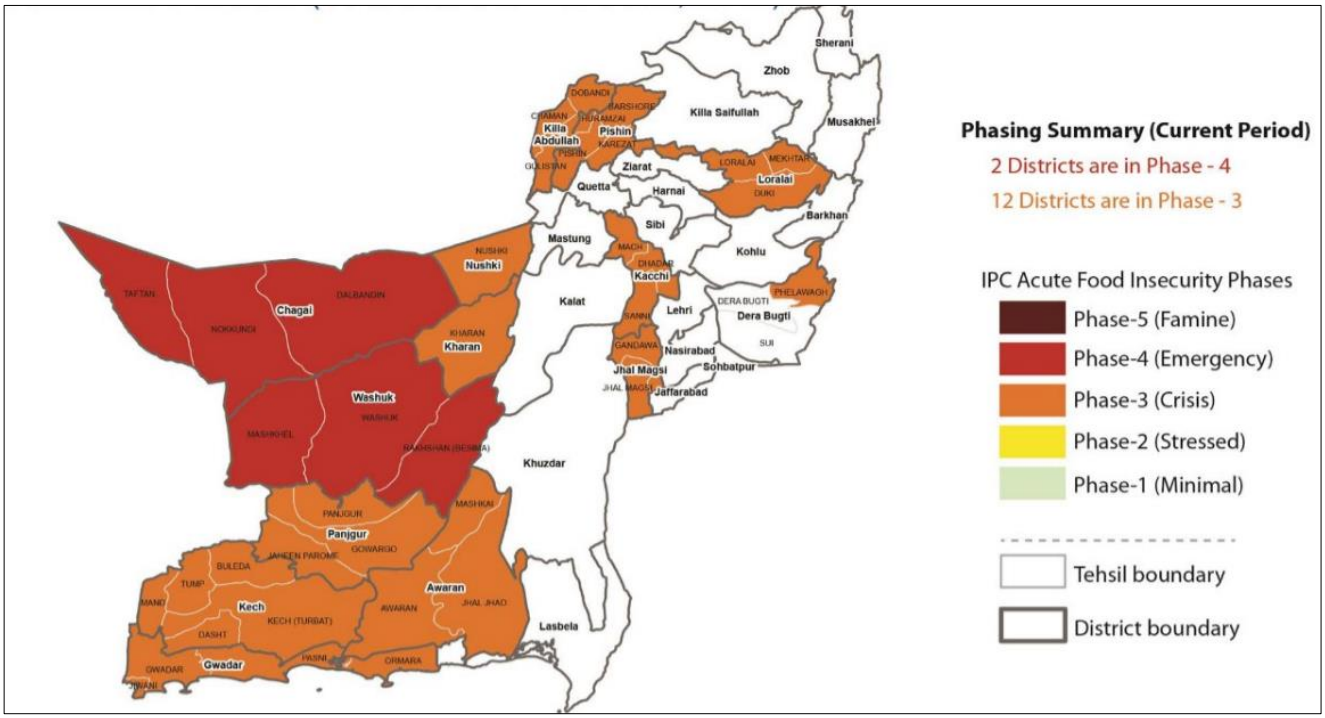
CURRENT IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY SITUATION FOR JANUARY – JULY 2019



Phase Classification of Rural Population based on IPC Acute Food Insecurity Analysis for the Current Period (January – July 2019)

District	Total # (pp)	Phase 1		Phase 2		Phase 3		Phase 4		Level 3 or higher		Area Phase
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
Awaran	87,436	8,744	10	17,487	20	52,462	60	8,744	10	61,205	70	3
Chagai	209,689	20,969	10	52,422	25	83,876	40	52,422	25	136,298	65	4
Dera Bugti	213,302	42,660	20	63,991	30	74,656	35	31,995	15	106,651	50	3
Gwadar	101,915	15,287	15	25,479	25	56,053	55	5,096	5	61,149	60	3
Jhal Magsi	141,400	28,280	20	42,420	30	49,490	35	21,210	15	70,700	50	3
Kachhi	202,598	101,299	50	50,650	25	40,520	20	10,130	5	50,650	25	3
Kech	606,980	60,698	10	151,745	25	333,839	55	60,698	10	394,537	65	3
Kharan	111,497	39,024	35	39,024	35	27,874	25	5,575	5	33,449	30	3
Killa Abdullah	608,236	243,294	40	152,059	25	152,059	25	60,824	10	212,883	35	3
Loralai	332,462	132,985	40	83,116	25	99,739	30	16,623	5	116,362	35	3
Nushki	132,410	22,510	17	33,103	25	52,964	40	23,834	18	76,798	58	3
Panjgur	236,061	70,818	30	35,409	15	106,227	45	23,606	10	129,834	55	3
Pishin	593,339	237,336	40	118,668	20	178,002	30	59,334	10	237,336	40	3
Washuk	154,334	15,433	10	38,584	25	61,734	40	38,584	25	100,318	65	4
Grand Total	3,731,659	1,039,337	28	904,155	24	1,369,493	37	418,674	11	1,788,167	48	

