



PAKISTAN - KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA

High food prices, COVID-19 and poor rains drive food insecurity in the seven newly-merged districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY ANALYSIS

October 2021 - June 2022

Issued in December 2021

CURRENT OCTOBER 2021–APRIL 2022		PROJECTED MAY-JUNE 2022		
1.5M (30% of the rural population analysed in 7 rural districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa) People facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) IN NEED OF URGENT ACTION	Phase 5	0 People in Catastrophe	Phase 5	0 People in Catastrophe
	Phase 4	286,000 People in Emergency	Phase 4	286,000 People in Emergency
	Phase 3	1,186,000 People in Crisis	Phase 3	1,283,000 People in Crisis
	Phase 2	1,762,000 People in Stress	Phase 2	1,715,000 People in Stress
	Phase 1	1,735,000 People in food security	Phase 1	1,685,000 People in food security
1.6M (32% of the rural population analysed in 7 rural districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa) People facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) IN NEED OF URGENT ACTION	Phase 5	0 People in Catastrophe	Phase 5	0 People in Catastrophe
	Phase 4	286,000 People in Emergency	Phase 4	286,000 People in Emergency
	Phase 3	1,186,000 People in Crisis	Phase 3	1,283,000 People in Crisis
	Phase 2	1,762,000 People in Stress	Phase 2	1,715,000 People in Stress
	Phase 1	1,735,000 People in food security	Phase 1	1,685,000 People in food security

Overview

Around 1.5 million people (30 percent of the rural population analyzed) are estimated to be in high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) in the current period (October 2021-April 2022), corresponding to the planting/lean season. These include around 1.2 million people (24 percent of the rural population) in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) and 0.3 million people (6 percent of the rural population) in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) across the seven districts analyzed. All districts, except South Waziristan, have at least 5 percent of their population in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency), and between 20-50 percent in IPC Phase 3 or above. Urgent action is therefore required to protect livelihoods and reduce food consumption gaps of people in Crisis and Emergency. All seven analyzed districts (Bajaur, Khyber, Kurram, Mohmand, North Waziristan, Orakzai and South Waziristan) are classified in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) during the current period (Oct 2021-April 2022).

The analysis of the projection period (May-June 2022), corresponding to the harvest season of winter crops and the planting season of summer crops, indicates that the number of people in IPC Phase 3 or above is expected to increase slightly from 1.5 million to 1.6 million (32 percent of the rural population). This increase is attributed primarily to the impact of the expected rise in prices, which is expected to offset the benefits of the start of the winter harvest during this period. Area phase classification of all seven analyzed districts does not change and they all remain classified in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis).

The analyzed districts experienced multiple shocks, including inadequate rainfall, conflict/displacement, an increase in food prices, and COVID-19 impacts, which resulted in poor food security outcomes for the current period. Even though food stocks and livelihood opportunities are likely to improve, food access will be challenging because of continuously increasing food commodity prices throughout the year. Over the last decade, people in most of the seven analyzed districts have dealt with terrorism and a poor security situation that has resulted in damage to infrastructure and markets, low food and livestock production and poor food consumption. The food security situation was further exacerbated in 2020-21 because of the COVID-19 pandemic and high fuel and food prices.

Key Drivers



High food prices

High food prices of commodities and high inflation lead to low purchasing power of households, particularly for low income groups e.g., small farmers, wage laborers, households relying on petty trade, etc.



COVID-19

The pandemic made an impact on income and purchasing power due to limited income opportunities in agriculture and non-agriculture sectors, resulting in employment loss as well.



Inadequate rainfall

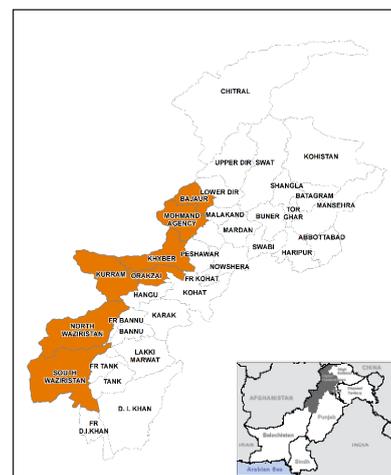
Most of the districts fall under rain-fed regions with a dependency on rainfall and did not receive adequate rainfall during 2021. Due to the deficiency of monsoon and pre-monsoon rainfall, farmers experienced a reduction in crop and livestock production.



Conflict and displacement

Prolonged conflict and displacement over several years has affected livelihoods. Remote areas are still deprived of basic facilities and people are not able to revive their livelihoods.

