Acute Food Insecurity Situation in Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Results of IPC Acute Food Insecurity Analysis
October 2021
WHAT IS IPC

- A set of **tools and procedures** (protocols) for classifying the nature and severity of food insecurity
- A **process for multiple stakeholders** to share information and build technical consensus

Inform **strategic decision making** that responds to needs in a more coordinated manner

- **Three scales of IPC**: Acute Food Insecurity (AFI), Chronic Food Insecurity (CFI) and Acute Malnutrition (AMN)
OBJECTIVES OF IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY ANALYSIS

• **Assess** the acute food insecurity situation in 25 districts across 3 provinces (Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa)

  • **Sindh**: Badin, Dadu, Jamshoro, Mirpur Khas, Sanghar, Sujawal, Tharparkar, Thatta, and Umerkot
  • **Balochistan**: Chagai, Kech, Kharan, Killa Abdullah, Loralai, Nushki, Panjgur, Pishin, and Washuk
  • **Khyber Pakhtunkhwa**: Bajaur, Khyber, Kurram, Mohmand, North Waziristan, Orakzai, and South Waziristan

• **Classify areas** based on the prevalence of acute food insecurity

• Identify **major contributing factors to** acute food insecurity

• Indicate implications for response planning
Household Assessment Covered

Districts: 25
Tehsils: 99
Households: 4625
RESULTS OF IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY ANALYSIS-BALOCHISTAN
Of the total rural population in 9 districts analysed in Balochistan

Overall, an estimated **0.86 million people (25% of the rural population in current period (October 2021–March 2022))** are classified in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) and 4 (Emergency) and urgent action is required to protect livelihoods and reduce food consumption gaps of people in Crisis and Emergency phases of acute food insecurity.

- **1.33 million people (39% rural population)** in Phase 1 (Food Secure/Minimal Acute Food Insecurity)
- **1.20 million people (35% rural population)** in Phase 2 (Stressed)
- **0.68 million people (20% rural population)** in Phase 3 (Crisis) and
- **0.17 million people (5% rural population)** is estimated to be in Phase 4 (Emergency)

Out of 9 districts analysed

- 1 district (Nushki) is classified in IPC Phase 2 (Stressed), whereas remaining 8 districts (Chagai, Kech, Kharan, Killa Abdullah, Loralai, Panjgur, Pishin, and Washuk) are classified in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis).
- Chagai, Kharan, Loralai, Panjgur and Washuk are the areas with 30 percent or more population in IPC Phases 3 (Crisis),
- Pishin and Kech both have 25 percent population in IPC Phases 3 (Crisis) and above.

In the projected period (April–June 2022)

- **0.92 million people (27% of the rural population)** are classified in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) and 4 (Emergency).
- No change in phase classification of districts, however, a slight increase in number of people (60,438 or about 9 percent), facing Crisis levels of food insecurity.
RESULTS OF IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY ANALYSIS-SINDH
**IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY ANALYSIS-KEY FINDINGS-SINDH**

**Of the total rural population in 9 districts analysed in Sindh**

- Overall, an estimated **2.33 million people (23% of the rural population in current period (October 2021-March 2022))** are classified in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) and 4 (Emergency) and urgent action is required to protect livelihoods and reduce food consumption gaps of people in Crisis and Emergency phases of acute food insecurity.

- **4.44 million people (43% rural population) in Phase 1 (Food Secure/Minimal Acute Food Insecurity)**
- **3.46 million people (34% rural population) in Phase 2 (Stressed)**
- **1.69 million people (17% rural population) in Phase 3 (Crisis) and**
- **0.63 million people (6% rural population) is estimated to be in Phase 4 (Emergency)**

**Out of 9 districts analysed**

- 2 districts (Badin and Dadu) are classified in IPC Phase 2 (Stressed), whereas remaining 7 districts (Jamshoro, Mirpur Khas, Sanghar, Sujawal, Tharparkar, Thatta, and Umerkot) are classified in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis).
- Jamshoro, Mirpur Khas, Sanghar, Sujawal, Tharparkar, Thatta and Umerkot have 20-30 percent population in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) and above.

