



World Food Programme



Pakistan Food Security Bulletin

Issue 3

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The Pakistan Food Security Bulletin is produced by the Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) Unit of the World Food Programme as a contribution to periodic food security monitoring in the country.

Highlights

- Total wheat production in Pakistan in 2014-15 has been estimated at 25.6 million tons (MT), slightly higher than last year's level of 25.3 MT.
- Rice, the second main staple crop of Pakistan, recorded its highest ever production at 7.0 MT, which is 3.0 percent higher than last year's production of 6.8 MT.
- Food prices for cereals have generally decreased in the country while the prices of pulses have continued to increase.
- Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis in October-December 2014 found 10 districts/agencies in Pakistan in Phase 4 (severely food insecure - emergency level), while 28 districts were in phase 3 (highly food insecure – crisis situation).
- Populations in the Thar area in Sindh have been impacted by the drought like situation. Though some parts have received scattered rainfall over the last month, the general livelihood and food security situation remains fragile.
- Among the displaced persons from FATA, about 79,000 families have returned to their places of origin while some 230,000 families continue living in Peshawar and nearby districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Situation Overview

In 2015, Pakistan has seen another good year of the wheat harvest (its main staple) with an estimated national production of 25.6 million tons (MT), a little short of the target set at 26 MT by the government, however it is slightly higher than last year's production of 25.3 MT. Similarly, production of rice has been highest ever for the country with 7.0 MT - showing a growth of 3.0 percent over last year's production which was 6.8 MT.

Some improvement in household food security has been caused by the decline in staple cereal prices for more than a year. This is because wheat alone makes around 50% of the dietary needs of average household. In July 2015, the prices of wheat and wheat flour were lower by 5 and 4 percent respectively compared to a year ago - which has a positive impact on purchasing capacity of the poor. Thus the terms-of-trade (TOT) in July has improved by 16 percent compared to last year and by 11 percent compared to six month ago (i.e. January 2015). This improvement in purchasing capacity is an indication of improvement in household food security situation - particularly of the poorest segments of society.

The main constraint in achieving the desired level of food security is still attributed to peoples' inadequate economic access to food. Even though staple cereal prices have decreased, a significant increase has been noted in the prices of pulses (*moong*, *mash*, and *masoor*), the main sources of nutrition for common households. This is likely to have an adverse impact on the nutrition situation.

According to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis conducted during October-December 2014 period, 10 districts/agencies in Pakistan were classified under Phase 4 (severely food insecure or emergency level), 28 districts were found under phase 3, or highly food insecure (crisis situation), while rest of the districts were classified being in phase 1 (generally food secure) or phase 2 (moderately food insecure). Overall, the situation in October-December 2014 shows some improvement from the previous round of IPC analysis in March-May 2014.

Food Security Phase Classification

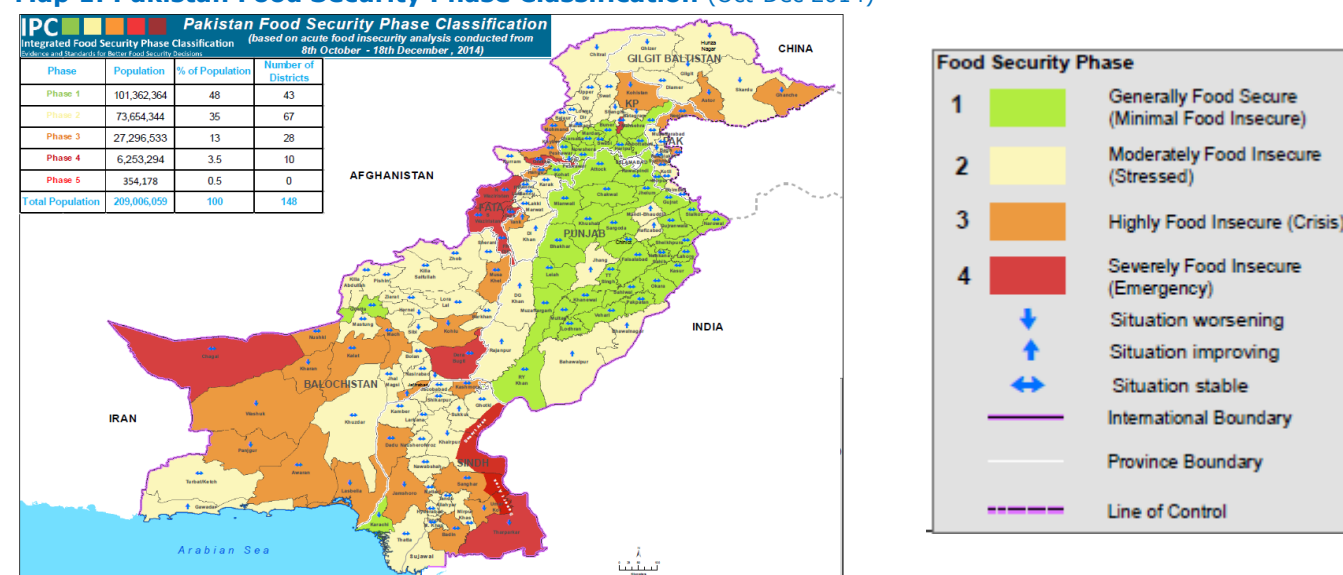
The last round of Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) conducted in October-December 2014¹ (Map 1) showed 10 districts under phase 4 (severely food insecure requiring emergency response), while 27 districts were classified under phase 3 (highly food insecure or crisis situation). The remaining districts were either in phase 2 (moderately food insecure or stressed) or in phase 1 (generally food secure or minimally food insecure). The districts under phase 4 included Tharpakar in Sindh; Chaghai, Dera Bugti in Balochistan; North Waziristan, South Waziristan, Orakzai agencies, F.R. Kohat, F.R. D.I Khan, and F.R. Tank in FATA; and Tor Ghar in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