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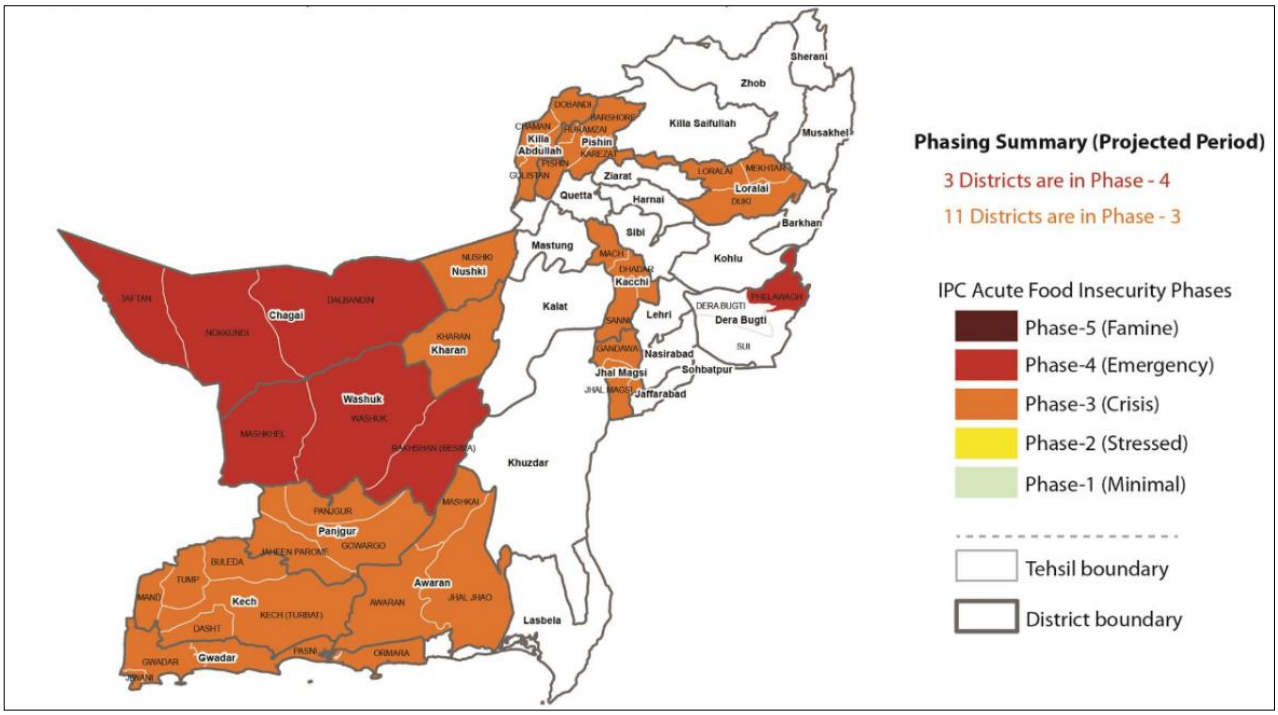
PROJECTED IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY SITUATION FOR JULY – NOVEMBER 2019



Phase Classification of Rural Population based on IPC Acute Food Insecurity Analysis for the Projected Period (July – November 2019)