October 2021 - April 2022



May - June 2022

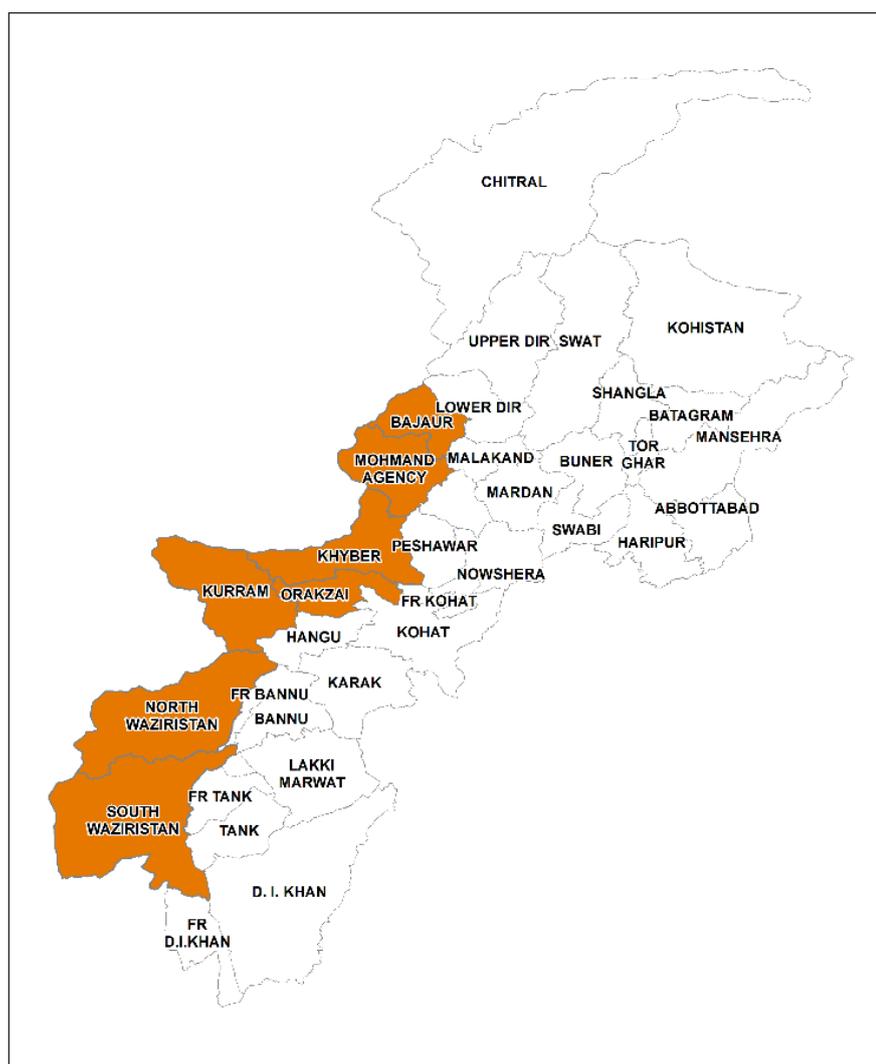


Key for the Map IPC Acute Food Insecurity Phase Classification

(mapped Phase represents highest severity affecting at least 20% of the population)

 1 - Minimal	 5 - Famine
 2 - Stressed	 Areas not analysed
 3 - Crisis	Evidence Level
 4 - Emergency	** Medium

CURRENT IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY FOR OCTOBER 2021 - APRIL 2022



Key for the Map

IPC Acute Food Insecurity Phase Classification

(mapped Phase represents highest severity affecting at least 20% of the population)



Evidence Level

** - Medium

Population Table for the current period (October 2021 - April 2022)

District / Tribal Sub-Division	Total population	Phase 1		Phase 2		Phase 3		Phase 4		Phase 5		Area Phase	Phase 3+	
		#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%		#people	%
Bajaur	1,242,810	497,124	40	434,984	35	248,562	20	62,141	5	0	0	3	310,703	25
Khyber	1,006,723	503,362	50	302,017	30	151,008	15	50,336	5	0	0	3	201,344	20
Kurram	617,266	216,043	35	246,906	40	123,453	20	30,863	5	0	0	3	154,316	25
Mohmand	511,356	178,975	35	153,407	30	153,407	30	25,568	5	0	0	3	178,975	35
North Waziristan	585,185	175,556	30	234,074	40	146,296	25	29,259	5	0	0	3	175,555	30
Orakzai	261,122	52,224	20	130,561	50	65,281	25	13,056	5	0	0	3	78,337	30
South Waziristan	744,145	111,622	15	260,451	35	297,658	40	74,415	10	0	0	3	372,073	50
Total	4,968,607	1,734,905	35	1,762,399	35	1,185,665	24	285,638	6	0	0		1,471,303	30

Note: A population in Phase 3+ does not necessarily reflect the full population in need of urgent action. This is because some households may be in Phase 2 or even 1 but only because of receipt of assistance, and as a result they may be in need of continued action. This IPC classification met the Medium evidence level (**). IPC analyses produce estimates of populations by IPC Phase at area level. Marginal inconsistencies that may arise in the overall percentages of totals and grand totals are attributable to rounding.



CURRENT SITUATION OVERVIEW OCTOBER 2021 - APRIL 2022

Vulnerability and Shocks

This IPC analysis focuses on the rural population of seven newly-merged districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province of Pakistan namely, Bajaur, Khyber, Kurram, Mohmand, North Waziristan, Orakzai and South Waziristan. Geographically, all the districts border Afghanistan, except Orakzai. Overall, around 1.2 million people are in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) and around 0.3 million people are in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency). Furthermore, 1.8 million people are in IPC Phase 2 (Stressed). All seven districts analyzed are classified in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis). Mohmand, North Waziristan, Orakzai and South Waziristan have more than 30 percent of their population in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) or above, while Bajaur, Khyber and Kurram have 20-25 percent of the population in IPC Phase 3 or above.

Overall, 36 percent of the surveyed households reported having agriculture and livestock-based activities as a primary source of livelihood, 24 percent reported being employed in non-agriculture wage labor, 29 percent reported being self-employed/employed/having a business in the non-agriculture sector and 4 percent reported having other sources (e.g. pension allowance, charity/zakat/gifts, and home-based work like handicrafts).

The main shocks affecting the area have been high food and fuel prices, conflict and COVID-19, which are affecting access to food and purchasing power. The lack of rain in the Kharif season of 2021 has also impacted food production and pasture conditions.

Multiple shocks including sickness or death of a household member/breadwinner, lost employment or working opportunities, increased food and fuel prices, reduced rainfall and continued conflict were reported by surveyed households in a household assessment conducted in July/August 2021¹. Overall, 81 percent of the surveyed households reported a reduction in their income due to COVID-19 related lockdown/restrictions. Among them, 37 percent of households reported that their income had been severely affected, and 46 percent reported their household livelihood/income was moderately affected. Furthermore, half (51 percent) of the surveyed households reported that they were affected by movement restrictions for goods which resulted in impeding or delaying their ability to transport goods to the market, 37 percent reported being affected by a ban on social gatherings and 20 percent were affected by closure of food markets.