A number of reasons contributed to the severity of the situation in districts classified in phase 4 and 3. For instance, districts under Phase 4 such as Tharpakar and parts of adjoining districts were found to be severely affected by drought-like situations causing acute malnutrition, limited access to safe drinking water, unemployment and livelihood challenges. On the other hand, law and order situation in FATA caused displacements. In Balochistan, Chaghai has high levels of poverty with little access to food and Dera Bugti - another Phase 4 district- is a highly volatile district due to debilitating law and order situation with low levels of literacy and few sources of income. District Tor Ghar in KP, was also placed in Phase 4 due to sectarian problems and low food consumption situation.

The districts classified under Phase 3 were generally found to have limited access to food due to low income and small land holding, poor nutrition situation, high IMR, prevalence of diseases, poor food utilization due to high illiteracy, poor access to safe water and sanitation, and poor law and order situation. These included 11 districts from Balochistan, 6 districts from Sindh, 3 from KP, 3 from AJK, 2 from GB, and 2 Agencies from FATA. A summary of the main causes of food insecurity in phase 4 and phase 3 districts/agencies is provided in annex I.

Overall, the analysis indicates some improvement in the food security situation compared to the previous round of IPC analysis conducted between March-May 2014, when 12 districts were categorized in phase 4 and 33 districts in Phase 3. One possible reason for improvement is that this round of analysis has been conducted during the steadier, post-harvest period of the main staple crop (i.e., wheat and rice), with better law & order situation and no major natural disaster occurred since the previous analysis in those districts classified in phase 4 and 3. Due to strong resilience of the affected communities and relatively good coping capacity, people in the flood affected areas of Punjab managed to bounce back to their normal situation after a few months. The national IPC map presented below is a combination of provincial level analyses conducted from October - December 2014 conducted in various provinces. These analyses were carried out by relevant stakeholders – mainly the representatives from relevant Government institutions, and also including UN agencies, NGOs and academia in meetings facilitated by WFP and FAO.

Map 1: Pakistan Food Security Phase Classification (Oct-Dec 2014)



¹ Results from another round of IPC analysis conducted in May-July 2015 are yet to be released and will be presented in the next issue of the bulletin.

Crop and Livestock Production Situation

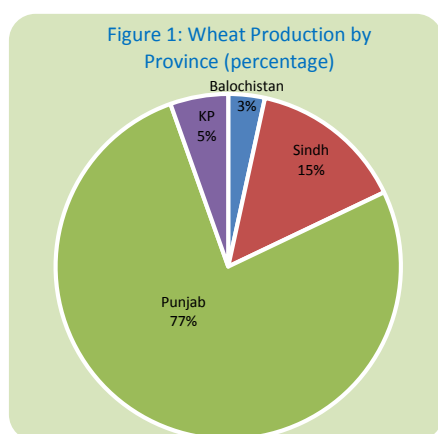
Cereal production

Wheat

The wheat – main *Kharif*² crop – production for 2014-15 has been 25.6 million tons MT slightly lower than the target of 26 MT fixed by the Federal Committee on Agriculture (FCA), and still slightly higher than last year's production of 25.3 MT. Wheat was grown on an estimated area of 8.91 million hectares during 2014-15. With a stated objective of providing incentive to the farmers to grow more wheat and achieve production target, the government had increased the wheat support price from PKR 1200 per 40 kg to PKR 1300 per 40 kg in November 2014.