District	Total # (pp)	Phase 1		Phase 2		Phase 3		Phase 4		Level 3 or higher		Area Phase
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
Awaran	87,436	8,744	10	13,115	15	52,462	60	13,115	15	65,577	75	3
Chagai	209,689	20,969	10	41,938	20	83,876	40	62,907	30	146,782	70	4
Dera Bugti	213,302	42,660	20	42,660	20	74,656	35	53,326	25	127,981	60	4
Gwadar	101,915	15,287	15	15,287	15	61,149	60	10,192	10	71,341	70	3
Jhal Magsi	141,400	28,280	20	42,420	30	49,490	35	21,210	15	70,700	50	3
Kachhi	202,598	101,299	50	40,520	20	40,520	20	20,260	10	60,779	30	3
Kech	606,980	60,698	10	91,047	15	364,188	60	91,047	15	455,235	75	3
Kharan	111,497	39,024	35	44,599	40	22,299	20	5,575	5	27,874	25	3
Killa Abdullah	608,236	243,294	40	182,471	30	121,647	20	60,824	10	182,471	30	3
Loralai	332,462	149,608	45	99,739	30	66,492	20	16,623	5	83,116	25	3
Nushki	132,410	22,510	17	33,103	25	52,964	40	23,834	18	76,798	58	3
Panjgur	236,061	70,818	30	35,409	15	94,424	40	35,409	15	129,834	55	3
Pishin	593,339	267,003	45	148,335	25	148,335	25	29,667	5	178,002	30	3
Washuk	154,334	15,433	10	30,867	20	61,734	40	46,300	30	108,034	70	4
Grand Total	3,731,659	1,085,627	29	861,509	23	1,294,235	35	490,288	13	1,784,523	48	

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY SITUATION OVERVIEW, KEY DRIVERS AND LIMITING FACTORS

CURRENT SITUATION OVERVIEW

The province of Balochistan is the largest province in Pakistan in terms of area, forming the southwestern region of the country. Balochistan shares borders with Punjab and the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to the northeast, Sindh to the east and southeast, the Arabian Sea to the south, Iran to the west and Afghanistan to the north and northwest. The province is blessed with natural resources; however, it has the second highest incidence of multidimensional poverty in Pakistan (after FATA region). Overall, 71% of the population in Balochistan is multi-dimensionally poor; with 85% of the rural population and 38% of the urban population is multi-dimensionally poor.

The province of Balochistan is prone to multiple hazards including earthquakes, floods, and drought. Since 2016, drought/drought-like conditions have been prevailing in several districts of Balochistan, which have impacted the livelihoods and food security in those districts. The drought-like conditions have recently affected the western, central, northern, and eastern districts of Balochistan. Many districts in the province of Balochistan were under 'moderate to severe' drought conditions due to no or very low precipitation and persistent dry conditions.

The Natural Disaster Consortium (NDC) conducted Balochistan Drought Needs Assessment (BDNA) in the 14 drought-affected districts of Balochistan in January 2019. The assessment was conducted in close coordination with the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Balochistan.

This IPC analysis is focused only on rural areas of the 14 districts. These districts are mostly arid and located in different agro-ecological zones, and population is dependent on agriculture (mainly livestock-based) and non-agriculture based livelihoods. Poverty incidence is very high in these districts ranging between 60-80% in Awaran, Gwadar, Nushki, Khanarn, and Loralai; and 80-97% in Pishin, Washuk, Chagai, Dera Bugti, Jhal Magsi and Killa Abdullah.

The planting season for summer crops starts in May/June and ends in August/September, whereas the planting season for winter crops starts in November and ends in April (wherever crop cultivation is possible). Agriculture is primarily rain-fed and heavily dependent on the rainfall, which mostly occurs during the winter season. Almost all districts receive very little rainfall during monsoon. Due to limited availability of water, most of the farmers are engaged in small-scale subsistence-level crop production and cultivate 4 acres on average, though average land ownership is 11.4 acres. The findings of BDNA show that whereas on average, the surveyed households in the 14 districts own 3.1 acres of land, they cultivate on average only 2.8 acres. Of the surveyed households, 61% own cultivable agricultural land, whereas 33% cultivate land.

The main cereal and fodder crops grown in the summer season include **sorghum** (mainly in Dera Bugti, Awaran, Kech, Kachhi, Loralai and Jhal Magsi), **maize** (mainly in Awaran and Loralai), and **rice** (mainly in Dera Bugti, Awaran, Kech and Jhal Magsi), whereas pulses, vegetables and fruits are also grown. **Wheat** and **Barley** are winter crops and grown in almost all districts.