Availability

Agriculture is one of the most important sources of livelihood for rural households in the analyzed districts. Due to limited availability of water, small landholdings and dependence on rainfall, most farmers are engaged in small-scale subsistence-level crop production. The distribution of agricultural land ownership shows that 24 percent own up to one acre of land, 46 percent own between one and three acres, 14 percent own between three and five acres, 12 percent own more than five acres of agricultural land, while only 3 percent of households do not own any agricultural land. In the case of land cultivation in the Rabi 2020-21 season, 23 percent of households cultivated up to one acre of land, 49 percent cultivated between one and three acres, 14 percent between three and five acres, 10 percent more than five acres, and 5 percent did not cultivate any land. Due to small landholdings and subsistence-level crop production, on average, the households' production of the 2020-21 Rabi season's cereals was sufficient for household consumption for just five months. This makes households more dependent on markets for their food needs. Although food is generally available in the markets, the purchasing power of households is considerably low because of low income as well as high food and fuel prices. In addition, the distance to food markets is substantial, creating adverse impacts on access to food.

The farming households also reported various difficulties with crop production in the 2020-21 Rabi season, such as plant diseases, lack of access to irrigation/rain water, lack of access to fertilizer (not available in markets or prices too high), lack of access to insecticides, crop loss or damage, and lack of access to enough seeds (not available on markets or prices too high). These households also reported difficulties in selling their crop produce due to COVID-19 related measures such as higher costs of transportation reported by 63 percent, agriculture produce prices being too low by 40 percent, damage and losses due to delay or inability to physically access markets by 34 percent, usual traders or local customers not buying as much as usual by 27 percent, and difficulty in processing product (lack of processing inputs/equipment/etc.) reported by 15 percent of farming households.

The main cereal crops grown in the focused areas are: wheat (the major cereal crop grown in all areas in winter/Rabi season), barley (cultivated mainly in Orakzai Kurram and South Waziristan district), maize (grown in all areas), and rice (grown mainly in the districts of Mohmand, South Waziristan, Kurram and Orakzai). Pulses are mostly grown in Orakzai, North Waziristan, Mohmand, Bajaur and Kurram districts, while vegetables are mostly grown in South Waziristan, Orakzai

¹ The household assessment was conducted by FAO in 25 districts of Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in collaboration with WFP and the Food Security and Agriculture Working Group (FSAWG) and the Provincial Disaster Management Authorities of Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in July/August 2021. This assessment was conducted as part of FAO's global project to monitor the agricultural livelihoods, food supply and food security in the context of the COVID-19 situation and other shocks in Pakistan.



and Kurram districts. Different varieties of fruits are also grown in these areas. Official data from the Crop Reporting Services (CRS) of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Agriculture Department shows that the area cultivated for wheat (in hectares) has increased by 23 percent, whereas wheat production (in tonnes) increased by 34 percent in the analyzed districts during the past five years. Out of seven districts analyzed, Mohmand, South Waziristan, North Waziristan and Kurram have relatively more production of wheat compared to other districts. Importantly, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, including the analyzed districts, relies on the import of wheat from the neighboring province (Punjab) to meet its consumption needs.

Around one-third of farming households compared to a normal year reported a reduction in the production of the main crop of the 2020-21 Rabi season due to multiple shocks. Agricultural support required by households to improve crop and livestock production in the next three to six months include good quality seeds, fertilizer, cash assistance, veterinary services, pesticides, loans, access to irrigation water, tools, animal feed, veterinary inputs, etc.

Livestock is one of the core assets for rural households in the analyzed areas and kept as a source of livelihood as well as for meeting household consumption needs. Nearly all households (97 percent) own livestock, and cattle (cows/buffalos), goats and poultry are the three most owned livestock, owned by 82 percent, 33 percent and 25 percent of livestock holders respectively. Around one-fourth (27 percent) of livestock holders reported death of their main livestock during the six months preceding the household assessment, two-fifths reported death of second main livestock, whereas around half (47 percent) reported death of third main livestock². The main reasons for death of livestock reported by livestock holders³ are livestock diseases, limited availability of drinking water for animals and shortage of fodder/feed. Livestock holders also reported sale of their livestock during the past six months: the main livestock was sold by 27 percent of livestock holders, second by 30 percent and third by 11 percent. Among the households that sold livestock, 16 percent reported selling due to distress in order to meet their food and other financial needs, while 9 percent sold animals due to the poor health of the animal and 72 percent of households sold livestock as part of their regular livelihood.

According to the Seasonal Agro-Climate Outlook for the 1st of October 2021-30th April 2022, issued by the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), Upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (where Bajaur, Mohmand and Khyber are located) is expected to experience several consecutive light to moderate rain spells during the months of January till April, and one to two light rainfall spells till December. From December till March, crops are mainly in vegetative and reproductive stages and the expected rains may benefit the crops, while during April, the wheat crop is at maturity stages, and the rainfall may affect the final crop yield. In case of Lower Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (where Orakzai, Kurram, North Waziristan and South Waziristan are located), several light to moderate rainfall spells (with few downpours) should occur during the specified periods. The crops would be in maturity stages during March and may be harvested at the end April, and the consecutive rainy days may prolong the crop lifecycle as well as the harvesting activities.