**In the projected period (April-June 2022)**

- **2.2 million people (22% of the rural population) are classified in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) and 4 (Emergency).**
- No change in phase classification of districts, however, a slight reduction in number of people (130,800 or about 6 percent)
IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY ANALYSIS MAP FOR SINDH

CURRENT PERIOD (OCTOBER 2021-MARCH 2022)

PROJECTED PERIOD (APRIL-JUNE 2022)

Key for the Map
IPC Acute Food Insecurity Phase Classification
(mapped Phase represents highest severity affecting at least 20% of the population)
1 - Minimal
2 - Stressed
3 - Crisis
4 - Emergency
5 - Famine
Areas not analysed
Evidence Level
- Medium
RESULTS OF IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY ANALYSIS-KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWAN
Of the total rural population in 7 districts analysed in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Overall, an estimated 1.5 million people (30% of the rural population in current period (October 2021-April 2022)) are classified in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) and 4 (Emergency) and urgent action is required to protect livelihoods and reduce food consumption gaps of people in Crisis and Emergency phases of acute food insecurity.

- 1.7 million people (35% rural population) in Phase 1 (Food Secure/Minimal Acute Food Insecurity)
- 1.8 million people (35% rural population) in Phase 2 (Stressed)
- 1.2 million people (24% rural population) in Phase 3 (Crisis) and
- 0.3 million people (6% rural population) is estimated to be in Phase 4 (Emergency)

Out of 7 districts analysed

- All 7 districts (Bajaur, Khyber, Kurram, Mohmand, North Waziristan, Orakzai, and South Waziristan) are classified in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis).
- Mohmand, North Waziristan, Orakzai and South Waziristan have more than 30 percent population in IPC Phases 3 (Crisis) and above
- Bajaur, Khyber and Kurram have 20-25 percent population in IPC Phases 3 (Crisis) and above.

In the projected period (May-June 2022)

- 1.6 million people (32% of the rural population) are classified in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) and 4 (Emergency).
- No change in phase classification of districts, however, a slight increase in number of people (97300 or about 8 percent), facing Crisis levels of food insecurity is estimated.
Around **4.66 million people** (25% of the rural population) are estimated to be in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) and 4 (Emergency) in 25 rural districts of Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, As per IPC AFI analysis conducted in October 2021.

Out of **4.66 million** people, **3.57 million people** (19% of the rural population) are in Phase 3 (Crisis) and **1.09 million people**, 6% of rural population) are in Phase 4 (Emergency) in the current period (October 2021-March 2022).

Out of 25 analysed districts, only **3 districts** (Badin, Dadu and Nushki) are classified in IPC Phase 2 (Stressed).

Remaining **22 districts** (Jamshoro, Mirpur Khas, Sanghar, Sujawal, Tharparkar, Thatta, Umerkot, Chagai, Kech, Kharan, Killa Abdullah, Loralai, Panjgur, Pishin, Washuk, Bajaur, Khyber, Kurram, Mohmand, North Waziristan, Orakzai, and South Waziristan) are in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis).

The analysis of the **projection period (April-June 2022)**, indicates the number of people in Crisis and Emergency phases is expected to increase slightly to **4.69 million** (25% of the rural population in the 25 analysed districts).

No change in area phase classification, 3 districts (Nushki, Badin and Dadu) are classified in IPC Phase 2 (Stressed), whereas remaining 22 districts will remain in phase 3 (Crisis).

Around **300,000** additional people will be in IPC Phase 3 and above during the projection period.
**COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY ANALYSES**

- Varied trend of food insecurity in 18 districts also covered in previous IPC analyses
- Context of October analysis, particularly in Sindh and Balochistan was also different compared to previous IPC analyses
- Acute food insecurity has:
  - **Increased** in Panjgur and Washuk, Mohmand, North Waziristan and South Waziristan
  - **Reduced** in Kech, Nushki, Orakzai, Badin, Mirpur Khas and Umerkot
  - **No change** in other 7 districts (Chagai, Kharan, Bajaur, Khyber, Kurram, Sanghar and Tharparkar)
  - Also changes in proportion of population in IPC phase 3 and 4
RESULTS OF IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY ANALYSIS FOR DROUGHT AFFECTED DISTRICTS
**Drought affected districts, June 2021 (Source: Pakistan Meteorological Department)**

- **Severe drought**
  - Sindh: Badin, Mirpur Khas, Sanghar, Sujawal, Tharparkar, Thatta, Umerkot
  - Balochistan: Chagai, Gawadar, Kech, Kharan, Panjgur, Washuk

- **Moderate drought**
  - Sindh: Dadu, Khairpur, Larkana, Karachi, Naushehro Feroz, Shaheed Benazirabad, Sukkur
  - Balochistan: Harnai, Mastung, Nushki, Pishin, Kalat, Quetta
Out of 26 drought affected districts notified by PMD in June, 2021, this IPC analysis covers 15 districts (8 out of 9 in Sindh and 7 out of 9 in Balochistan).