The current dry spell adversely affected farmers. Due to limited availability of irrigation water, the subsistence-level farmers could not cultivate land optimally and produce adequate cereals and pulses for their own consumption. Compared with 2016-17 agricultural seasons, the area (measured in acres) for wheat decreased by 14% (35% in Washuk and 27-28% in Chagai, Dera Bugti and Kharan) in 2017-18, rice by 10% (100% in Pishin and 17% in Dera Bugti), sorghum by 27% (100% in Kharan and Pishin and 28% in Kachhi) and pulses by 20% (100% in Chagai and Pishin and 18% in Kachhi).

For farmers engaged in crop production, own production of cereals and pulses was not sufficient for their household needs and on average, stocks from own production of cereals were adequate for only 3 months (for 1 or less month in Killa Abdullah, Pishin, Washuk, Gwadar, Kech and Chagai). This makes vulnerable households dependent on markets for their food needs. Although food is adequately available, the purchasing power of poor and vulnerable households is considerably low.

The recent drought has also adversely impacted on livestock – the core assets of the households. Cattle, goats, sheep and camels are the commonly owned livestock in the analyzed areas. The drought conditions have resulted in low production of fodder and limited availability of water, which subsequently contributed to livestock diseases, deaths and distress sale. Livestock holders have been under stress due to prolonged dry conditions since 2016. The recent aggravated drought conditions have caused an additional burden on the already vulnerable livestock holders. Just over half (55%) of the surveyed households that keep cattle reported death of at least one cattle during the past six months, 76% reported deaths of goats, 78% reported deaths of sheep, 45% reported deaths of buffaloes, 69% reported deaths of camels, 43% reported deaths of donkeys, and 68% reported deaths of poultry. The deaths of cattle were reported

by 100% households in Chagai and Washuk districts, goats by 94-98% in Awaran, Dera Bugti and Washuk, sheep by 100% in Kech and 91% in Dera Bugti and Washuk, camels by 90% in Gwadar and 84% in Washuk, donkeys by 74-79% in Dera Bugti, Gwadar and Panjgur and poultry by 97% in Dera Bugti and 88% in Awaran. The main reasons reported for deaths of livestock were lack of fodder, livestock diseases and lack of water.

Moreover, households are also engaged in distress selling of their livestock. The livestock that are in poor condition, due to the above stated aggravating factors, are being sold at low prices in order to preserve some of the value of the livestock prior to their premature death. Overall, 34% of the households sold one or more heads of cattle during the past six months, 37% sold goats, 43% sold sheep, 36% sold camels, 17% sold donkeys and 29% sold poultry. The sale of all livestock animals and poultry was highest in Dera Bugti.

The average monthly income of the households is PKR 20,300 and households experienced a reduction of 5.5% in income compared to six months ago (highest reduction in income level was reported in Killa Abdullah (10.6%) followed by Loralai (9.6%), Chagai (8.4%), and Kech (7.8%).

The major portion of household income is spent on food purchases, thus, limiting expenditure on other non-food essentials such as health care, education, and housing. Overall, 44% of the households spent a very high share (more than 75% of the total household expenditure) on acquiring food; while 19% spent a high share (65-75% of the total expenditure) on acquiring food. Among the districts, 69% of households in both Jhal Magsi and Awaran, 66% in Gwadar, and 64% in Panjgur spent a very high (>75%) or high (66% to 75%) share of total expenditure on food.

The limited purchasing power, low levels of cereals and pulses production and livestock losses contributed to poor food consumption. As per the Food Consumption Score (FCS), the majority of the surveyed households (60%) have 'borderline' food consumption followed by 22% having 'acceptable' food consumption, whereas 18% have 'poor' food consumption. The proportion of households with poor food consumption is highest (44%) in Chagai followed by 39% in Washuk and 34% in Kech, whereas those with borderline food consumption are highest in Jhal Magsi (85%) followed by 75% in Pishin, 74% in Awaran and 71% in Kachhi. The households with borderline food consumption may move to poor food consumption if access to food deteriorates.

The Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS) based on a one-day (24 hours) recall and 12 food groups revealed that three-fourths of the surveyed households have a high (lowest 25% in Kech) dietary diversity score, 24% have a medium (lowest 0.8% in Killa Abdullah) dietary diversity score, whereas only 3% households have a low (highest 12% in Kech) dietary diversity score. However, consumption of oil/fats, sugar/honey and miscellaneous (condiments etc) is reported quite high in almost three-fourth of the districts that could be contributing to high dietary diversity score.

