PAKISTAN NUTRITION HUMANITARIAN OVERVIEW 2022

This document is consolidated by Pakistan Nutrition Sector with the support of its government departments, NDMA, PDMAs and Provincial Nutrition Sector Partners. It provides a shared understanding of the possible disaster scenarios, including the most pressing humanitarian needs in such an event and the estimated number of people who may need assistance and the funding requirements. It represents a consolidated evidence base and may help a swift response to any event of emergency.
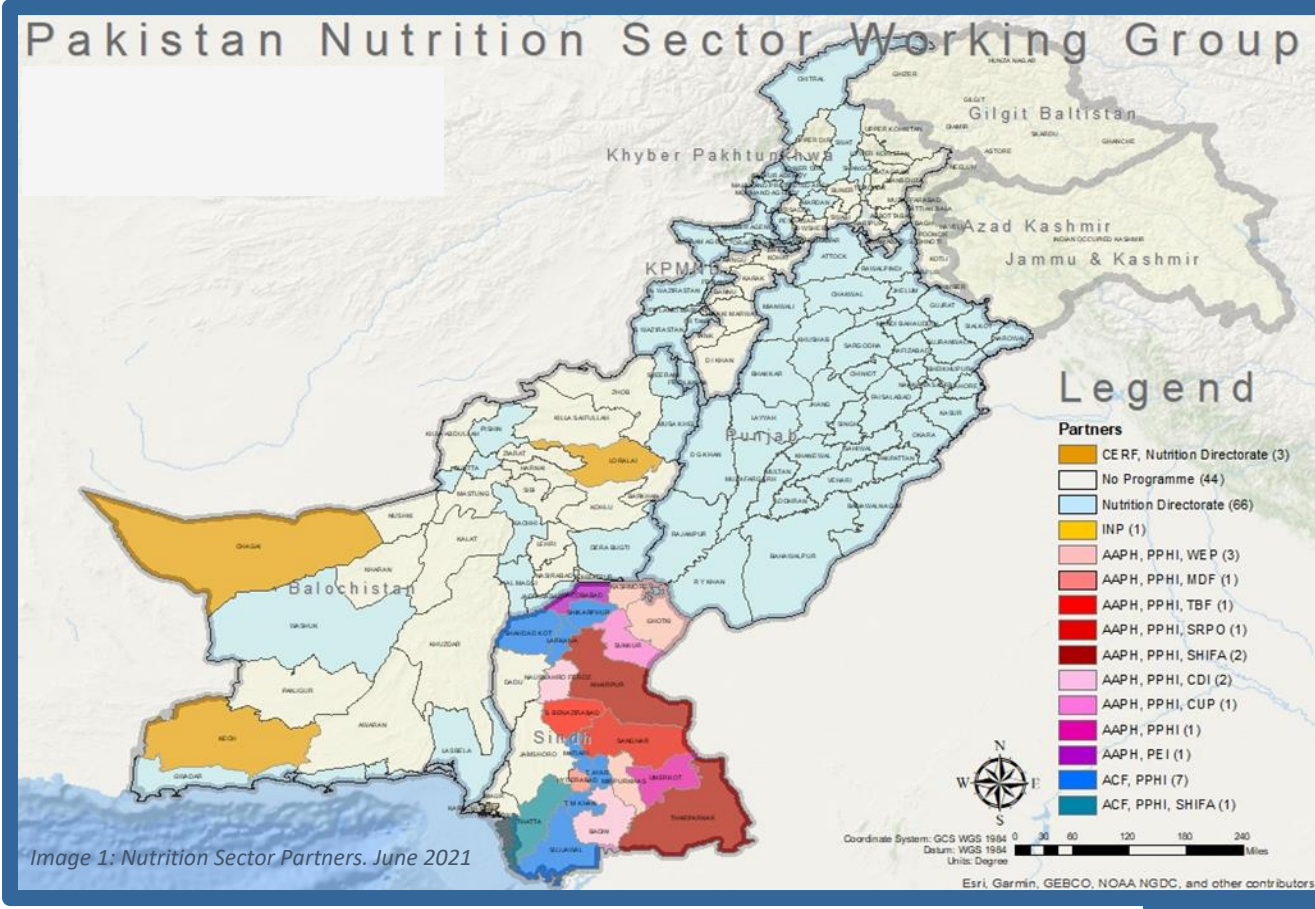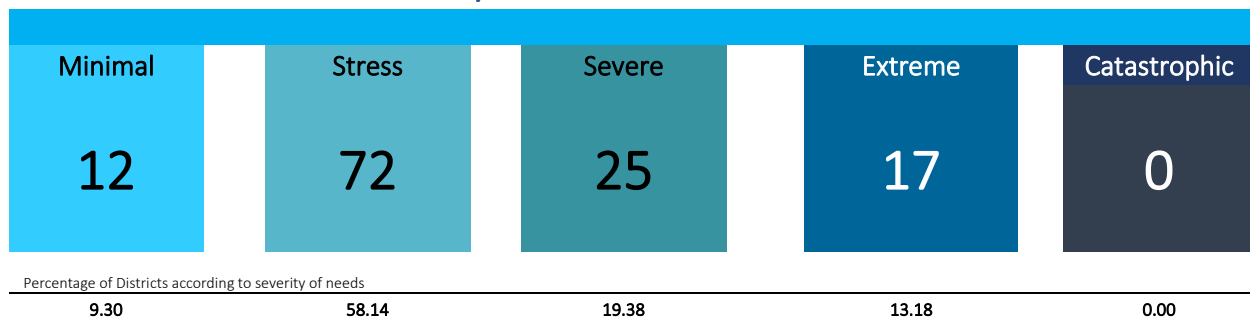

