

Asia



2024 GLOBAL REPORT
ON FOOD CRISES

JOINT ANALYSIS FOR BETTER DECISIONS

Macroeconomic crises characterized by low incomes and rising food and agricultural input costs as well as the impacts of widespread weather extremes and the escalating conflict in Myanmar drove almost 60 million people across five countries to face high levels of acute food insecurity.

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Improvements were observed in Afghanistan but it remained an extremely concerning food crisis with 46 percent of its population facing high levels of acute food insecurity.

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With little prospect of safe return to Myanmar, the majority of the nearly 1 million Rohingya refugees in camps in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, face high levels of acute food insecurity and rely on humanitarian aid that is susceptible to funding cuts.

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The outlook for 2024 is mixed. Should economic stability hold in Afghanistan, acute food insecurity was projected to make gradual improvements – though dryness in late 2023 may impact spring and summer crops. Escalating violence in Myanmar threatens to drive more displacement and acute food insecurity.

Asia

Nearly one-third of the total analysed population across five countries in the region faced high levels of acute food insecurity in 2023 due to sustained economic crises driving high unemployment and food prices, rising insecurity and displacement in Myanmar, and widespread destructive weather extremes and natural disasters.

59.8M 

people or 30% of the analysed population faced high levels of acute food insecurity in 2023 in five countries.

11.8M 

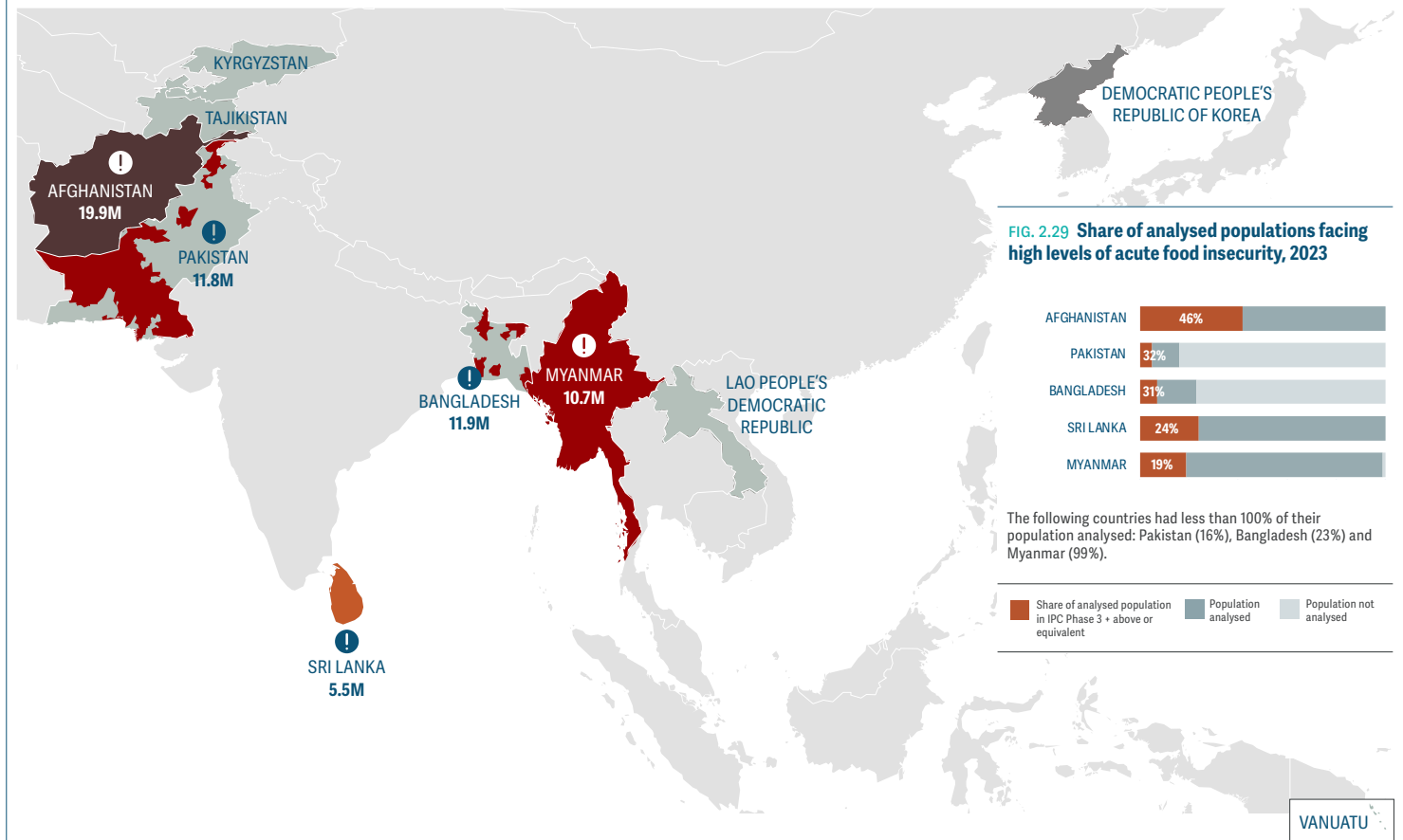
forcibly displaced people in four countries by 2023 – consisting of 8.7 million IDPs and 3.2 million refugees and asylum-seekers.