The Household Hunger Scale (HHS) is an important indicator to assess the experience of hunger and food insecurity. Based on HHS, around one-fourth (26%) of the households did not experience hunger during past month preceding the survey (highest 64% in Kacchi), 15% experienced slight hunger (highest 26% in Awaran and Gwadar), 46% experienced moderate hunger (highest 91% in Dera Bugti), whereas 12% experienced severe/very severe hunger (highest 65% in Chagai).

Furthermore, around one-third (30%) of the households in these districts adopted "high" level food-based coping strategies (66% in Chagai and 63% in Washuk) and 38% adopted "medium" level coping strategies (57% each in Gwadar, Jhal Magis and Kech), whereas one-third (32%) adopted 'no/low' coping strategies (89% in Kachhi, 65% in Loralai and 61% in Pishin). Adopting high level coping strategies indicates that food gaps exist in the area and vulnerable households are adopting short-term coping strategies to meet their food needs.

- The FCS Consumption Score (FCS) is a proxy indicator of the food security status of the household if combined with other household access indicators. Based on a seven-day recall of the food groups consumed within a household, the FCS measures food diversity (types of foods consumed), food frequency (the number of days each food group was consumed), and the relative nutritional importance of different food groups. The score for each food group is calculated by amount consumed and its relative weight. Based on FCS standard thresholds, households are categorized into three groups: "poor" food consumption (FCS=1-28),"borderline "food consumption (FCS = 28.1-42), and "acceptable "food consumption (FCS>42).
- The thresholds used for computing HDDS are Low (0-2 food groups eaten), Medium (3-4 food groups eaten) and High (>=5 food multiplying the number of days the food group was groups eaten).
- The Household Hunger Scale (HHS) is a scale developed by Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance (FANTA) based on perceptions of food insecurity at household levels. It assesses whether households have experienced problems in food access during the preceding 30 days based on three questions and measures the severity of food insecurity in the past 30 days, as reported by the households. As per methodology of HHS for the IPC, five categories were computed: no hunger (HHS=0), slight hunger (HHS=1), moderate hunger (HHS=2-3), severe hunger (HHS=4) and very severe hunger (HHS= 5-6).
- The livelihood-related coping strategies are analysed in three sub-categories, i.e. stress strategies (such as borrowing money, purchase food on credit, or spending savings), crisis strategies (selling household or productive assets, or withdrawing children from school), and emergency strategies (such as consuming seed stock held for the next season, selling house or land or last female animal, or begging).

The households were also engaged in livelihood-based coping strategies to meet their food needs. Overall, 70% of the surveyed households used at least one livelihood-based coping strategy to meet their food needs (96% in Dera Bugti). Around 19% of the households adopted 'stress strategies' (48% in Gwadar and Kech), 27% adopted 'crisis strategies' (61% in Awaran) and 24% adopted 'emergency' irreversible strategies (88% in Dera Bugti).

Remoteness is a major issue for households in Balochistan as the area of the districts is quite large and the population is scattered. The households need to travel considerable distances to access markets. Around 46% of the surveyed households have to travel more than 20 km (80% in Nushki and 69% in Kharan) to buy food and non-food items from the nearest markets, whereas 17% of the households have to travel 11 to 20 km to the nearest markets (26% in Jhal Magsi), while 37% have to travel less than 10 km (67% in Kachhi) to reach the nearest markets. The most common problems faced by communities in accessing markets are long distance and poor road infrastructure, less availability of transport and high cost of transportation.

Overall, 55% of the households (95% in Chagai, 91% in Washuk and 90% in Dera Bugti) experienced a shock during the last six months, which include livestock disease outbreaks experienced by 43% of the households, followed by severe sickness/death of the breadwinner experienced by 28% of households, and 23% of households reported drought/dry spells.

Just over two-thirds (68%) of households contracted new debts (85%, 83% and 80% in Panjgur, Loralai and Jhal Magsi respectively) during the last six months preceding the survey, mainly to cover food and health needs, general household expenses, to repay earlier debts, purchase of livestock inputs, education expenses, house repair/maintenance and purchase of agricultural inputs. Overall, on average, PKR 100,000 is the outstanding debt against each household, which is almost four and a half times of their average monthly income. Amount of debt was highest in Pishin (PKR 212,000), followed by Washuk (PKR 155,000) and Dera Bugti (PKR 153,000). With the current vulnerable situation and limited household income, the households in these areas will remain in a debt trap for some time, as their monthly income is not sufficient to pull them out of this debt trap.