Access

Pakistan is going through high levels of inflation, including food inflation, which is most likely to have adverse impacts on the purchasing power of the population and their access to food, particularly poor and middle-income groups. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation data released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) in September 2021 shows that CPI inflation (general) in Pakistan increased by 9 percent on a year-over-year basis in September 2021. Food prices went up by 10.8 percent for urban consumers and 9.1 percent for rural consumers, on a year-over-year basis in September 2021. In particular, prices of essential food items such as wheat flour, rice, pulses, cooking oil and vegetables have spiked since January 2021. In the two major markets surrounding the analyzed districts, on average, the price of wheat flour rose by 20 percent since January 2021, rice by 16 percent, sugar by 18 percent, cooking oil / vegetable ghee by 29 percent, masoor pulse by 17 percent, mash pulse by 8 percent, gram pulse by 5 percent, moong pulse by 25 percent, beef by 23 percent, mutton by 20 percent, milk by 2 percent, and chicken by 19 percent.

The inadequate production of cereals at household level causes dependency on markets for food needs. Although food is generally available in the markets, the purchasing power of households is considerably low, and the distance to food markets is relatively far, with 50 percent of households travelling more than 30 minutes to reach the food market. Around 97 percent of the surveyed households reported that they faced problems reaching the market such as damaged roads, high cost of transportation, long distance to markets, unavailability of transport and security issues.

Households have also contracted new debts to meet basic household needs during the past three months preceding the assessment. Overall, around three-fourths (71 percent) of households accumulated new debts, mainly to: cover food needs, medical expenses, purchase of livestock/agricultural inputs, businesses and contribution to ceremonies. Considering already limited household incomes, people are likely to remain in a debt cycle for some time, as their monthly income is not enough to cover debt or payments.

² Death of one or more main, second or third main livestock during the past six month.

³ Livestock holders who reported death of one or more livestock during the past six months.



Utilization

Across the analyzed districts around 84 percent of households reported access to improved sources of water, however, the quality of water was not assessed in the survey. Seventy-seven percent of households easily access water from the main sources of drinking water. Around 61 percent of households reported they usually use flush toilets; 22 percent of households use a dry pit latrine; seven percent use an open pit, two percent use a communal latrine and eight percent of households reported open field defecation.

In case of housing status of households, 65 percent live in non-cemented (Kaccha) houses, followed by 27 percent living in semi-cemented homes (Semi Pakka), and eight percent in cemented (Pakka) houses.

The limiting factors for the key dimensions of food security (availability, access and utilization) vary across the analyzed districts. Overall food availability is considered a 'major' limiting factor for Orakzai and South Waziristan districts. Access is considered a 'major' limiting factor for six districts: Bajuar, Khyber, Mohmand, North Waziristan, Orakzai and South Waziristan. The major limiting factors in terms of accessibility are attributed to a number of factors such as: low income, higher share of food expenditure in total household expenditure, high debt contracted for food needs and medical expenses, very limited sufficiency of cereal crops, high cost of transportation, long distance to markets, reduction in income and rising food prices. Similarly, utilization is considered a 'minor' limiting factor for all analyzed districts except Orakzai, where it is considered "not a limiting factor".

Humanitarian Food Assistance

In some districts, United Nations, international and local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) provided support to help improve the livelihoods and food security situation of vulnerable households in 2021 and have also planned some support in terms of food assistance, cash assistance, and crop and livestock inputs for 2022. NGOs such as Care International, the Foundation for Rural Development (FRD), and Secours Islamique France (SIF) provided food assistance to 26,973 people in Khyber and Orakzai; cash assistance to 200,662 people in Kurram, Mohmand and Orakzai; and crop and livestock inputs to 4,900 and 9,800 people respectively in North Waziristan district.

WFP, in collaboration with SIF, provided cash assistance to 4,245 people in Orakzai and to 7,242 people in collaboration with FRD in Kurram and Mohmand.

FAO provided livelihood-related support in the form of crop and livestock input assistance to 95,455 and 3,317 people respectively in all seven analysed districts in 2021.

The Outcome Indicators

Food Consumption Score: Overall, around one-third (35 percent) of households have an 'acceptable' food consumption, nearly three-fifths of households (57%) have a 'borderline' food consumption and one-tenth (8 percent) have a 'poor' food consumption.

The Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS): Overall, around three-fourths (76 percent) of households consumed five or more food groups during the 24 hour reference period, two-fifths (20 percent) consumed between three and four food groups, while only 4 percent consumed two or less food groups.