Image 1: Nutrition Sector Partners. June 2021
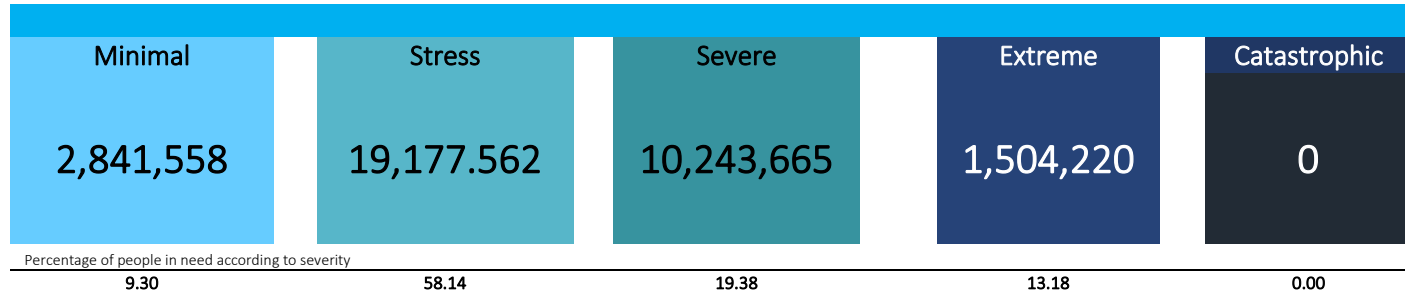
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Summary of humanitarian needs and key figures

Number of districts with severity of needs

Minimal	Stress	Severe	Extreme	Catastrophic
12	72	25	17	0

Percentage of Districts according to severity of needs

9.30	58.14	19.38	13.18	0.00

People in need according to severity

Minimal	Stress	Severe	Extreme	Catastrophic
2,841,558	19,177.562	10,243,665	1,504,220	0

Percentage of people in need according to severity

9.30	58.14	19.38	13.18	0.00

Nutrition Sector People in need

Severe	Extreme	Catastrophic
2,356,043	345,971	0

Nutrition focused People in need breakup

Gender/PLW		
Gender	PIN	Percent PIN
Girls	2,598,371	33
Boys	2,466,680	32
Pregnant	1,350,680	17
Lactating	1,350,680	17