Migration of household members or entire family along with their livestock is a common strategy in these areas when drought conditions become severe. The low level of migration suggests that while the drought in Balochistan is affecting the surveyed households, it is not yet causing a mass displacement / movement of individuals from the region.

Poor food consumption coupled with limited access to improved drinking water sources and poor sanitation facilities have also contributed to poor health status. Three-fourths (76%) of the population have access to improved water sources with 24% forced to rely on unimproved sources of drinking water (99 % in Dera Bugti, 59% in Jhal Magsi and 35% in Kech and Chagai). The majority of households rely on water from borehole/tube wells, piped water or unprotected wells or springs. Overall, 38% of households indicated available drinking water is insufficient for their households (82%, 69%, 66% and 58% households from Dera Bugti, Gwadar, Killa Abdullah and Washuk respectively reporting as such). Lack of drinking water for livestock has also been reported as a critical issue. Around half (48%) of the surveyed population has no access to a household toilet and practice open-defecation (highest 99% in Dera Bugti followed by 90% in Washuk and 87% in Jhal Magsi).

Overall, morbidity among pregnant or lactating woman was reported by 15% of surveyed households, and among boys by 19% and among girls by 20% households. Access to healthcare is a very critical issue in these areas and households face challenges such as long distances to healthcare providers, poor road infrastructure, high cost of services, and limited availability of health staff and medicines at the health care facilities, etc. On average, households travel 29 and 37km respectively to access healthcare for general and reproductive health issues. The distance to a health facility/provider for general health issues is highest (52km in Kech followed by 45km in Washuk and Chagai and 39km in Gwadar). Furthermore, disability among adults and children is also reported by households. Overall, 13.7% of the households reported disability among at least one of the adult household members, whereas 5.7% of households reported the presence of a child (under the age of 18) who is disabled. Presence of disabled persons was reported higher in districts Loralai (39%), Kacchi (24%) and Washuk (22%), whereas disability among children was reported higher in Loralai (13%), Dera Bugti (10%) and Pishin (7%).

The analysis areas also have very high rates of acute malnutrition among children. The preliminary results from the National Nutrition Survey (NNS) conducted in these districts between November-December 2018 reveal 'Critical' level of acute malnutrition as the GAM rate (by weight for height). Panjgur has the highest malnutrition rate (33.4%) among 6-59 months old children followed by Jhal Magsi (27.6%), Kachhi (26.3%) and Dera Bugti (23.3%).

In the case of housing status of households, most of the households (83%) live in non-cemented (Katcha) houses followed by "Semi Pakka (semi-cemented)" (6%) and Pakka (cemented) houses (4). The poor economic status of households is also reflected by the fact that over half of the households (54%) have one room in their house (54%), followed by two rooms (31%) and three rooms (10%).

High incidence of poverty, poor food consumption, experience of moderate hunger, high dependency on food- and livelihood-based coping strategies pose serious concerns to an aggravating situation of food insecurity and malnutrition. The vulnerable households with limited assets and income sources, reduced cereals production and livestock ownership, trapped in a vicious circle of debt, are at higher risk of food insecurity and need urgent support to get out of this situation.

The Federal and Provincial Governments and international and local non-governmental organizations have undertaken drought response to support the vulnerable households, though this is not sufficient and needs to be scaled up. The Relief Department of the Government of Balochistan is distributing wheat and food among vulnerable households in selected areas. PDMA Balochistan has distributed bags of rice, pulses, sugar, and non-food items to drought-affected families.

UN organizations (FAO, WFP, UNICEF, WHO, IOM) are also implementing drought response in the focus areas through the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and other funding sources. FAO, with funding support from CERF, Multi Year Humanitarian Program (MYHP) and FAO's Technical Cooperation Program (TCP), has initiated drought-response projects in Killa Abdullah, Pishin, Nushki and Chagai districts. The households will be provided with drought-resistant varieties of seeds of cereal and fodder crops, vegetable kits, animal compound feed and vaccinations against PPR and FMD, and trainings on crops, livestock, water management, kitchen gardening, dietary diversity and food processing. In addition, local and international non-governmental organizations (Islamic Relief, HANDS, BRSP, Azath Foundation etc) are also implementing interventions in their focus areas.