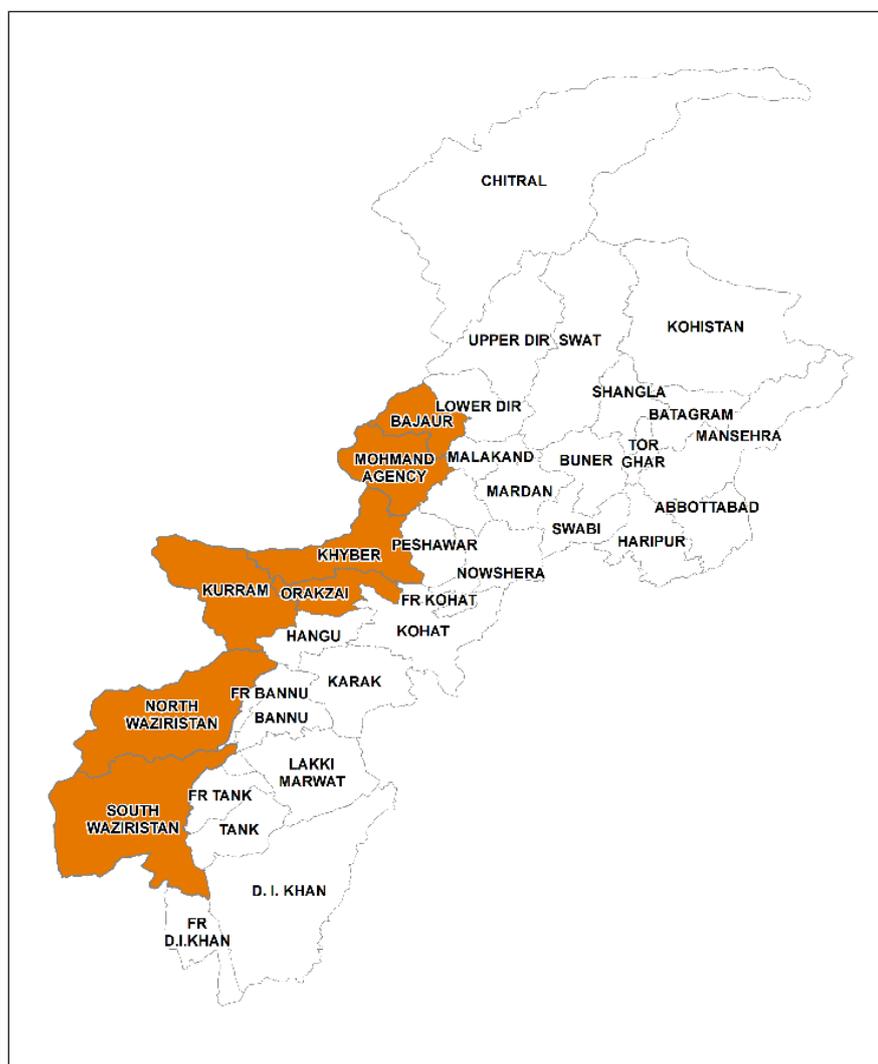
Reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI): Overall, 17 percent of the households had a score greater than 19, 47 percent had a score of 4-18, whereas 37 percent had a score of 0-3. Households with an rCSI score of 4-18 and 19+ indicates that food gaps exist in these areas and households are adopting short-term coping strategies to meet their food needs.

The prevalence of Moderate or Severe food insecurity based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) is also an important indicator to assess people's experience of food insecurity. Overall, the majority (67 percent) of households had a FIES score of less than 0.58, which is indicative of IPC Phase 1 (no Acute Food Insecurity), 18 percent had a FIES score between -0.58 and 0.36, indicative of IPC Phase 2 (Stressed), whereas 15 percent had a FIES score of more than 0.36 which is indicative of IPC Phases 3 or above.

The households also resorted to livelihood-based coping strategies to meet their food needs. Overall, five percent of households adopted 'emergency' livelihood coping strategies, 41 percent adopted 'crisis' coping strategies, 33 percent adopted 'stress' coping strategies, whereas 21 percent households did not adopt any coping strategy.



PROJECTED IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY FOR MAY - JUNE 2022



Key for the Map

IPC Acute Food Insecurity Phase Classification

(mapped Phase represents highest severity affecting at least 20% of the population)

- 1 - Minimal
- 2 - Stressed
- 3 - Crisis
- 4 - Emergency
- 5 - Famine
- Areas not analysed

Evidence Level

** - Medium

Population Table for the projection period (May - June 2022)

District / Tribal Sub-Division	Total population	Phase 1		Phase 2		Phase 3		Phase 4		Phase 5		Area Phase	Phase 3+	
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Total	4,968,607	1,684,569	34	1,715,406	35	1,282,995	26	285,638	6	0	0		1,568,633	32

Note: A population in Phase 3+ does not necessarily reflect the full population in need of urgent action. This is because some households may be in Phase 2 or even 1 but only because of receipt of assistance, and as a result they may be in need of continued action. This IPC classification met the Medium evidence level (**). IPC analyses produce estimates of populations by IPC Phase at area level. Marginal inconsistencies that may arise in the overall percentages of totals and grand totals are attributable to rounding.



PROJECTED SITUATION OVERVIEW MAY - JUNE 2022

During the projection analysis period (May to June 2022), corresponding to the harvest season of Rabi (Winter) crops and sowing season of Kharif (Summer) crops, the total population facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) is expected to increase to 1.57 million from 1.47 million (32 percent of the analysed population). This shows a seven percent increase of people facing high levels of acute food insecurity from the current to the projection period. All seven districts will remain in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis). The slight increase in numbers and severity is expected particularly in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) because of the expected rise in food prices and an influx of Afghan refugees in the bordering districts.

Harvesting in the analyzed districts starts from late April and continues in May and June in some areas. The food stocks should improve slightly during this period, though they may not be sufficient for household consumption for a longer period.

Religious festivals and events, such as Ramazan and Eid, will be celebrated and observed near the end of the current analysis period and during the projection period. As a result, food consumption is expected to increase slightly due to increased charities and remittances. Family members are also expected to send remittances to their families during these religious festivals, though not very substantial amounts, which gives households a temporary spike in income.

The COVID-19 situation is improving and with an increase in vaccination coverage, no further restrictions are expected during the projection period.

Although the overall security situation is stable in most districts, a few experienced violence and insecurity. Keeping in mind the geographic situation and the history, any change in the security situation cannot be ruled out, which may result in a curfew-like situation and restriction of movement in and out of the districts.

The analyzed areas are located in mountainous regions and do not receive adequate rainfall during the monsoon season (usually from July-September), resulting in low production of cereals and vegetables. Food access is very much dependent on markets where an increasing trend of high food prices, electricity and fuel costs will continue to affect vulnerable populations. These high food prices are the primary factor exacerbating the high levels of food insecurity. The rising food price trends are further aggravated by increasing fuel prices. Considering current inflation trends and the economic situation, factors such as rising food prices, high fuel and electricity costs might place further stress on the food security of vulnerable households.

The current situation in Afghanistan is another factor that cannot be ruled out as except Orakzai, all districts are bordering Afghanistan. Formal and informal trade usually takes place between Pakistan and Afghanistan through Torkham, Ghulam Khan, Angoor Adda and a porous border. Thus, after the closure and fencing of the border, the livelihoods of these communities have been affected. Secondly, the emerging Afghan situation might also push refugees to these areas. According to some preliminary estimates, there is a likelihood of up to 300,000 fresh refugees arriving in Pakistan if the situation in Afghanistan remains the same or worsens. This will increase pressure on domestic resources affecting the food security situation.

