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)

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).

- **Economic cost** 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 aggregated 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).

- **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.

- **Displacement**

  - 0.2M IDPs
  - 2.1M forcibly displaced people by 2023

  Source: Pakistan IPC TWG, October 2023.

- **Inadequate services** Inadequate sanitation coverage, high rates of disease, such as fever, diarrhea and acute respiratory infections, and poor health-seeking behaviors 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** 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 numbers of people (in millions) by phase of acute food insecurity, 2017–2024

- **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.

Source: Pakistan IPC TWG.