5.4M 

acutely malnourished children in two countries with 1.5 million of them suffering the most severe form.

Afghanistan | Bangladesh | Myanmar | Pakistan (Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh) | Sri Lanka

MAP 2.8 Number of people facing high levels of acute food insecurity in five countries, 2023



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties.

Legend:

- <1.0 million
- 1–2.99 million
- 3–4.99 million
- 5–9.99 million
- 10–14.99 million
- ≥15 million
- Not selected for analysis
- Data not meeting GRFC technical requirements/population not analysed
- Data gap
- ! Major food crisis
- Refugee populations (colour coding as legend)

Source: IPC TWGs; WFP CARI (Sri Lanka); Myanmar pre-analysis conducted under the HNRP.

How have the food crises in this region changed since 2022?

Out of the five food crises with data meeting GRFC technical requirements, only Afghanistan and Sri Lanka had analyses for 2023 that were directly comparable with 2022.

Afghanistan was again Asia’s largest food crisis, accounting for 33 percent of the region’s population in the highest phases of acute food insecurity. During the November 2022–March 2023 lean season, 46 percent of its population faced Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above), down from 55 percent during the same period the previous year (IPC, January 2023; IPC, October 2021).

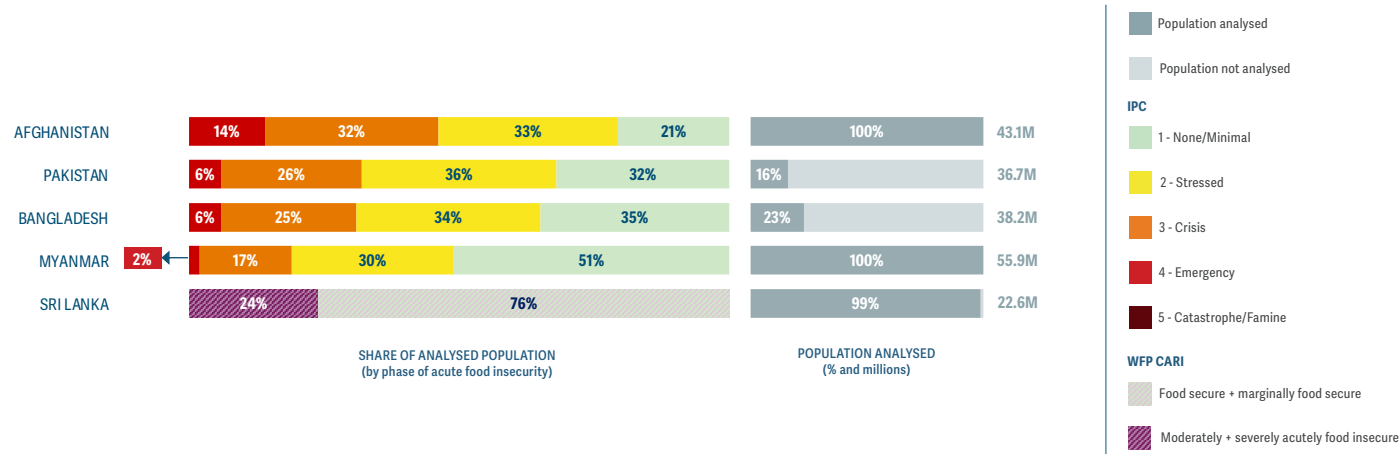
The 2023 IPC analysis for Bangladesh, which covered 23 percent of the population, including Rohingya refugees, found 31 percent of the population faced high levels of acute food insecurity. This is not directly comparable with the previous year’s data from the Joint Response Plan, which only covered Rohingya refugees (IPC, June 2023). In Pakistan, a significantly expanded 2023 IPC analysis showed an improvement in the food security situation in areas covered by the 2022 post-flood analysis (IPC, October 2023).

In Myanmar’s conflict-driven food crisis, the situation remained of great concern with 19 percent of the population facing high levels of acute food insecurity though the analysis is not comparable with that of 2022 (OCHA, December 2023).

Sri Lanka has experienced improvements in food security since 2022 attributable to better food supplies, lower prices and increased capacity to import food, although 24 percent of its population still faced high levels of acute food insecurity compared with 28 percent the previous year (WFP, December 2023).

All five countries are considered major food crises, each with over 1 million people facing high levels of acute food insecurity. Only Afghanistan is considered a protracted major food crisis.