The ongoing support for conflict-affected communities by Pakistan's government, FAO, WFP and NGOs will continue in 2022. FAO will provide crop inputs to 11,267 people and livestock inputs to 4,398 people to protect livestock from diseases, as well as training support on crop production, livestock maintenance, kitchen gardening and horticulture throughout 2022. WFP has also planned food relief assistance in the form of food assistance to 26,150 beneficiaries and cash assistance to 14,933 beneficiaries in 2022.

Based on the above-mentioned factors, it is expected that slightly more opportunities for agriculture and non-agriculture based livelihoods and market-related activities will arise throughout the projection period. That suggests more income, higher food consumption and lower food insecurity during May-June 2022. However, rising general inflation as well as food inflation are likely to offset the expected positive effects of above-mentioned factors as rising prices are expected to reduce the purchasing power and income of already vulnerable households in the area. Furthermore, household production of wheat, other cereals and pulses are not expected to meet sufficient levels to ensure adequate household consumption. Therefore, the majority of households are likely to remain dependent on markets to access food during the projected period. Livestock diseases such as Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), which also occurred during late 2020 and early 2021, are likely to resurface during the projection period and have adverse impacts on the health, production and sale of livestock.

Based on all the factors mentioned above, although a change in the phase classification from the current period (October 2021-April 2022) to the projected period (May-June 2022) is not expected, it is likely that there will be a slight increase in number of people (97,330 or about seven percent), facing IPC Phase 3 or above during the projection period.

Key Assumptions

Price levels are expected to increase due to economic factors and increasing fuel prices.

Low purchasing power is expected to continue for rural households because of the lingering effect of high food and fuel prices.

Any new influx of refugees will directly impact the existing resources of local communities in districts bordering with Afghanistan.

Border closure would seriously affect the livelihoods of traders and wage workers in areas neighboring Afghanistan.

Food stocks are expected to improve slightly because of the harvest during the projection period, however, it may not be sufficient to meet food needs due to subsistence-level crop production in the analyzed areas.

Livelihood opportunities for farming households are expected to increase slightly due to planting and/or harvesting of crops during projection period.

Charity and remittances are expected to increase during Ramazan and Eid ul Fitar which may increase food consumption.

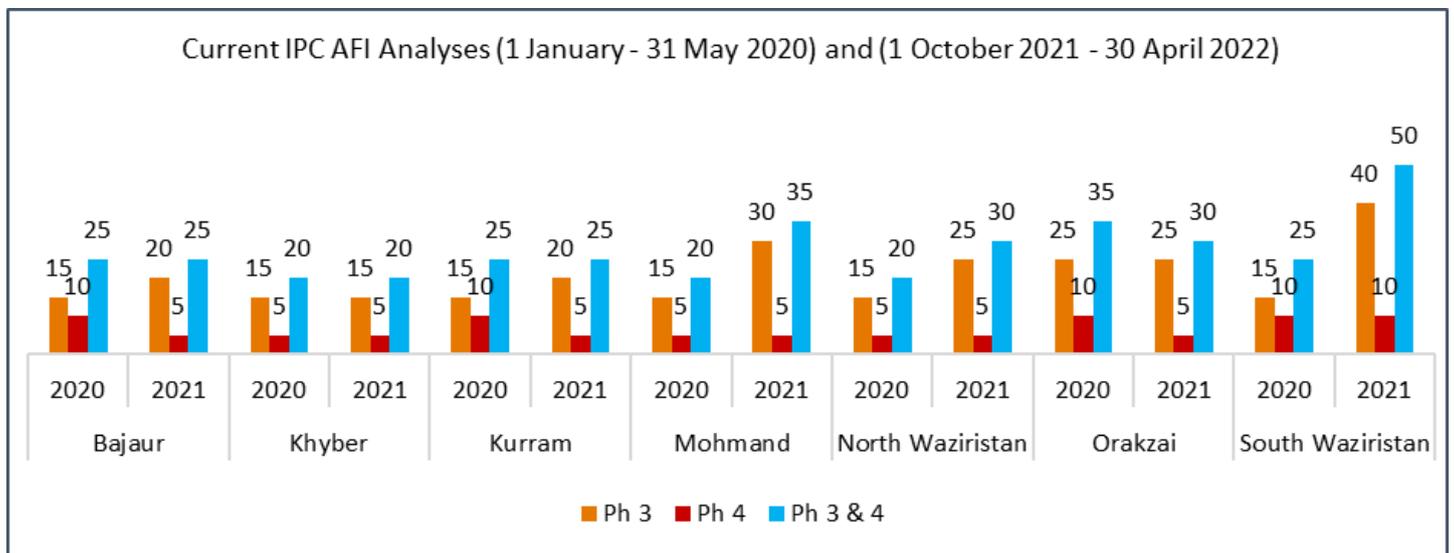
The COVID-19 situation has improved and no further lock downs or restrictions are expected.



COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY (AFI) ANALYSES

The analysed districts are among the most remote, least developed and most food insecure areas of Pakistan. The comparison of the 2021 AFI analysis with the 2020 AFI analysis shows that because of persistent conflict/displacement, a substantial proportion of the rural population was in IPC Phase 3 and 4 in both the current and projected periods. The below graphs show that high food insecurity still prevails in the analysed rural districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and the situation has not improved compared to the 2020 analysis for populations in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) in the Khyber and Orakzai districts, while it has slightly improved for the populations in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) for the Bajaur, Kurram and Orakzai districts. Overall, compared to the 2020 current period analysis, the food insecurity situation (proportion of population in IPC Phase 3 and 4) has further deteriorated in Mohmand, North Waziristan and South Waziristan in 2021, improved in Orakzai, whereas it remained the same in Bajaur, Khyber and Kurram districts. All seven analyzed districts were/are classified in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) during the current period, both in the 2020 and 2021 analysis. The comparison of the projection analysis is not reported here because of different periods/seasons of the projection analysis in 2020 and 2021.