Around 2.74 million people (23% of the rural population) are estimated to be in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) and 4 (Emergency) of which 2.02 million are in Phase 3 (Crisis) and 0.72 million are Phase 4 (Emergency) in the current period (October 2021-March 2022) in the 15 drought affected districts focused in this IPC analysis.

2.16 million people in 8 drought notified districts in Sindh (Badin, Dadu, Mirpur Khas, Sanghar, Sujawal, Tharparkar, Thatta, and Umerkot) and 0.59 million people in 7 notified districts in Balochistan (Chagai, Kech, Kharan, Nushki, Panjgur, Pishin, and Washuk) are in IPC Phase 3 and Phase 4.

3 districts are classified in IPC Phase 2 (Stressed) and remaining 12 districts are classified in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis).

Gradual improvement in drought conditions since June 2021 due to multiple spells of rainfall, particularly in Sindh.

In November 2021, only 5 districts of Balochistan (Chagai, Kech, Kharan, Panjgur and Washuk) were under moderate while 3 (Awaran, Kalat and Quetta) under mild drought conditions, as per PMD.

In Sindh, due to the persistent rains in previous months, drought conditions have become normal.
• General and food inflation (Rising food prices)
• Loss of employment/income related to COVID-19 pandemic
• Drought (Sindh and Balochistan)
• Livestock diseases (Sindh and Balochistan)
• Inadequate rainfall (KP-NMDs)
• Conflict/insecurity (KP-NMDs)
### Pre-existing high incidence of poverty and malnutrition

| 1. Population in these districts have experienced multiple shocks (drought or inadequate rainfall, covid-19 related reduction in income, high food prices, livestock diseases etc) | 6. Rising food prices (inflation) would adversely impact on rural households. | 11. Markets are fully functional but long distance to access food markets |
| 2. Multiple shocks adversely affected the livelihoods/income of the rural population in these districts | 7. Poor/borderline levels of food consumption | 12. Households have accumulated high debts to meet their food and essential non-food needs |
| 3. Households have high reliance on agriculture (livestock) based livelihood sources | 8. High food insecurity based on FIES | 13. Poor access to improved sanitation |
| 4. Limited purchasing power, low levels of cereals production and livestock losses contributed to poor food consumption | 9. Households engaged in medium/high level food based coping strategies to meet their food needs | 14. Food access, affordability and utilization are major issues |
| 5. Subsequent effects on livelihoods and food security situation | 10. Households also adopted livelihood based crisis and emergency coping strategies |   |
### KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RESPONSE

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Key Recommendations</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>IPC analysis</strong></td>
<td>Indicates a need for immediate emergency response actions to help save lives and livelihoods of people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and Crisis (IPC Phase 3).</td>
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<td><strong>Improve access to food</strong></td>
<td>Through appropriate modalities such as food or cash and voucher assistance to reduce the food consumption gaps and to protect asset depletion for the populations classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and Crisis (IPC Phase 3).</td>
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<td><strong>Timely provision of quality seeds</strong></td>
<td>For high-yielding crops and vegetables, and toolkits, especially to subsistence level farmers. In drought prone areas, drought resilient crop varieties need to be introduced to ensure sufficient production.</td>
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<td><strong>Training on climate-smart crop and fodder production, including guidance on kitchen gardening.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Scale up livestock protection and management interventions</strong></td>
<td>Such as vaccination and deworming campaigns to prevent diseases, and access to fodder, multi-nutritional feed and pastures can help in preventing distress sale.</td>
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<td><strong>Construction and rehabilitation of water infrastructure</strong></td>
<td>For agriculture and livestock for better conservation and management. Resilient water infrastructure can help in reducing the impact of recurring floods and droughts.</td>
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<td><strong>Support livelihood diversification activities</strong></td>
<td>(Including training on ‘online business opportunities and management’) for local communities to increase income-generation and employment opportunities.</td>
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<td><strong>Inclusion of women in economic growth activities</strong></td>
<td>(Agriculture and non-agriculture) to improve their livelihoods.</td>
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<td><strong>Capacity building of communities</strong></td>
<td>On processing and preservation of the seasonal produce to enable them to earn higher income from processed fruits and vegetables and meet food requirements in the lean seasons.</td>
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### 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.