FIG. 2.30 Share of analysed populations by phase of acute food insecurity, 2023 peak



Source: IPC TWGs; WFP CARI (Sri Lanka); Myanmar pre-analysis conducted under the HNRP.

Severity of acute food insecurity

Disaggregated data by phase were available for four out of five countries in the region, namely Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Pakistan. Data for Sri Lanka were derived from the WFP CARI methodology and therefore no breakdown by IPC phase of acute food insecurity was available.

No populations faced Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) in 2023, down from over 20 000 people (in Afghanistan) in March–May 2022.

11.9 million people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) across four countries

More than half of the region’s total population in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) were in Afghanistan. Both Bangladesh and Pakistan had 2.2 million people in this phase each, and Myanmar had 1.4 million people. Afghanistan also had the highest proportion of population in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) at 14 percent.

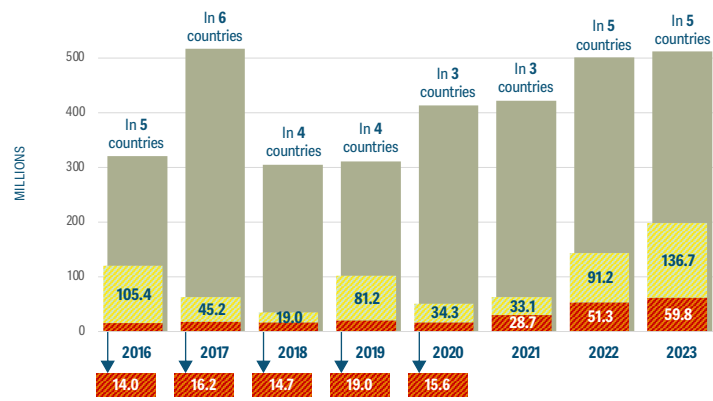
42.4 million people in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) across four countries

Afghanistan had 13.8 million people facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) levels of acute food insecurity, while each of the other countries with disaggregated data had just under 10 million people in this phase. Afghanistan had the highest proportion of its analysed population in this phase (32 percent).

57.1 million people in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) across four countries

All countries in the region have at least 30 percent of their analysed population in this phase, representing 13–17 million people in each country. Pakistan had the highest proportion of its analysed population in this phase (at 36 percent).

FIG. 2.31 Numbers of people facing high levels of acute food insecurity, 2016–2023



Source: FSIN, GRFC 2017–2024.

1+2 - None/Minimal and Stressed Phase 3+ - Crisis or worse Total population

Acute food insecurity since 2016

A lack of systematic and consistent data limits a more thorough regional analysis over time, as the number of countries selected for analysis and with acute food insecurity data available significantly varied year-on-year in the eight editions of the GRFC.

Afghanistan and the Rohingya refugees in the Cox's Bazar district of Bangladesh have been consistently included as major food crises in each edition of the GRFC, while Pakistan has been a major food crisis since GRFC 2018 with analyses varying in geographical coverage of Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh provinces.

Afghanistan has been classified as one of the ten worst food crises in every edition of the GRFC, with over 40 percent of the analysed population in the highest levels of acute food insecurity from 2020 to 2023. While Afghanistan has remained among the ten largest food crises in the GRFC over the past eight years, it has experienced a gradual improvement since 2021.

In Bangladesh, changing methodological approaches and coverage challenge year-on-year comparisons. Myanmar and Sri Lanka were classified as major food crises for the first time in the GRFC 2023.

Outlook for 2024

Around 40.5 million people or 30 percent of the analysed population are projected to face high levels of acute food insecurity in 2024 in Afghanistan, Myanmar and Pakistan, including 8.2 million people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4).

The high cost of fuel and fertilizer – coupled with currency devaluations and supply chain disruptions – will continue to burden producers and drive high food prices and inflation that directly impact the food insecurity of households.

Flooding and extreme weather from monsoons and cyclones are a perennial concern for the region, while the potential for conflict to escalate in Myanmar or Afghanistan poses a major risk.

In Afghanistan, the number of people facing high levels of acute food insecurity was projected to be 21 percent lower in the November 2023–March 2024 lean season period than the previous lean season. This improvement is driven predominantly by the extensive delivery of humanitarian food and agriculture assistance (IPC, December 2023). However, the improvement may be tempered by the negative impact of poor rainfall in late 2023 on 2024 wheat production.

In Myanmar, the population facing high levels of acute food insecurity is projected to increase to 12.9 million people in the June–August 2024 period, corresponding with the lean season, due to protracted conflict and escalating displacement and a further rise in food prices with decreasing job and income opportunities depressing household purchasing power (OCHA, December 2023). Acute food insecurity projection data are not available for Sri Lanka, but the economic situation is expected to continue to improve throughout 2024, according to the IMF and World Bank, as the country should see modest GDP growth, the effects of recent debt restructuring, and a recovery in the tourism and manufacturing sectors (WFP and FAO, May 2023; WB, January 2024; WB, October 2023).