By Age		
Age	PIN	Percent PIN
0–6-month Child	844,175	11
6-59m Child	4,220,876	54
Adult PLWs	2,701,360	35
PLWs with disabilities	64,292	1
Children with disabilities	100,457	1
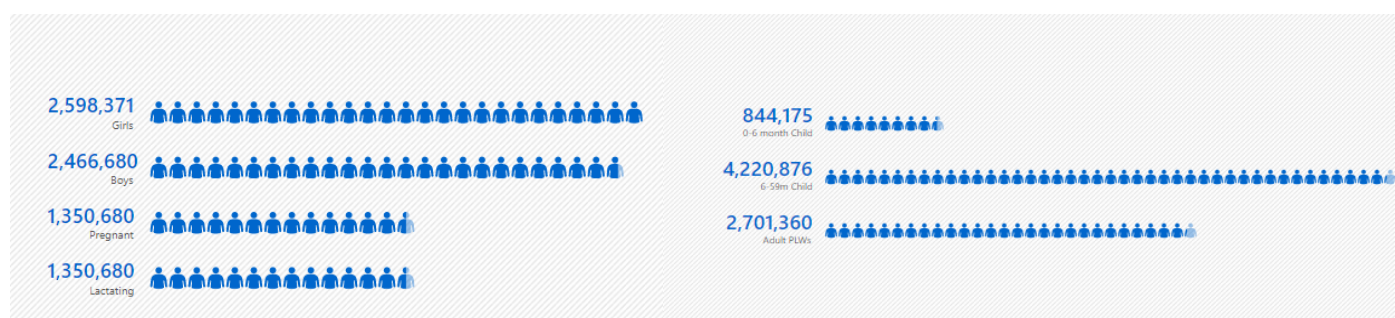
Nutrition Sector Funding Requirements

Total Funding required	Severe Malnutrition	Moderate Malnutrition	IYCF & MMN
25,688,607	14,134,140	9,548,229	1,991,238

OVERVIEW

A strong causal relationship exists between disasters and under-nutrition. Slow and rapid onset crisis and disaster can impact on levels of nutrition both directly (i.e. loss of agricultural production and assets) and indirectly by reinforcing some of the causes of under-nutrition (increased poverty, scarcity of safe water, disruption of livelihoods, inadequate nutrition behaviors) particularly in developing countries. Following a disasters, infants, young children, and pregnant and lactating women are particularly vulnerable, with maternal under-nutrition having serious impact on the health of the fetus and newborn baby. Under-nutrition not only impairs the development of children but weakens their immune systems making them more susceptible to disease and being an underlying cause of 3.5 million preventable child deaths annually.

Due to various humanitarian vulnerabilities in different provinces of Pakistan, a review of most pertinent scenarios has been conducted. Pakistan has a global acute malnutrition (GAM) rate of 17.7 per cent, exceeding the emergency threshold. Drought-like conditions affecting 5 million people in Sindh and Balochistan provinces and monsoon rains and floods in all provinces, proportion of food insecure households which is already high in Pakistan (71%) and lack of access to basic services including health and nutrition are the main factors which may lead to worsening of malnutrition. COVID-19 outbreak is still evolving and overshadows any disaster which may impact. It is therefore critical to ensure a detailed understanding of all scenarios in vulnerable districts is present which may help in planning and responding in case of any disaster or humanitarian situation for effective and uninterrupted delivery of life-saving nutrition services.

Malnutrition. Pakistan, with an overwhelming burden of malnutrition and high levels of food insecurity, is highly vulnerable together with still evolving Covid-19 outbreak health crises. Prevalence of wasting among young children (17.7%) is beyond the internationally agreed upon emergency thresholds (15%), while an exceedingly high percentage (40.2%) of children are stunted and 28.9% children are underweight. Micronutrient deficiencies also remain at high levels including iron, vit-A and vit-D. Women in reproductive age (15–49) years bear a double burden of malnutrition accounting for one in seven (14.4%) are undernourished, while 41.7% are anemic and majority (79.7%) are vit-D deficient. All these factors are expected to be further aggravated by the overall negative influence of present situation on the nutrition status of children and women.

Droughts in Pakistan have occurred mainly because of extreme variations in monsoon rainfalls. Because of their arid and hyper-arid climate, some regions of Pakistan remain dry throughout the year 2021, making them vulnerable to drought. By observing rainfall patterns, the number of rainy monsoon days have shrunk. In the last two decades, monsoon rains that lasted throughout the months of July to September, now only last till August. The intensity of these rainfalls has however increased and is a leading cause for flooding in Pakistan. Pakistan Meteorological Department has stated that Drought Conditions are exacerbating in certain districts of province Balochistan and Sindh.