**Afghan situation** - The current situation in Afghanistan can stimulate cross border displacement. The displacement is expected to put enormous pressure on the local market structures, labour market, and natural resources that can negatively affect the food security dimensions.

**Climatic conditions (La Nina and drought)** - The climatic conditions are crucial to monitor, which may impact on agricultural production and livelihoods, and may also cause outbreak of livestock diseases.

**Livestock diseases** - Livestock diseases such as Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), Peste des Petits Ruminates (PPR), and Hemorrhagic septicemia (HS) outbreak is likely to increase due to seasonal change.

**Border fencing & closure** - The livelihood opportunities have reduced for those engaged in informal trade due to closure of border with Afghanistan and Iran. The border fencing has resulted in the stoppage of informal trade and access to markets at both sides of the border. The community at the border now has to travel long distances to reach the market which increased their food cost and adversely affects their livelihoods. This factor needs to be monitored in the projected phase.

**Loss of employment** - Due to economic instability, exchange rate, fuel prices and cost of production are increasing which may cause loss of employment and may affect livelihoods.

**The COVID-19 situation** – Although the incidence rate has declined significantly in Pakistan but the situation still needs to be monitored because of surge in the cases globally due to new variants.
IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY ANALYSIS PARTNERS

Government Ministries/Departments

- Ministry of National Food Security & Research
- Ministry of Planning, Development & Special Initiatives
- Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination
- Pakistan Agriculture Research Council
- National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)
- Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
- Provincial Bureaus of Statistics, Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
- Agriculture Department, Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
- Livestock Department, Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

INGOs/NGOs/UN Organizations

- WHH
- Concern Worldwide
- ACF
- CARE
- SIF
- ACTED
- HANDS
- Islamic Relief
- BRSP
- FRD
- FRDP
- TKF
- UN Agencies (FAO, WFP, UNICEF)
- Technical Support by IPC Global Support Unit (GSU)
LA NIÑA CONDITIONS AND SEASONAL AGRO-CLIMATE OUTLOOK FOR PAKISTAN
LA NIÑA CONDITIONS

• Pakistan is one of the countries identified as at high risk of humanitarian impact from La Niña as per the latest advisory/alert for November 2021 - March 2022.

• In case of Pakistan, drier than normal conditions are likely to occur between November 2021 and January 2022 in Southwest of Pakistan.

• Close monitoring of regional and national level forecasts, and consideration of anticipatory or early actions is recommended.
Balochistan

- **Central Balochistan** is expected to receive 2 to 3 spells of light to moderate rainfall during the start of March and April.
- Rains in the end of March and start of April may have a negative impact on the crop growth as they will be in their maturity stages.
- **North-Eastern Balochistan** may receive 2-3 spells of light to moderate (with few heavy downpours in start of March and April) rainfall starting from the 3rd decade of February till the end of the period.
- Wheat crop in this area may benefit from the anticipated precipitation during this time period. However, the rain during the maturity stages may affect the crop.

Sindh

- **Upper Sindh** is expected to receive few spells of light to moderate rainfall during 1st & last decade of February, first week & mid of March, 1st decade of April, 1st & 2nd decade of May.
- Wheat is the major crop in the area which is in its vegetative stages and these rains would be beneficial for the crops.
- **Lower Sindh** may receive 3-4 spells of light to moderate rainfall mainly during 1st & last decade of February, first week & mid of March, 1st decade of April, 1st & 2nd decade of May.
- Rabi crops like wheat, sugarcane etc. in this area are well ahead in comparison to the rest of the country. Therefore, these rains may affect the harvesting activities of the standing crops in the region.
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
• **Upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa** is expected to receive 2-3 spells of light to moderate rainfalls during March and 1st decade of May. During this period, few spells of light rainfall is also anticipated.