Additional analysis projecting beyond January 2024 is not available for Pakistan, but indications

suggest that flooding will once again pose a risk to food security due to above-normal snowfall and rainfall in the winter season into early 2024 (IPC, October 2023). The area planted with wheat is forecast at a level well above the five-year average, driven by record prices, while good supplies of quality seeds, fertilizers and herbicides augur well for yields (FAO, November 2023). However, if the economic crisis, militant attacks in provinces bordering Afghanistan and civil unrest escalate, acute food insecurity could further deteriorate.

Acute food insecurity projection data are not available for Bangladesh, but the country is forecast to see a slowing in GDP growth in 2024 in part due to low foreign exchange reserves and import restrictions impacting private investment ((UN DESA, January 2024; WB, January 2024). In addition, more than 20 percent of the country's population experience high levels of chronic food insecurity (IPC Chronic Food Insecurity analysis, June 2022), which means they normally experience ongoing or seasonal food consumption gaps even in non-exceptional conditions.

Drivers of the food crises, 2023–2024



Economic shocks were the primary driver of acute food insecurity in Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Sri Lanka where 37.3 million people faced high levels of acute food insecurity.

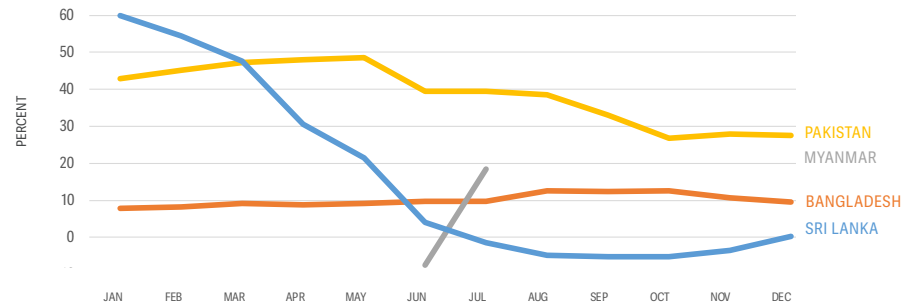
Macroeconomic shifts that led to decreases in foreign exchange reserves (Bangladesh and Pakistan) and currency depreciations (Bangladesh, Myanmar and Pakistan) drove rising food costs for households and rising input costs for agricultural producers, in part due to a high reliance on imports. Headline inflation was persistently high in Pakistan, Myanmar and Bangladesh, while Afghanistan and Sri Lanka experienced deflationary trends by the end of 2023 (WFP, December 2023; WB, December 2023).

The food-crisis countries in the region are particularly reliant on imports from the Russian Federation for the domestic commercial agriculture sector, with Bangladesh importing 75 percent of the potash it uses to make fertilizer from there, but supply chain challenges and global restrictions on the Russian market have posed challenges (IPC, June 2023). Even countries that do not rely on the Russian Federation for fertilizer inputs, such as Pakistan, continued to experience rising prices due to supply chain disruptions (IPC, October 2023).

Economic shocks – characterized by stagnant wages, widespread unemployment, reduced public spending, the effects of women being banned from the workplace and decreased remittances – were the primary drivers of acute food insecurity in Afghanistan (IPC, December 2023).

More positive conditions prevailed in Sri Lanka as the country rebounded slightly from the worst of its 2020 economic crisis with a gradual increase in foreign reserves and currency appreciation that helped the country import food to meet its 1.8 million tonne cereal import requirement (WFP and FAO, May 2023).

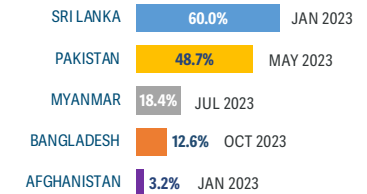
FIG. 2.32 While Pakistan and Bangladesh experienced high food inflation during 2023, Sri Lanka saw a vast reduction despite an uptick at the end of the year



This graph only includes countries where food inflation peaked at over 10 percent in 2023.

Source: Trading Economics, 2024.

FIG. 2.33 Highest annual food inflation rate by country, 2023



Source: Trading Economics, 2024.



Weather extremes were the primary driver of acute food insecurity in Pakistan where 11.8 million people faced high levels of acute food insecurity.

Weather extremes were an additional driver in all the other food-crisis countries in Asia. The region is susceptible to increasingly powerful cyclones and heavy monsoon seasons that cause displacement, destroy croplands and damage infrastructure, limiting the income-generating opportunities of vulnerable populations. Heavy monsoons trigger periods of food insecurity that extend beyond the monsoon season as households face long recovery times to regain assets, as was the case in 2023 in Bangladesh's Haor region and Sindh province of Pakistan following severe monsoon flooding in 2022 (IPC, June 2023; IPC, October 2023).

