# Pakistan (specific areas) ⚠️

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY | The situation improved since 2022, but the impacts of the unprecedented 2022 monsoon flooding persisted.

PEAK 2023 (NOVEMBER 2023–JANUARY 2024)

11.8M people or 32% of the analysed population were projected to face high levels of acute food insecurity in 43 of Pakistan's flood-affected rural districts in Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh provinces during the winter lean period. Of them 2.2M people were in Emergency (IPC Phase 4).

This marks an improvement in 16 analysed districts of Sindh and Balochistan provinces since the 2022 post-flooding peak of September–December 2022, with the prevalence of the analysed population facing high levels of acute food insecurity decreasing from 49 to 32 percent (IPC, October 2023).
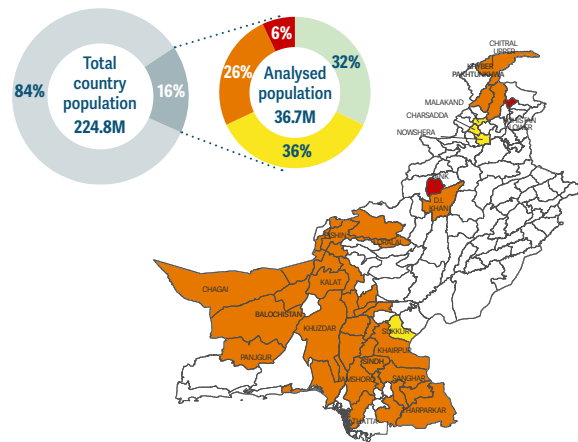
Source: Pakistan IPC TWG, October 2023.

DRIVERS OF THE CRISIS 2023–2024

Weather extremes Although national cereal production was forecast to be above average in 2023 (FAO-GIEWS, November 2023), districts affected by the 2022 floods in the Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh continued to face crop and livestock production challenges. Households reduced Rabi season plantings, which lowered 2023 harvests and reduced incomes, and food availability for own-consumption. Livestock deaths from diseases and/or shortage of fodder after the floods constrained livestock production, a major source of income and household consumption (IPC, October 2023).

Heavy monsoon rains and flash floods from June–September 2023 submerged extensive farmland, leading to localized crop losses (WFP, November 2023).

Economic shocks The high cost of living constrained vulnerable households' purchasing power. Food price inflation steadily increased from February 2022, reaching 49 percent in May 2023 (WFP, January 2024) mainly driven by tight market supplies and high costs of production and transport due to the increased cost of fuel imports (IPC, October 2023). Significant local currency depreciation since early 2022 made imports more expensive and aggravated high food prices (WFP, January 2024). The spillover effects from the 2022 flooding continued to put upward pressure on food prices and limit livelihood opportunities (IPC, October 2023).Pakistan's poverty rate rose from 34 percent in 2022 to 39 percent pushing an additional 12.5 million people below the poverty line (WB, September 2023).

DISPLACEMENT

2.4M forcibly displaced people by 2023
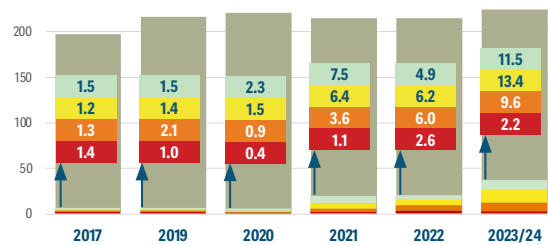
0.2M IDPs

2.1M refugees and asylum-seekers

Source:

Source: UNHCR Nowcasted estimate, December 2023.

Peak numbers of people (in millions) by phase of acute food insecurity, 2017–2024

Source: Pakistan IPC TWG.

A major food crisis Since 2017, Pakistan, a lower-middle-income country, experiences frequent shocks including flooding and drought, with the arid south-eastern and western areas of Sindh Province affected by successive crop failures since 2013. The geographical coverage of IPC analyses has varied but focused primarily on Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. Shocks included drought in Sindh in 2017–18, drought in Balochistan and Sindh in 2019 and 2021, and flooding in all three provinces in 2022.

1 - None/Minimal   2 - Stressed   3 - Crisis   4 - Emergency   5 - Catastrophe/Famine   Not analysed   Population analysed   Population not analysed   Total population

ACUTE MALNUTRITION

2.1M children under 5 years old with acute malnutrition in March 2023–January 2024

0.04M pregnant and breastfeeding women with acute malnutrition in 2023

1.5M MAM   0.6M SAM

Source: Pakistan IPC TWG, October 2023.

Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh provinces were facing an extremely concerning acute malnutrition situation with most analysed districts classified in Critical (IPC AMN Phase 4) between October 2023 and January 2024 (IPC AMN October 2023).

### DRIVERS OF ACUTE MALNUTRITION 2023–2024

Inadequate practices The low proportion of children aged 6–23 months receiving a minimum acceptable diet was a very high risk factor associated with child acute malnutrition in 21 of the 32 analysed districts.

Inadequate services Inadequate sanitation coverage, high rates of disease, such as fever, diarrhoea and acute respiratory infections, and poor health-seeking behaviours contributed to the high levels. The 2022 floods disrupted health and nutrition services and cut off access to safe water and sanitation facilities.

Lack of food Insufficient access to healthy food due to high food prices, especially during the winter lean season, was a major contributor. However, as the maps show, the acute malnutrition situation was worse than acute food insecurity in most of the 32 districts included in both analyses, suggesting the importance of other contributing factors.

PEAK 2023 (OCTOBER 2023–JANUARY 2024)
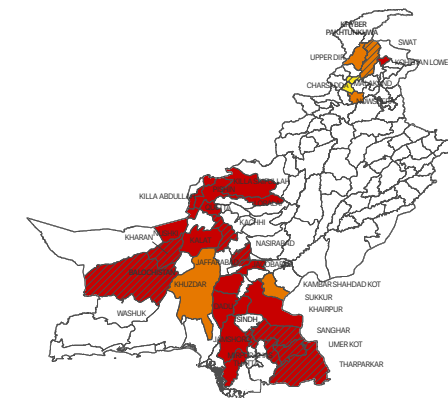
Source: Pakistan IPC TWG, October 2023.

1 - Acceptable   2 - Alert   3 - Serious   4 - Critical   5 - Extremely critical   Not analysed   MUAC