Pakistan

Acute food insecurity overview 2021

4.66M people were in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) in October 2021–March/April 2022

3.57M people in Crisis (IPC Phase 3)

1.09M people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4)

25% of the population analysed was in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above)

The analysis covers the rural populations of nine districts in Balochistan, seven newly merged districts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and nine districts in Sindh, accounting for 9% of the country’s total population of 215.3 million people.

Source: IPC, December 2021.

National population

63% Rural

37% Urban


1 Analyses covering Balochistan and Sindh provinces during October 2021 – March 2022 were merged with an analysis of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province during October 2021 – April 2022.

Acute food insecurity trends

In Balochistan, when comparing the same nine districts analysed in 2019 and 2021, the number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) decreased from 1.4 million (50 percent of the analysed population) to 0.9 million (25 percent) in October 2021–March 2022 (IPC, July 2019 and December 2021).

In Sindh, 2.3 million people were in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) in late 2021, an improvement since March–June 2021 (3.1 million). The percentage of the analysed population in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) in the six districts dropped from 53 percent in January–July 2019 to 23 percent in October 2021–March 2022, despite notable differences in areas/populations analysed (IPC, July 2019, April 2021 and December 2021).

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the situation has worsened since 2020. When comparing the same seven districts, the number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) increased from 1.1 million in November 2019–May 2020 and June–August 2020 to 1.5 million during the October 2021–April 2022 lean season (IPC, May 2020 and December 2021).

Source: Pakistan IPC Technical Working Group.

MAP 3.53

IPC acute food insecurity situation, October 2021–March/April 2022

Out of the 25 districts analysed in the three provinces, 22 were classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3): eight out of nine analysed in Balochistan, all seven in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and seven out of nine analysed in Sindh.


FIG 3.39

Numbers of people in IPC Phase 2 or above, 2021–2022

The analyses released in July 2019 are not included due to smaller population coverage and lack of comparability; analyses covering Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (conducted in January 2020 and October 2021) are not included as the periods covered differ from those of Sindh and Balochistan.

Source: Pakistan IPC Technical Working Group.