While 2023 did not see the scale of destruction caused by historic floods in 2022, Pakistan again experienced record-breaking rainfall that triggered flooding and damage to crops, shelters and water supply infrastructure, including in June which was the second rainiest June in the past 63 years (IRC, August 2023). In addition to disrupting food production, consumption and the livelihoods

of flood-affected people, flooding drove mass displacements in 2023 in Myanmar and in Sri Lanka following extreme weather in October (OCHA, December 2023; IFRC, November 2023).

Cyclone Mocha made landfall in Bangladesh and Myanmar in May and caused widespread destruction of farmlands and crop losses and damage to IDP camps in Myanmar and camps in Cox's Bazar (ACAPS, May 2023). The cyclone impacted 3 million people in Myanmar as well as 327 000 hectares of agricultural land and an estimated 2.3 million people in Bangladesh (OCHA, December 2023; ACAPS, May 2023). Flash floods in mid-August 2023 affected an estimated 1.3 million people in four hilly districts of Chattogram. Some of them were still recovering from cyclone Mocha and were later impacted by cyclones Hamoon and Midhili (UNICEF, December 2023).

Afghanistan continued to feel the effects of a third year of drought, which contributed to a 30–35 percent deficit in wheat production, with western provinces in particular seeing lower-than-average harvests (WFP, June 2023).



Conflict/insecurity was the primary driver of acute food insecurity in Myanmar where 10.7 million people faced high levels of acute food insecurity.

The security situation in Myanmar deteriorated throughout 2023 with a serious escalation in violence since the end of October 2023 when a coalition of armed organizations launched renewed attacks on military positions and captured several towns in the process (ACAPS, November 2023). This conflict precipitated an increase in displacements and further limited humanitarian access to communities, particularly in Shan, Sagaing and Rakhine states (UNHCR, November 2023; ACAPS, November 2023).

Despite prioritizing the eventual reintegration in Myanmar of the over 900 000 Rohingya refugees based in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, the security and political situation suggests there is no prospect of safe return in the foreseeable future (JRP, March 2023).

Political instability in Pakistan had regional implications for acute food insecurity in 2023. Pakistan forcibly deported over

500 000 undocumented Afghans, while the demand for seasonal migrant labour from Afghanistan to Pakistan is expected to decrease, leading to greater competition for agricultural wage work in Afghanistan and decreased remittance flows into Afghanistan (IPC, December 2023; IOM Pakistan, January 2024).

While the presence of active conflict has dwindled in Afghanistan following the consolidation of control by the de facto authorities (DFA) in August 2021, the DFA continue to issue new decrees and directives that change the operating environment for humanitarian workers and disrupt the delivery of food assistance (ACAPS, June 2023).



Natural disasters – Afghanistan was hit by three powerful earthquakes in October.

The earthquakes caused widespread destruction in Herat province and affected about 275 000 people as a result of lost livestock and food stock and damage to homes and critical water and sanitation infrastructure (IPC, December 2023).

Structural vulnerabilities underlie the region's food insecurity crises

The persistence of acute food insecurity and continual inclusion of these countries as major food crises reflect structural factors.

High levels of poverty, government debt, high population growth, high exposure to natural hazards, gender and income inequality, and low levels of education all decrease households' and communities' abilities to withstand and recover from shocks.

Food-crisis countries in the Asia region have a particularly high dependency on imports, with Afghanistan and Sri Lanka both relying on imports for over 30 percent of their required national caloric intake. Asia also has three countries in the bottom quartile globally for HDI – Afghanistan, Pakistan and Myanmar – a reflection of the compounding effects of poor health resources, limited education opportunities and low incomes in these countries.





The same three countries also received Very High or High INFORM Risk scores based on the risk of humanitarian crises and disasters, while Bangladesh was considered the country most vulnerable in the world to river flooding (European Commission, September 2023).

Gendered views of women's roles in society limit employment opportunities for women in Afghanistan, a situation that has become institutionalized since the August 2021 takeover by the de-facto authorities (DFA), and has created a particularly precarious situation for women-headed households (CARE, November 2022). Further, mobility restrictions outside the home implemented by the DFA have discouraged women from travelling to markets as frequently, leading to negative impacts on food accessibility (CARE, November 2022).

In Pakistan, 75 percent of rural women and girls are engaged in agricultural work but the majority of this work remains unpaid and informal, limiting the potential of women to participate in markets, gain access to credit, and diversify their food sources (FAO Pakistan, December 2023).

Agriculture, forestry and fishing employed around 69 million people across the five countries affected by food crises in the region and represented up to 46 percent of total employment in Afghanistan and Myanmar. Food production is therefore key for the food security and livelihoods of vulnerable populations in the region.