PMD had raised an alert in 2021 stating that the country in overall received below normal (-36.1%) rainfall. Mainly in Sindh (-64.5%) and Balochistan (-59.5%). Moreover, the rainy season in west to south-west districts of Balochistan is over now and no significant rainfall is expected until the end of 2021. Due to consistent deficiency of rainfall since moderate drought has been further intensified into severe drought especially in the southwestern Balochistan and southeastern Sindh.

Almost thirteen districts in Province Sindh and Balochistan are undergoing severe drought like conditions. These districts are listed in the following table with severity from moderate to severe.

Drought affected districts of Sindh and Balochistan

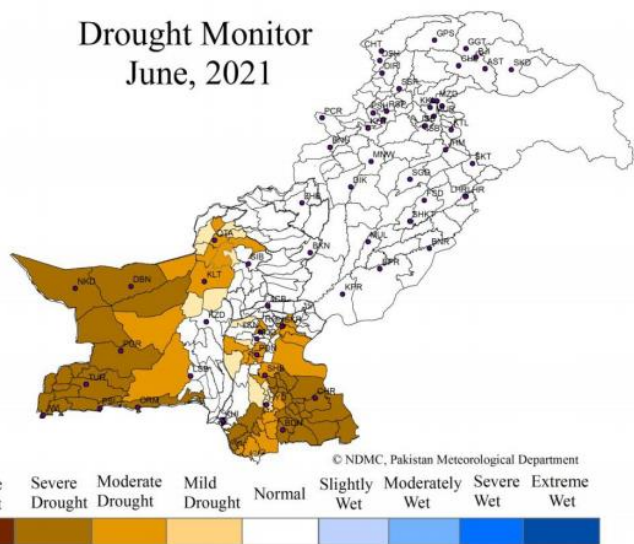|	Sindh		Balochistan	
	Severe	**Moderate**	**Severe**	**Moderate**
1	Badin	Dadu	Chagi	Harnai
2	Mirpur Khas	Khairpur	Gawadar	Mastung
3	Umerkot	Karachi	Kharan	Nushki
4	Sanghar	Larkana	Kech	Pishin,
5	Tharparkar	Neushero Feroz	Panjgur	Kalat
6	Thatta	Shaheed Benazirabad	Washuk	Quetta
7	Sajawal	Sukkur		

Image 2: PMD Draught declared districts of province of Sindh and Balochistan

Image 3: Dry land conditions prevailing in district Panjgur, province Balochistan. May 2021

Floods / Monsoon Rains. According to PMD, Pakistan had entered a neutral phase from the earlier La Nina phase. This phenomenon may lead to a shift of normal to slightly above average rains across Pakistan, mostly in northern Punjab and Sindh and parts of KP during 2022. Moreover, it is important to understand that the extent of rainfall is not the only factor leading to hydrometeorological events. Factors such as encroachments, blocked or debris filled water ways / channels increases the chances of flooding (urban, flash) even in normal rainfall conditions.
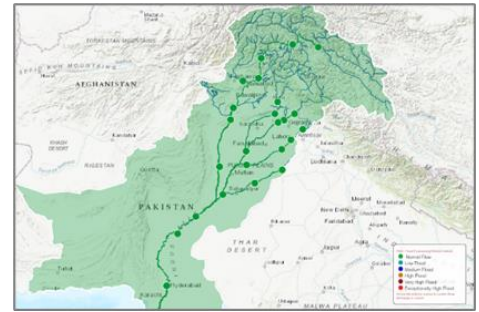

Image 4: Rivers and water flow channels across Pakistan

Population Movement. According to Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), 104, 000 displacements due to conflict and 829,000 displacements occurred due to disasters in different areas in 2020. Approximately 910,000 persons were IDPs in 2021. Many of these people remain displaced across the country, as conflict and poverty prevent them from returning to their areas of origin. This movement is expected to increase in coming months due to political instability in Afghanistan putting more pressure on already weak health care system of hosting districts and all other factors including worsening food security situation and hence leading to worsening malnutrition status of vulnerable communities.

