The vast majority (87 percent) of households in drought-affected districts in Sindh own livestock (NDS, January 2019). Since 2013, fodder production has been low and water availability limited, leading to livestock diseases, deaths and distress sales of animals (IPC, July 2019).

Heavy rains in February 2019 resulted in severe flash floods in six districts of Balochistan. Additional heavy rains in April caused floods in most districts of Balochistan and Sindh (IFRC, October 2019), while monsoon rains flooded several districts of Sindh in August (ECHO, August 2019).

**Economic shocks**

Half of the population of drought-affected districts are subsistence-level crop producers (NDS, January 2019), whose reliance on markets increases when they face lack of water for irrigation and decreased production of cereals and pulses (IPC, July 2019). Two-thirds were spending a high proportion of their total expenditures (65 percent or more) on food (NDS, January 2019), signifying their vulnerability if confronted with food price rises.

During the third quarter of 2019, all five WFP-monitored markets met the criteria to be categorized in crisis based on the Alert for Price Spikes (ALPS) indicator (WFP, October 2019). Between July 2018 and 2019 the market price of wheat and/or wheat flour increased by 9 percent, that of basmati rice by 12 percent and pulses by 13-40 percent (WFP, August 2019).

The food element of the Consumer Price Index increased by 2.4 percent between October and November 2019 and by 16.5 percent between November 2018 and 2019 (PBS, November 2019).

**NUTRITION OVERVIEW**

According to the 2018 National Nutrition Survey, child malnutrition in its different forms remains critical despite improvements in other socioeconomic indicators. Acute malnutrition rates measured by wasting were above ‘very high’ levels at 17.7 percent, up from 15 percent in 2011 and 8.6 percent in 1997. Rates were even higher in Balochistan and Sindh – the latter having the highest rates in Pakistan, affecting close to a quarter of children (NNS, June 2019).

According to the IPC acute malnutrition analysis, around 1.4 million children aged 6–59 months were in need of treatment for acute malnutrition in the 22 drought-affected districts from May–August 2019. In Balochistan’s 14 drought-affected districts almost 400 000 children were wasted, half of them severely so. In Sindh, over 1 million were wasted, 365 200 of them severely so. Sixteen of the 22 drought-affected districts were classified as Critical (IPC AMN Phase 4), while Panjgur district in Balochistan and Umerkot and Tharparkar in Sindh were classified as Extremely Critical (IPC AMN Phase 5) (IPC, November 2019).