TABLE 2.4 Structural vulnerabilities indicators

	GDP ranking	Cereal import dependency weighted by caloric relevance (%) 	Share of agricultural, forestry and fishery employment (%) 	Crop growing period affected by drought condition (%) 	INFORM Risk Index (0–10)	HDI global ranking (1–192) 
AFGHANISTAN	138	31.8	46	19.51	8.1	180th
BANGLADESH	34	11.2	37.1	15.57	5.7	129th
DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA	N/A	17.8	43.5	9.86	4.1	N/A
KYRGYZSTAN	148	18.5	18.5	20.98	3.1	118th
LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC	133	-3.2	2.9	15.19	3.5	140th
MYANMAR	86	-2.7	12.5	14.86	7.1	149th
PAKISTAN	41	-18.6	20.2	20.99	6.1	161st
SRI LANKA	76	30.5	20.9	7.22	3.1	73rd
TAJIKISTAN	149	47.5	50.4	16.44	4.4	122nd
VANUATU	196	87.2	100.00	N/A	4.2	140th

Source: WB (GDP ranking); FAO (Cereal import dependency weighted by caloric relevance); FAO (Share of agricultural, forestry and fishery employment); EC-JRC (Crop growing period affected by drought condition); EC-JRC (INFORM Risk Index); UNDP (HDI Global Index).

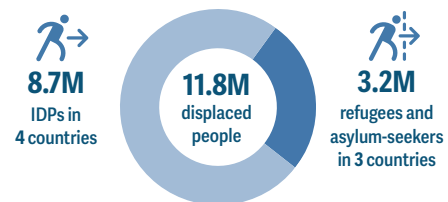
DISPLACEMENT | The 11.8 million forcibly displaced people in Asia face a growing number of threats and vulnerabilities due to sustained conflict, climate change, social and economic isolation in their host communities, and political instability.

The prospect of a safe and dignified return to countries of origin remains a challenge for population groups such as the Rohingya refugees in Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh (JRP, March 2023). Weak public service infrastructures and lack of funding are straining the humanitarian response in countries such as Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan (WFP, May 2023).

Of the total displaced population in four countries in the region, 8.7 million people or 73 percent are internally displaced. Afghanistan has the region’s highest number of IDPs with 5.7 million, followed by Myanmar, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

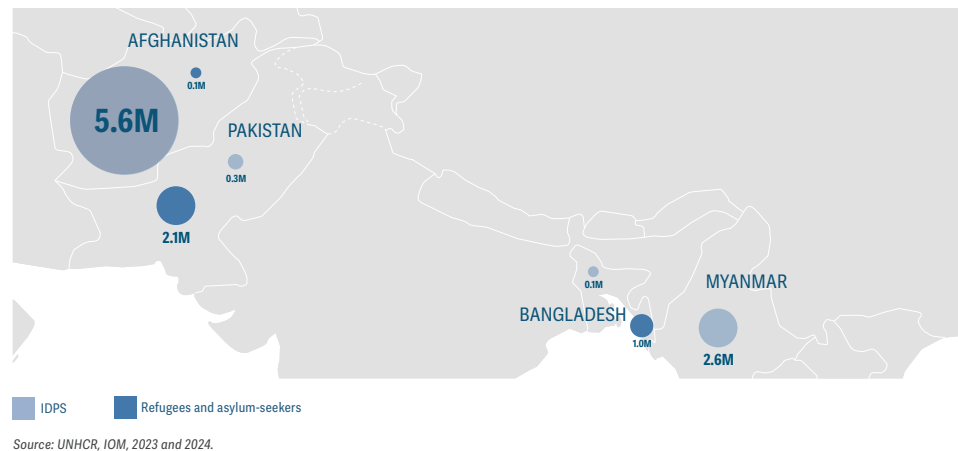
While a recent decrease in active conflict in Afghanistan following decades of instability that drove displacement has allowed for modest returns, with 1.6 million displaced Afghans returning to their areas of origin, nearly 1 in 7 Afghans remains displaced (OCHA Afghanistan, December 2023). In Myanmar, an escalation of

FIG. 2.34 Numbers of forcibly displaced people in four food-crisis countries, 2023



Source: UNHCR, IOM, 2023 and 2024.

FIG. 2.9 Numbers of IDPs, refugees and asylum-seekers by country, 2023



Source: UNHCR, IOM, 2023 and 2024.

violence has led to over 1 million new IDPs year-on-year (OCHA Myanmar, December 2023). The nearly 600 000 Rohingya who remain in Myanmar face movement restrictions, reduced access to basic services and no pathway to formal citizenship, which drives food insecurity (OCHA Myanmar, December 2023). Pakistan was still recovering from devastating 2022 floods that triggered its largest displacement event in a decade, when localized flooding as well as spates of violence in 2023 causing new displacements (IDMC, April 2023).

