

Current Situation | October 2021 – March/April 2022



Nearly 4.66 million people (25% of the population analysed) in the rural areas of Pakistan's Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh provinces are experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) through March/April 2022.

Current Situation Overview

In this IPC Acute Food Insecurity analysis, nine rural districts of Balochistan, seven rural districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and nine rural districts of Sindh were analysed, amounting to around 8.6% of Pakistan's population.

Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh are three provinces in Pakistan, all having a high prevalence of food insecurity, malnutrition and poverty. In 2021, their populations faced multiple shocks including high food prices, drought, inadequate rainfall and livestock diseases, which were exacerbated by the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

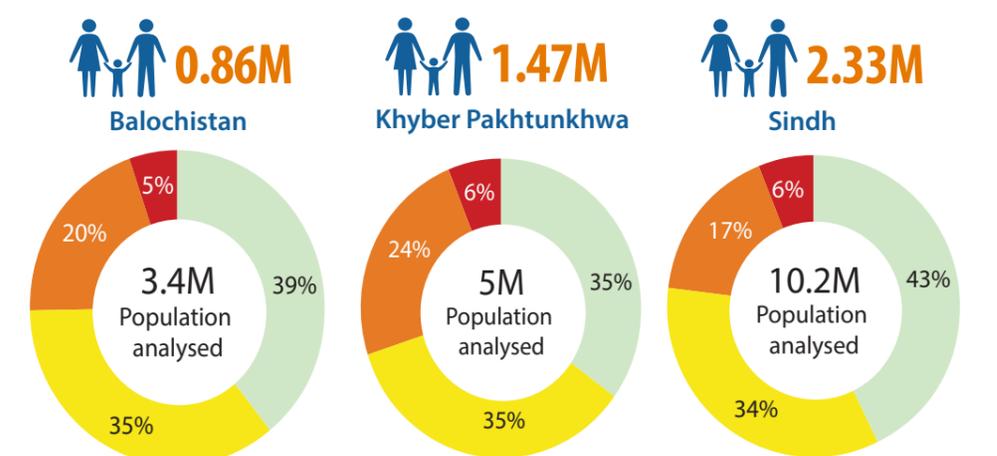
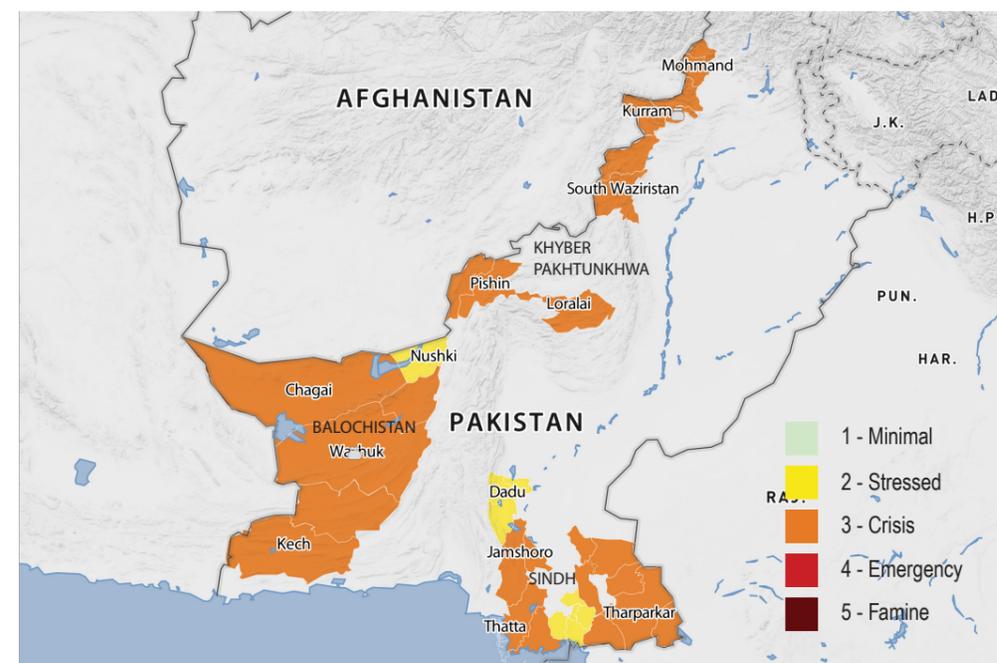
In total, nearly 4.66 million people (25% of the population analysed) will experience high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) through March/April 2022. These include over one million people (6% of the population analysed) in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) and over 3.5 million people (19% of the population analysed) in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) across the 25 districts analysed.