Despite initiatives by government and non-government organizations, the food security situation has not changed considerably due to high prices of essential food and non-food items, border closures with Afghanistan and limited economic opportunities in the analyzed areas.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

Response Priorities

This analysis shows a worsened food insecurity situation in the analyzed districts due to exposure to multiple shocks experienced during 2021. In response to the Crisis and Emergency acute food insecurity situation in the analyzed districts, the following immediate response actions are suggested in order to help save lives and livelihoods:

- Improve access to food through appropriate modalities such as cash and voucher assistance to reduce food consumption gaps and to protect asset depletion for the populations classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and Crisis (IPC Phase 3).
- Timely provision of quality seeds for high-yielding crops and vegetables, and toolkits, especially to subsistence-level farmers who experienced conflict and displacement.
- Training on climate-smart crop and fodder production, including guidance on kitchen gardening.
- Scale-up livestock protection and management interventions such as vaccination campaigns to prevent prevailing diseases, access to multi-nutritional feed and pastures to help in preventing distress sales of livestock and seeding of rangelands to produce quality fodder. Livestock programmes should target vulnerable households and women farmers.
- Provision of livestock/poultry to vulnerable households.
- Provision and rehabilitation of animal shelters for needy and vulnerable populations.
- Construction and rehabilitation of water infrastructure for agriculture and livestock such as tube-wells, water channels and reservoirs for better conservation and management. Rainwater harvesting structures in particular should be constructed to increase water availability for crops.
- On-farm water conservation technologies and practices promoted for increased water use efficiency.
- Introduction of livelihood diversification activities for local communities to increase income generation and employment opportunities. Support local communities for alternate business/employment opportunities to increase income generation for those who are involved in border trade and lost their businesses due to border closure.
- Inclusion of women in economic growth activities (agriculture and non-agriculture) to improve their livelihoods.
- Capacity-building of communities on processing and preservation of seasonal produce to enable them to earn higher income from processed fruits and vegetables and meet food requirements in the lean seasons.

Situation monitoring and update

- The food security situation in the analysed areas needs to be monitored regularly due to the high levels of acute food insecurity and malnutrition, in addition to the high incidences of poverty and vulnerability of households.
- If macroeconomic trends persist in Pakistan with rising inflation, there could be more adverse effects on the food security situation in the coming months. Projections may also be revised to reflect those changes if necessary.
- It is recommended to conduct regular or seasonal household food security and livelihood assessments/surveys and IPC Acute Food Insecurity analyses to monitor the food security situation in these areas and other vulnerable districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to inform policymakers on the food security situation. To do this, improved mechanisms for regular data collection need to be put in place.

Risk Factors to Monitor

- Prices of essential food items: The increasing price of essential food and non-food items is a major risk to the food security of households. It is expected to erode their purchasing power and needs to be monitored.
- Afghan situation: The current situation in Afghanistan may stimulate cross-border displacement. In the past, districts have acted as hosts for Afghan refugees. This displacement is expected to put enormous pressure on local market structures, the labour market, and natural resources, and can negatively affect food security dimensions. Informal small-scale influx is already being reported in a few areas, unofficially, and that can also raise security concerns.
- Security situation: The security situation has affected the lives and livelihoods of communities as a result of curfews and restrictions on movement. The sectarian aspect of the security situation is a very important factor that needs to be monitored as it has direct implications on livelihoods and food security.
- Livestock diseases: Livestock diseases such as a Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) outbreak during late 2020 and early 2021 are likely to resurface in the same period.
- Border fencing & closure: Livelihood opportunities have reduced for those engaged in informal trade due to the closure of the border. The border fencing has resulted in the stoppage of informal trade and access to markets at both sides of the border. The community at the border now has to travel long distances to reach the market, which has increased their food cost and adversely affects their livelihoods. This factor needs to be monitored in the projected period as the community will still be in the lean season at the start of this period.



PROCESS, METHODOLOGY AND LIMITATIONS

Process and Methodology

The IPC Acute Food Insecurity analysis was conducted for two time periods: the current period (October 2021-April 2022) analysis was mainly based on data from a household assessment conducted in July/August 2021⁴ along with other secondary information sources. The projected period (May-June 2022) analysis was based on data from the household assessment, other secondary information sources and forward-looking assumptions on rainfall, food prices, crop harvests, the COVID-19 situation and livelihood opportunities. The analysis covered the seven districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, namely: Bajaur, Khyber, Kurram, Mohmand, North Waziristan, Orakzai and South Waziristan.

A joint training and analysis workshop was held from 18-23 October 2021 in Islamabad, Pakistan. The workshop was attended by officials/staff of Federal and Provincial government departments, UN organizations, and international and local NGOs. This analysis has been conducted in close collaboration with IPC stakeholders at national and provincial levels, including the Ministry of National Food Security and Research (MNFSR), the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination (MNHR&C), the Pakistan Agriculture Research Council (PARC), the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives (MPD&SI), the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), the Bureau of Statistics of Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the Provincial Disaster Management Authorities (PDMAs) of Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the Agriculture and Livestock Departments of Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, UN Organizations (FAO, WFP, UNICEF), and international and national NGOs (including: Welthungerhilfe, Concern Worldwide, ACTED, Care International, Action Against Hunger, Secours Islamique France (SIF), Islamic Relief (IR), HANDS, the Tameer-e-Khalaq Foundation (TKF), the Fast Rural Development Program (FRDP), the Taraqee Foundation (TF), the Foundation For Rural Development (FRD), and the Balochistan Rural Support Programme (BRSP). The active participation and support of officials/staff from the above ministries/departments/organizations is highly acknowledged.