The Asia region is home to large, long-standing refugee populations residing in countries bordering two of the region’s most intractable conflicts – Afghanistan and Myanmar. Nearly 3.2 million registered refugees are hosted in four countries in the region. Pakistan hosts nearly 2 in 3 of the refugees in the region at 2.1 million, followed by Bangladesh and Afghanistan (UNHCR, December 2023). Pakistan (Afghan refugees) and Bangladesh (Rohingya refugees) are among the ten countries hosting the largest refugee populations in the world (UNHCR, December 2023).

Nearly 1 million Rohingya refugees who escaped violence in Myanmar live in congested camps in

Cox’s Bazar and Bhasan Char Island in Bangladesh (UNHCR, December 2023). Personal safety concerns limit the ability of vulnerable populations to access humanitarian assistance and sanitation and health services (IPC, June 2023).

The tenuous legal status of Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh prevents formal employment within host communities in Cox’s Bazar, increases dependence on humanitarian assistance, and often forces refugees into informal work that increases their risk of exploitation (IPC, June 2023).

The food rations that refugees rely upon were reduced at the beginning of 2023 due to funding cuts at WFP, but were increased slightly to USD 10 per person per month from January 2024, although this is still below the USD 12 per person per month ration amount before March 2023 (WFP, December 2023).

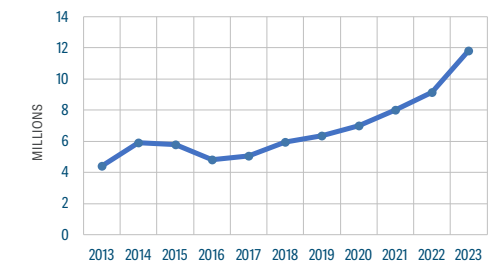
The IPC analysis classified the Rohingya refugee camps in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) in May–September 2023 with around 0.6 million refugees or 65 percent of the total population facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC, June 2023). Acute food insecurity in camps increases protection risks among Rohingya refugees since

it makes them more likely to risk exploitative livelihood opportunities or face exploitation by traffickers as they attempt to leave camps (UN, June 2023).

The massive influx of refugees into the crowded camps of Cox’s Bazar is having a deleterious effect on livelihood opportunities for host communities. Deforestation to construct the camps and for firewood has cleared 1.67 percent of all forest area in Cox’s Bazar and caused erosion, while dependence on groundwater has reduced the water table by 4 metres, making it more difficult to access water for agricultural and household needs (IPC, June 2023). The increased risk of erosion raises the prospect for deadly and destructive landslides in this cyclone-prone coastal region (JRP, March 2023). Around 40 percent of the host community or 0.1 million people also faced high acute food insecurity in May–September 2023 (IPC, June 2023).

Pakistan has hosted large refugee populations from Afghanistan for four decades as a result of prolonged conflict and instability. They face high levels of food insecurity and economic and social marginalization. However, 2023 saw a shift in government policy towards refugees, with over 500 000 Afghans forcibly returned in September 2023 (IOM Pakistan, January 2024).

FIG. 2.35 Numbers of forcibly displaced people in the region 2013–2023



Sources: 2013–2022, UNHCR, IDMC, UNRWA; 2023, UNHCR nowcasted estimates December 2023, IOM.

ACUTE MALNUTRITION | A national-level IPC analysis for Afghanistan and a partial analysis for Pakistan showed widespread Critical levels of acute malnutrition across the two countries.

In Afghanistan, 17 provinces were classified in IPC AMN Phase 4 (Critical) during the winter lean season of November 2022–April 2023 as the crisis deteriorated due to higher risk of diarrhoea and acute respiratory infection.

Pregnant and breastfeeding women (PBW) in Afghanistan also faced a concerning malnutrition situation with 804 000 experiencing acute malnutrition (IPC AMN, January 2023).

Acute malnutrition levels were Critical (IPC AMN Phase 4) in 23 out of 32 analysed districts in Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh provinces in Pakistan, between March and September 2023. In four districts, primarily in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, the situation was expected to worsen in October 2023–January 2024 (IPC AMN Pakistan, October 2023).

While no recent data were available for the resident population of Bangladesh, the 2023 SENS results indicated a deteriorating acute malnutrition situation among Rohingya refugee populations, with Very High levels in mega camps (15.4 percent) in Cox’s Bazar and Medium levels in registered camps (9.6 percent) (UNHCR, December 2023).

No recent nutrition data were available for Myanmar, but the Nutrition Cluster indicated a progressive deterioration of the situation amid worsening contributing factors (OCHA, January 2023).

Drivers of acute malnutrition

Inadequate practices The low proportion of children aged 6–23 months receiving a Minimum Acceptable Diet (MAD) was a very high risk factor associated with child acute malnutrition in Afghanistan and Pakistan. In Afghanistan, only 16 percent of children received an MAD, which is considered Critical, with lower levels in rural areas than urban (IPC AMN, January 2023)

Inadequate services In Afghanistan, the late 2021 suspension of direct international development assistance, which previously accounted for 75 percent of public expenditure, further weakened the already-fragile public health system.