• The expected rains would be beneficial till March as the crop is in vegetative and reproductive stages. While the wheat crop is maturing in April and May, rainfall may have an impact on the crop's eventual output.

• **Lower Khyber Pakhtunkhwa** is expected to receive 3 major events of light to moderate (with spells of heavy downpour during the end of March and start of April) rainfall from March till May.

Punjab
• **The Potohar Region** may receive several light to moderate rainfall spells (with few heavy downpours during 1st decade of March and 3rd decade of April) during the period.

• During February, wheat in the region is generally in reproductive stages, the rain will benefit it while in April, crop is in grain formation/final stages, accordingly cloudiness or rain conditions may cause bad impacts on the crop in terms of dry matter production.

• **Central Punjab** would receive 3-4 spells of light to moderate (with few spells of light downpour) rainfall from the end of February till the end of May.

• The rainfall during the early stages of the crop is helpful; however rainfall during the month of May, when the crop reaches its maturity, may affect the final yield of the crop.

• **Southern Punjab** would receive 4-5 mild rainfall episodes (with a few moderate spells) within the stated time, according to the general trend.

• Rainfall during the season may assist the crop by increasing soil moisture availability during the reproductive stages of the wheat crop.
Precipitation Forecast (IRI-Model) for December 2021- April-2022

Global Circulation Models indicate week La-Niña conditions in the equatorial Pacific Ocean and neutral Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) during December-January-February.

IRI model suggests probability of:

• Below normal rainfall in some northern and western districts of Balochistan, southern districts of KP and eastern districts of Punjab during December 2021-February 2022.

• Above normal rainfall in most parts of Sindh, whereas eastern part of Punjab will receive below normal rainfall during January-March 2022.

• Below normal rainfall in Balochistan districts bordering with Afghanistan during February-April.

• The deficiency in rainfall will cause water stress for Rabi (winter season) crops, particularly in rain-fed areas.

• Prolong smoggy and foggy conditions in plain and urban areas.

• Enhanced concentration of urban pollution during dry winter months.
PRECIPITATION FORECAST (IRI-MODEL) FOR JANUARY 2021 - APRIL-2022
As per PMD in November 2021, in Balochistan, 5 districts (Chagai, Kech, Kharan, Panjgur and Washuk) were under **moderate** while 3 districts (Awaran, Kalat and Quetta) are under **mild** drought conditions.

In Sindh, due to the persistent rains in previous months, drought conditions have become **normal**.
As per latest alert/advisory, La Niña conditions are likely to prevail **till January 2022** in south western parts of Pakistan, which mainly include areas of Sindh and Balochistan.

Below normal rainfall is expected in some northern and western districts of Balochistan, southern districts of KP and eastern districts of Punjab during December 2021-February 2022 as per IRI model based forecasts.

If La Niña conditions continue for long, it would adversely affect the crop yield and production of staple crop (wheat) in the affected areas.

Around **3.2 million people** (in IPC Phase 3 and above) in **Sindh** and **Balochistan** would be more vulnerable by the prolonged La Niña conditions.

Around **4.66 million people** (in IPC Phase 3 and above) would be vulnerable in case La Niña conditions also spread to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in addition to Sindh and Balochistan.

Situation needs to be monitored regularly, particularly with updated information on La Niña conditions during first quarter of 2022.

**KEY MESSAGES**
PROPOSED RECOMMENDED ACTIONS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

• Conduct regular monitoring of drought conditions in Balochistan. Food Security sector (WFP, FAO) normally conducts joint monitoring and analysis with the local governments on the effect of ENSO conditions on crops, locust breeding etc. The global clusters/sectors leads are requested to ask their counterparts in countries to continue this practice and report to the HCT.

• Include NDMA, PDMA and Met department in discussion to align understanding of the pending risk and expected La Niña impacts for Pakistan.

• Promote the centrality of protection in planning and delivering the response to the drought affected populations.

• Strengthen communication with communities’ mechanisms to raise awareness of the affected people about the impact of the upcoming risk.

• Support advocacy and outreach for increased financial resources availability for anticipatory action in dry condition risk areas of Pakistan.

• Ensure full participation of UN agencies and NGOs through the HCT to develop a preparedness and response plan in Q1 2022 if La Niña conditions continue.