For all three provinces, food insecurity has consistently remained high over the years, and urgent action is required to protect livelihoods and reduce food consumption gaps of people in Crisis and save lives and livelihoods of those in Emergency. The latest IPC Acute Malnutrition analysis conducted in Sindh province also reported nearly 640,000 children under the age of five likely suffering from acute malnutrition through February 2022.

Key Drivers

- High Food Prices**
High food prices of commodities and high inflation led to low purchasing power of households (nationally food prices went up by 9.1 percent for rural consumers, on a year-over-year basis in September 2021), particularly for low income groups e.g., small farmers, wage labourers, households relying on petty trade, etc.
- COVID-19**
The pandemic had an economic impact on income and purchasing power due to limited income opportunities in agriculture and non-agriculture sectors, also resulting in loss of employment.
- Drought/dry spells**
Most of the analysed areas fall under rain-fed regions with a dependency on rainfall and did not receive adequate rainfall during 2021. Due to deficiency of rainfall, farmers experienced difficulties and a reduction in crop and livestock production.
- Conflict and displacement**
Prolonged conflict and displacement, mainly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, over several years has affected livelihoods. Some remote areas are still deprived of basic facilities and people are not able to revive their livelihoods.
- Livestock diseases or deaths**
Limited/unavailability of water, veterinary services, and declining grazing pastures/fodder caused livestock diseases and deaths, and affected livestock-based livelihoods, mainly in Balochistan.

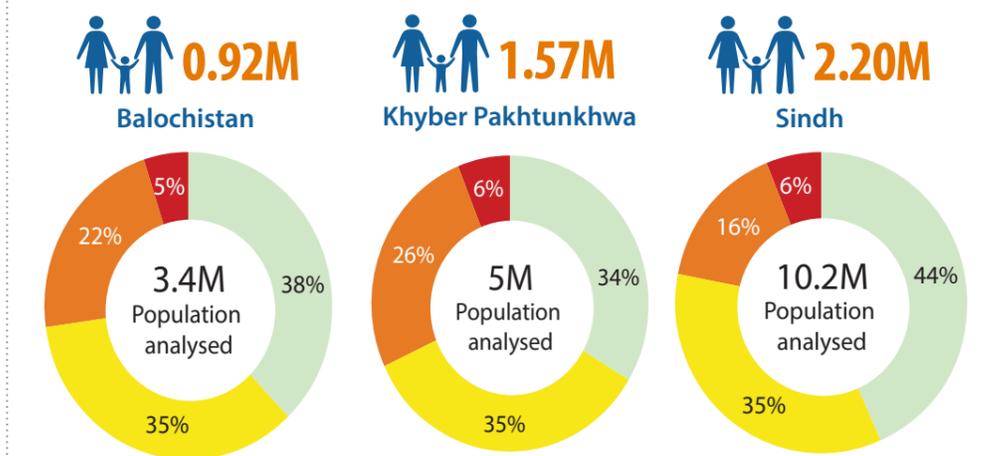
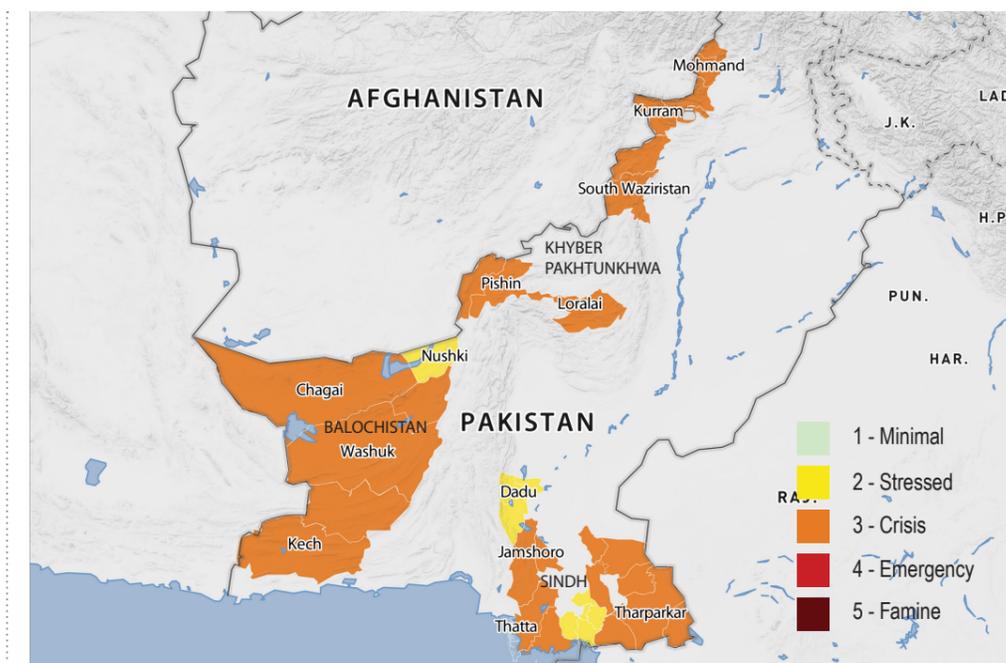
Current Acute Food Insecurity Situation Map | October 2021 – March/April 2022