PROJECTED SITUATION OVERVIEW

Being at tail of monsoon, except Loralai, other focused drought-affected districts receive almost no rainfall during monsoon season. These areas get rainfall during winter, which also did not occur during recent years. Some of these districts have received heavy rainfall very recently during March-May 2019, which is likely to have a positive impact on crop production and fodder availability. However, rainfall may not be adequate to completely reverse the drought/dry conditions and several spells of rain are needed for this change. Therefore, the positive impacts of the recent rainfall are expected to be minimal in the projection period. The availability of irrigation water was reported lower last year compared to previous seasons. The summer planting season in most of these districts will start in June 2019. The subsistence farmers mostly cultivate land using the tube-well/*karez* water as canal irrigation is only limited to 1-2 districts.

In case rainfall occurs during monsoon, it would be beneficial for cultivation and production of cereal and fodder crops and livelihoods of the subsistence-level agro-pastoralist communities. On the other hand, in case of no rainfall, the vulnerable agro-pastoralist households and their core asset-livestock will be under further stress. The drought-induced impacts, such as distress selling of livestock, livestock diseases, skipping meals, and migration, are expected to increase.

The households who have lost a significant portion of their livestock and have adopted irreversible emergency coping strategies are unlikely to see any immediate change in their vulnerability status in the projection period. The households would need food and fodder assistance and livestock vaccination support.

Most of the households in the drought-affected districts are dependent on markets to meet their food needs. The households in drought-affected districts have limited income, hence, reduction in crop and livestock production means reduction in income, and hence, their purchasing power will decline with income.

The poor macroeconomic situation would further aggravate the stress on households with inflation touching double digits, continuously depreciating the exchange rate and rising fuel and electricity prices. These factors will increase cost of production and will likely impact adversely food prices, which have already registered a rise since July 2018.

Considering the above conditions, it is expected that there will be minimal positive impacts of recent rains and 2019 monsoon (if any) on the drought-affected households. There would not be any major change in phase classification of the drought-affected districts (except for Dera Bugti) during the projection period (July-November 2019) compared to the current period (January-July 2019). However it needs to be noted that 80,000 people will be slipping into people slipping into Phase 4 (Emergency).

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

Response Priorities

- In response to the emergency and crisis situations prevailing in the analyzed districts, some immediate emergency response mechanisms need to be in place to save lives and livelihoods.
- Considering that livestock holdings are severely affected as a result of the drought, efforts need to be made to mitigate some of the worst impacts and to prevent further deterioration.
- In the immediate term, livestock protection and management interventions should be supplied, including; fodder, feed, fodder seed, water and animal health camps, by engaging the services of all technical agencies and the concerned line departments.
- Livestock vaccination campaigns such as for PPR and FMD may also be activated to protect them from prevailing diseases.
- Temporary mandies (markets) for feed, fodder and animals for de-stocking/ relocation of livestock should be set up, in case of market disruption and animal mortality due to prolonged emergency.
- Shelters should be provided to needy and vulnerable livestock/poultry handlers.
- Drought-resistant fodder production and seeding of rangelands to produce quality fodder may be employed.
- The dry conditions in these vulnerable areas are likely to persist given the impacts of climate change and focus should therefore be on building resistance and promoting adaptation to these conditions. This includes distribution of seeds for drought-resistant and high-yielding crops, such as sorghum (Jowar), maize, mung, mash legumes and vegetable seeds.
- Fruits should be planted such as almond, apple, apricot, grapes, peach, pomegranate, dates, etc.
- There is also a need for repair and rehabilitation of water resources for agriculture and livestock such as tube-wells, *karez*, water courses, and wells.
- Livelihood diversification activities may be employed to diminish the adverse impacts of drought. Income-generation and employment-creation interventions need to be adopted. Revival of small-scale cottage industry (pottery, vocational trainings centers, display/crafts centers, solar and renewable energy, small trades (retail/wholesale), skill development trainings in different trades. Entrepreneurship promotion and development (capacity building and inputs provision in electrician, automobile and mobile repair, etc.)
- The extremely high levels of acute malnutrition indicate a need for urgent nutrition support such as complete Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition Model (CMAM) programme/packages including Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programme (TSFP) component for Moderately Acute Malnourished Children (MAM) as well as other nutrition sensitive interventions.