Gender and Disabilities. The analysis also investigated the gender disparity in our society. Several factors, such as individual characteristics, social norms, and economic deprivations are leading drivers of our society for gender disparity. The girl child and women are given less attention in all aspects of life which includes the kind and portions of meals and hence leading more girls and women to malnutrition.

Scope of HNO 2022

The HNO is covering all districts of Pakistan which are vulnerable to floods and districts in high alert due to draught. The analysis also reviewed two important considerations, firstly, the underlying GAM rates and food security levels in any district and secondly if there is any influx of IDPs or refugees present or possibility in the future as well. Other key factors taken into consideration for the selection of districts included vulnerabilities based on urban flooding and COVID infectivity rate.

Nutrition sector already targets children and women. Special attention is being given to gender among children, children & PLWs with disabilities and marginalized communities in under consideration districts while analyzing humanitarian effects and impact of possible emergency scenarios.

Methodology

Severity ranking was carried out for all the vulnerable districts on five major factors including wasting rate, food security situation, drought vulnerability and flood vulnerability. The severity ranking data was taken from three major sources including National Nutrition Survey 2018, IPC classification of Food Security by WFP and draught and flood information by Pakistan Meteorological Department. Provincial Nutrition Sectors were involved to discuss and review the historical information, vulnerability information from local governments and PDMAs where possible. Districts were scored from 1 to 5 according to severity level of minimal, stress, extreme, severe, and catastrophic. Average of all scores was taken as the overall severity level of every respective district.

The severity ranking was later reviewed by provincial partners to endorse the findings before the data was used to calculate the key figures including PIN, development of maps & other graphs, charts and tables. Accordingly, the target data was used to calculate the unit costs and financial requirements of emergency response interventions.