The data used in the analysis was organized according to the IPC analytical framework and included data on food security contributing factors and outcome indicators. The data was collected from multiple sources listed below and the analysis was conducted in ISS.

Sources

Data sources used for this analysis included:

- The Household Assessment carried out in 25 districts of Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in July/August 2021⁵. The assessment provided information on a wide range of indicators, both outcome and contributing factors. The outcome indicators included in the analysis are the Food Consumption Score (FCS), the Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS), the Household Hunger Score (HHS), the reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI), Livelihood Coping Strategies and the Prevalence of Moderate and Severe Food Insecurity based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES);
- Crop production data from the CRS, Agriculture Department, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa;
- Food prices data from PBS;
- Population data from Bureau of Statistics, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa;
- Food and cash assistance, agriculture support, livelihood support/other distribution from WFP, FAO, INGOs and NGOs;
- Precipitation/rainfall and Seasonal Agro-Climatology Outlook from PMD.

The Evidence Level of this analysis is Medium.**

Limitations of the Analysis and Recommendation for Future Analyses

- A limited amount of evidence informing the projection was available, with weather forecasts still quite probabilistic;
- Humanitarian Food Assistance (HFA) data was not available in the format allowing to extrapolate Kilo-calorie coverage;
- The Household Hunger Score (HHS) module in the household assessment used slightly different response codes, therefore it was assigned a lower reliability score and was used as an indirect outcome indicator;
- The household assessment and the IPC analysis have covered only the rural areas of seven districts. As such, the results should not be extrapolated or generalized as representative of the whole population in the area, but only of rural households.

⁴ The household assessment was conducted by FAO in 25 districts of Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in collaboration with WFP and the Food Security and Agriculture Working Group (FSAWG) and the Provincial Disaster Management Authorities of Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in July/August 2021. This assessment was conducted as part of FAO's global project to monitor agricultural livelihoods, food supply and food security in the context of the COVID-19 situation and other shocks in Pakistan.

⁵ See above footnote 4.



Acknowledgements

The IPC training was facilitated by Abdul Majid (IPC Regional Coordinator for Asia and NANE Region) and co-facilitated by Raja Ajmal Jahangeer and Asifa Ghani (FAO), Aman ur Rehman Khan (WFP), Kazim Jafri (Sindh Bureau of Statistics), Amir Ali (UNICEF) and Shafqat Ullah (Concern Worldwide), Akbar Khan (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Bureau of Statistics), Fahim Khan (Foundation for Rural Development) and Tauseef Khan (SIF Pakistan). The support of Feroz Ahmed (IPC Regional Trainer) and Duaa Sayed (IPC Food Security Analyst) for data quality review, uploading evidences in ISS, revision of analysis areas in ISS and for participating in the plenary discussion is highly appreciated. Support of Muhammad Afzal (FAO) for uploading data in ISS and Aresha Asghar (FAO) for preparation of maps is also highly appreciated. The support of Asifa Ghani, before, during and after the IPC training & analysis workshop and preparing this communication brief is highly acknowledged. The valuable support of the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for providing coordination support for household assessment in July 2021 is also highly acknowledged.

Furthermore, support from WHH for co-financing this IPC workshop is also highly acknowledged.

What is the IPC and IPC Acute Food Insecurity?

The IPC is a set of tools and procedures to classify the severity and characteristics of acute food and nutrition crises as well as chronic food insecurity based on international standards. The IPC consists of four mutually reinforcing functions, each with a set of specific protocols (tools and procedures). The core IPC parameters include consensus building, convergence of evidence, accountability, transparency and comparability. The IPC analysis aims at informing emergency response as well as medium and long-term food security policy and programming.

For the IPC, Acute Food Insecurity is defined as any manifestation of food insecurity found in a specified area at a specific point in time of a severity that threatens lives or livelihoods, or both, regardless of the causes, context or duration. It is highly susceptible to change and can occur and manifest in a population within a short amount of time, as a result of sudden changes or shocks that negatively impact on the determinants of food insecurity.

Acute Food Insecurity Phase name and description

Phase 1 None/ Minimal	Phase 2 Stressed	Phase 3 Crisis	Phase 4 Emergency	Phase 5 Catastrophe/ Famine
Households are able to meet essential food and non-food needs without engaging in atypical and unsustainable strategies to access food and income.	Households have minimally adequate food consumption but are unable to afford some essential non-food expenditures without engaging in stress-coping strategies.	Households either: • have food consumption gaps that are reflected by high or above-usual acute malnutrition; or • are marginally able to meet minimum food needs but only by depleting essential livelihood assets or through crisis-coping strategies.	Households either: • have large food consumption gaps that are reflected in very high acute malnutrition and excess mortality; or • are able to mitigate large food consumption gaps but only by employing emergency livelihood strategies and asset liquidation	Households have an extreme lack of food and/or other basic needs even after full employment of coping strategies. Starvation, death, destitution and extremely critical acute malnutrition levels are evident. For famine classification, area needs to have extreme critical levels of acute malnutrition and mortality.)

Contact for further Information

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This analysis has been conducted under the patronage of the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. It has benefited from the technical and financial support of the IPC Global Support Unit.

Classification of food insecurity and malnutrition are conducted using the IPC protocols, which are developed and implemented worldwide by the IPC Global Partnership - Action Against Hunger, CARE, CILSS, EC-JRC, FAO, FEWSNET, Global Food Security Cluster, Global Nutrition Cluster, IGAD, Oxfam, PROGRESAN-SICA, SADC, Save the Children, UNICEF and WFP.

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