Situation monitoring and update

- Establish an early warning mechanism (sentinel sites) so that special attention to those alert areas in term of healthcare needs of the community.
- Food security conditions in Balochistan need to be monitored regularly given that due to the high levels of acute food insecurity, and the high incidences of poverty, households are extremely vulnerable to shocks.
- Regular monitoring of food security and livelihoods could be done through seasonal surveys such as Livelihood and Food Security Assessments.
- The IPC should be carried out every year to regularly monitor the food security conditions across the vulnerable districts of Balochistan. For this to occur, an improved mechanism for regular data collection needs to be in place.
- The conditions in the analyzed areas are heavily dependent on rainfall and the conditions during the monsoon period need to be monitored closely to accurately assess the potential impacts of the rain spells on food security in the projection period. Once rainfall data is available, the projection classification may be revised.
- If the macroeconomic trends persist with rising inflation, there could be more adverse effects on the food security conditions in the coming months and projections may also be revised to reflect those changes.

PROCESS, METHODOLOGY AND LIMITATIONS

The IPC acute food insecurity analysis assessed two time periods: the current period (January-July 2019) was mainly based on Balochistan Drought Needs Assessment (BDNA) conducted in January 2019 by the Natural Disasters Consortium (NDC) and other secondary information sources; and the projected period (July-November 2019) which was based on BDNA, other secondary information sources and forward-looking assumptions on rainfall, food prices and crop harvests. The analysis covered the rural areas of 14 districts of Balochistan, namely, Awaran, Chagai, Dera Bugti, Gwadar, Jhal Magsi, Kacchi, Kech, Kharan, Killa Abdullah, Loralai, Nushki, Panjgur, Pishin and Washuk.

A joint training and analysis workshop for drought-affected areas of Sindh and Balochistan was held on 15-22 April 2019 at Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Balochistan at Quetta, Balochistan, Pakistan. The DG and staff of PDMA Balochistan were very kind and provided full support for organizing the IPC workshop. The workshop was attended by international technical experts as well as around 50 professionals representing Federal and Provincial government departments (Sindh and Balochistan), UN organizations, international and local NGOs.

What are the IPC and IPC Acute Food Insecurity?

The **IPC** is a set of tools and procedures based on international standards to classify the severity and characteristics of acute food and nutrition crises as well as chronic food insecurity. 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 the determinants of food insecurity.

The data used in the analysis was organized according to the IPC analytical framework and includes food security contributing factors and outcome indicators. The data was collected from multiple sources; Crop Reporting Services (CRS) of Agriculture Department Balochistan, Livestock Department Balochistan, Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Balochistan, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), and international organizations.

Data sources used for this analysis included:

1) Balochistan Drought Needs Assessment (BDNA) conducted by the Natural Disasters Consortium in collaboration with the PDMA Balochistan. The BDNA was carried out in rural areas of these districts. The BDNA 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 Acute Malnutrition (prevalence of wasting among children under 5). Other data sources included in the analysis are
2) Cereals and Fodder Production data from the CRS Balochistan Agriculture Department,
3) Livestock population data from the Livestock Department,
4) Food Prices data from PBS,
5) Food Assistance/Distribution from PDMA Balochistan,
6) Precipitation/Rainfall and NDVI from PMD;
7) Poverty Incidence from UNDP/Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform.

Limitations of the Analysis and Recommendation for Next Analysis

This analysis is only limited to rural areas of the 14 districts and does not represent the situation of the entire district. The analysis for Dera Bugti only focuses on the Qadirabad (Phelawagh) tehsil. The projection analysis might have been more useful if more indicators had been available.

It is recommended to conduct regular/seasonal IPC acute food insecurity analyses to inform the policy makers on the food security situation in the drought-affected districts and other regions of interest. The next IPC acute food insecurity analysis is suggested to be conducted in March/April 2020 to monitor the food security situation in these areas. However, seasonal IPC analyses would be only possible with availability of recent data, which is a major challenge, and needs resources to collect primary data and conduct the IPC analysis. The IPC stakeholders may pool resources to collect primary data and conduct seasonal IPC analyses for better and more informed evidence on food insecurity and response planning.

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