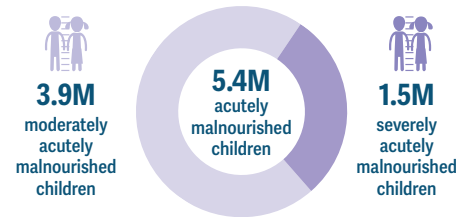
Most health facilities have poor infrastructure and there are fewer qualified healthcare workers due to emigration, restrictions on women’s movement and employment, and reduced funds to pay salaries and keep facilities open. Access to health services is also very limited by long distances to travel and the cost of transport, medicines and treatment in a context of severely eroded purchasing power (OCHA, December 2023).

The decree that women must travel accompanied by a male has limited access to what health services remain. As women cannot be treated by male health workers, the limitation on female employment is a further obstacle to them receiving treatment (UN Women, June 2022).

The expected early 2023 winter season deterioration in child nutrition in Afghanistan was partly linked to challenges accessing health and nutrition services to treat infectious disease outbreaks, including measles, acute watery diarrhoea and fever that are overwhelming the increasingly strained health system (IPC, January 2023).

Due to drought and water crisis, 79 percent of households do not have enough safe water for drinking, cooking and bathing (IPC Afghanistan, January 2023), and 28 percent of rural households reported using unimproved sanitation facilities in

FIG. 2.36 Number of children under 5 with acute malnutrition in Afghanistan and Pakistan, 2023



Sources: SMART (2021 and 2023); DHS 2021.

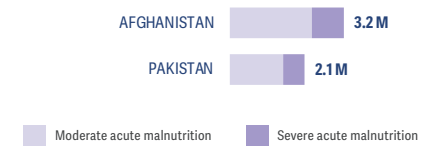
2023 with WASH needs expected to deteriorate in 2024 (OCHA, December 2023). Lack of supplies, including chlorine, fuel, spare parts and equipment, and repair capacity following the cessation of direct international development funding significantly hampered water supplies in major urban areas (OCHA, December 2023).

In Pakistan, flooding disrupted access to essential healthcare services, while also damaging sanitation and safe drinking water infrastructure, contributing to disease outbreaks (IPC AMN Pakistan, October 2023).

In the Rohingya refugee camps in Cox’s Bazar, only 45 percent of the waste is properly processed and latrines often overflow. Health services in the camps are under enormous pressure as they struggle to keep pace with the medical outcomes of dire living conditions, including frequent outbreaks of scabies, dengue fever and cholera (MSF, March 2023).

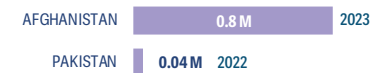
In Myanmar, conflict has led to the politicization of care and severely constrained the availability of healthcare services with a growing reliance on private facilities and local civil society organizations (OCHA, January 2023). The lack of affordability of private services is a major constraint, with marginalized minorities, rural areas and displaced populations facing the highest barriers to accessing services. Some 40 percent of IDPs reported impediments to accessing health services (OCHA, December 2023).

FIG. 2.37 Number of children under 5 years with acute malnutrition by country, 2023



Sources: Afghanistan IPC TWG, January 2022; Pakistan IPC TWG, October 2023.

FIG. 2.38 Number of PBW with acute malnutrition by country



Sources: Afghanistan IPC TWG, January 2022; Pakistan IPC TWG, October 2023.

Lack of food Acute food insecurity driven by inadequate quality and quantity of food continued to contribute to acute malnutrition, especially during the winter lean seasons in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

An escalation in fighting in Myanmar in the last quarter of 2023 created new access blockages that increased incidence of malnutrition (OCHA, December 2023).

WFP’s 33 percent General Food Assistance (GFA) ration reduction in 2023 for Rohingya refugees in Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh, made households 80 percent more likely to adopt food-based coping strategies and was expected to reduce caloric intake and put young children and PBW at increased risk of malnutrition and anaemia (MSF, March 2023).



Founded by the European Union, FAO and WFP in 2016, the Global Network Against Food Crises (GNAFC) is an alliance of humanitarian and development actors committed to addressing the root causes of food crises and finding lasting solutions to them, through shared analysis and knowledge, strengthened coordination in evidence-based responses and collective efforts across the humanitarian, development and peace (HDP) nexus.



The Food Security Information Network (FSIN) is a technical global platform for the exchange of expertise, knowledge and best practices on food security and nutrition analysis. Its purpose is to promote timely, independent and consensus-based information about food crises, while also highlighting and addressing critical data gaps. As a key partner of the GNAFC, FSIN coordinates the publication of the *Global Report on Food Crises*.