Recommended Actions

- Humanitarian Assistance**
Food or cash and voucher assistance to reduce food consumption gaps and protect asset depletion.
- Livelihood Support**
Timely provision of quality seeds for high-yielding crops and vegetables, and toolkits, especially to subsistence-level farmers. Provision of livestock/poultry to vulnerable households.
- Livestock Support**
Scale-up of livestock protection and management interventions such as vaccination campaigns to prevent prevailing diseases, provide access to multi-nutritional feed and pastures.
- Capacity Development**
Training on climate-smart crop and fodder production, including guidance on kitchen gardening. Capacity building of communities on processing and preservation of seasonal produce to enable them to earn higher income from processed fruits and vegetables and meet food requirements in the lean seasons.
- Water Infrastructure**
Construction and rehabilitation of water infrastructure for agriculture and livestock for better conservation and management.
- Economic Empowerment of Women**
Inclusion of women in economic growth activities (agriculture and non-agriculture) to improve their livelihoods.

Projected Acute Food Insecurity Situation Map | April/May - June 2022



Projected Acute Food Insecurity Situation and Assumptions (April/May - June 2022)

Nearly 4.69 million people (26% of the analysed population) in the rural areas of Pakistan's Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh provinces will likely experience high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) between April/May and June 2022.

During the projection analysis period, corresponding to the harvest season of Winter crops and sowing season of Summer crops, the overall number of people in IPC Phase 3 or above in these three provinces of Pakistan is expected to slightly increase. A slight increase in numbers and severity in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is expected particularly in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) because of the expected rise in food prices and an influx of Afghan refugees in the bordering districts. In Sindh, a slight decrease is expected in the number of people in IPC Phases 3 and 4 due to improvement in food stocks, increased labour opportunities and normalisation of drought conditions during the projection period.

Projection classifications used the following assumptions: Price levels are expected to increase due to economic factors and increasing fuel prices. Low purchasing power is expected to continue for rural households because of the lingering effect of high food and fuel prices. Any new influx of refugees will directly impact the existing resources of local communities in districts bordering with Afghanistan. Border closure would seriously affect the livelihoods of traders and wage labourers in areas neighbouring Afghanistan. Due to the persistent rains in previous months, drought conditions have become normal in Sindh province. The latest seasonal La Niña forecast suggests that for southwest Pakistan (where some of the analysed districts are located), drier than normal conditions are likely to occur through January 2022. Livestock diseases may increase due to changed climatic conditions. Food stocks are expected to improve slightly because of the harvest. Assistance is expected to continue at the same levels included in the current analysis.

Publication date: January 2022 *IPC population data is based on population estimates from the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics and Provincial Bureaus of Statistics of Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Disclaimer: The information shown on this map does not imply official recognition or endorsement of any physical and political boundaries. This analysis has been conducted under the patronage of the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) of Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh. It has benefited from the technical and financial support of the IPC Global Support Unit.