Severity Ranking Mapping of Pakistan

Draught vulnerable districts
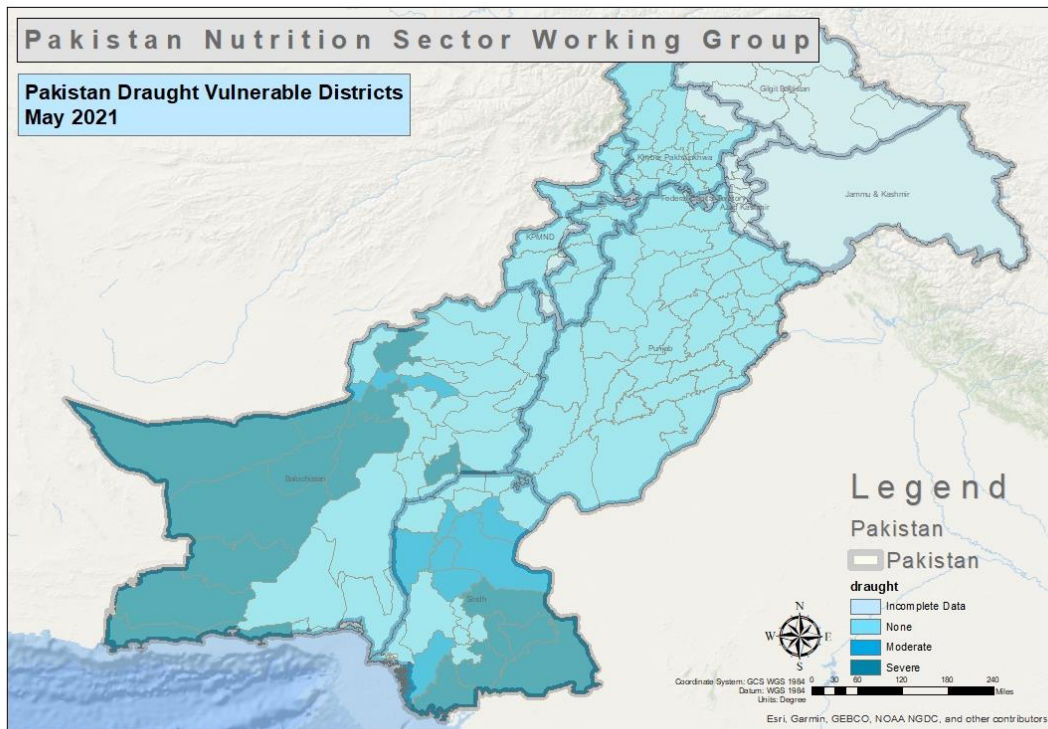
Flood vulnerable districts
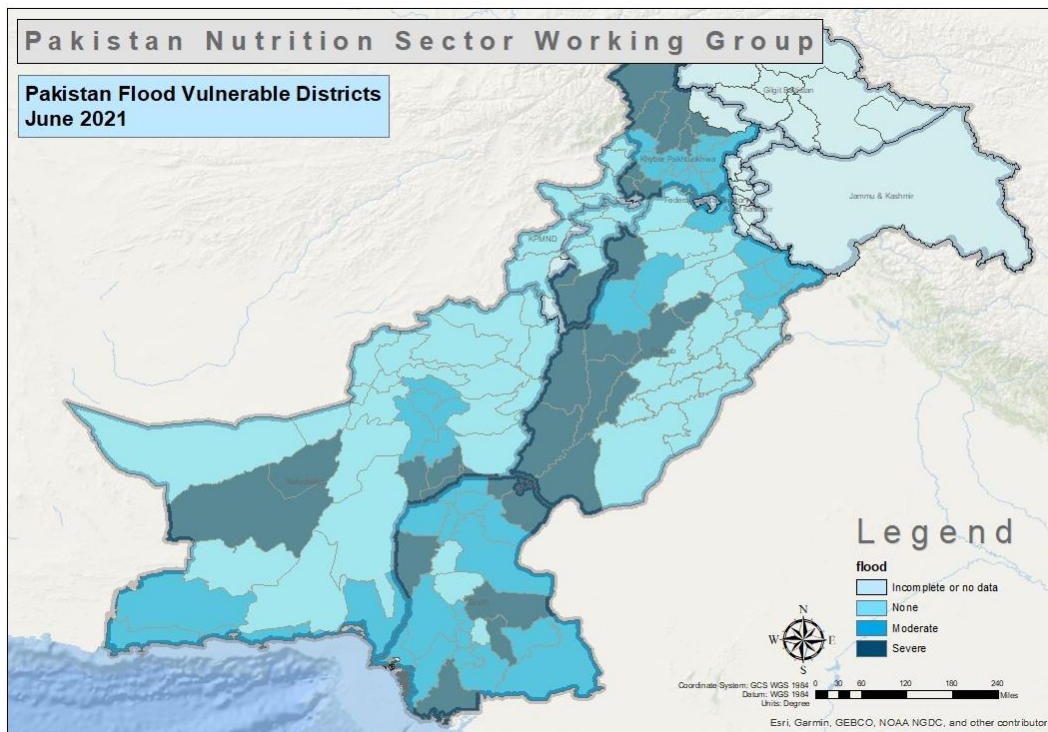
Financial Requirements of Nutrition Sector in detail

	Targets	Target #	Unit	Unit cost $	Total USD
1	MAM treatment for Children	88,701	Child	34	3,015,830
2	SAM treatment (OTP)	76,816	Child	130	9,986,077
3	SAM treatment (SC)	9,218	Child	450	4,148,063
4	IFA and MMMT for PLW	451,272	Woman	1	451,272
5	MAM treatment for malnourished pregnant women	88,276	Woman	74	6,532,399
6	MNP for children	372,299	Child	0.5	186,150
7	Promotion of IYCF (Triditional and use of digital /mass media)	451,272	Mother/caregiver	3	1,353,816
8	Procurement of PPE for service providers of selected 100 nutrition sites	300	HCWs	50	15,000
	PPE kits as suggested by WHO				
10	PPE-Level-I		Child/caregivers	5	-
11	PPE-Level-II		SC staff	10	-
12	PPE-Level-III		SC staff	65	-
13	IPC items		SCs	4000	-
	TOTAL				**25,688,607**

- Nutrition PIN is calculated at 12% of total population and 70% coverage