For the year 2014-15, the FCA had fixed wheat procurement target at 8.0 MT to be procured by Provincial Food Departments (PFDs) and PASSCO. However, it was observed that 4.27 MT of wheat stock was already available with PASSCO & PFDs in April 2015. Therefore, the procurement target was readjusted to 4.86 million tons.

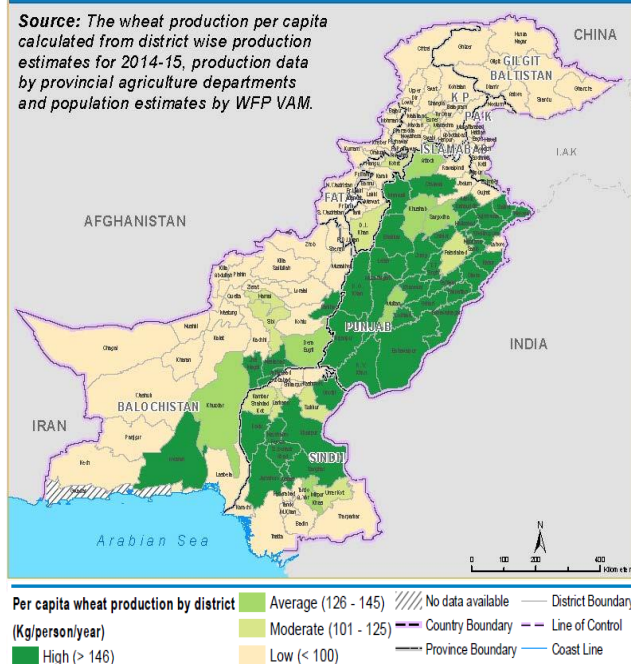
There is a significant geographic variation in wheat production across the country. More than three quarter (77%) of the national production came from Punjab, followed by Sindh (15%), KP (5%) and Balochistan (3%). Figure 1 shows the production of wheat by province³, while Map 2 presents per capita wheat production at district level based on available production statistics and population estimates.



Map 2: Wheat production per capita estimates by district

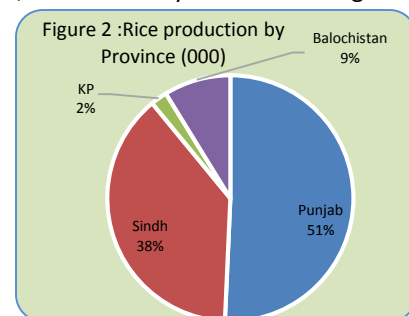
Wheat Production Estimates by District 2014-15

Source: The wheat production per capita calculated from district wise production estimates for 2014-15, production data by provincial agriculture departments and population estimates by WFP VAM.



Rice

Rice, the second major cereal crop, recorded highest ever production at 7.0 million tons (MT) in 2014-15, a growth of 3% over last year's production. According to Pakistan Economic Survey 2014-15, rice was cultivated on an area of 2,891 thousand hectares showing an increase of 3.6% over last year's area of 2,789 thousand hectares. FAO has tentatively set production forecast for 2015-16 at 9.7 MT (6.5 MT, milled basis), implying 4% year-on-year contraction. However, the availability of water for irrigation and prices of alternative crops prove critical in determining the season's outcome. Proportion of rice production by province is shown in Figure 2⁴.



² Pakistan has two cropping seasons, "Kharif" being the first sowing season starting from May-June and harvesting takes place during October-December. Rice, sugarcane, cotton, maize, pulses (moong, mash), millet (bajra) and Sorghum (jowar) are major "Kharif's" crops. "Rabi" season, the

second sowing season, begins from Oct-Dec and harvesting takes place from April-May. Wheat, gram, lentil (masoor), tobacco, rapeseed, barley and mustard are major "Rabi" crops.

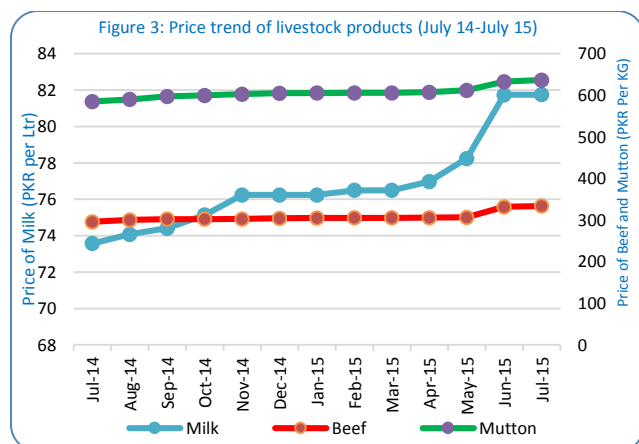
³ Source: Provincial agriculture departments

⁴ Source: Federal Committee on Agriculture (FCA)

Livestock

Livestock is an important sector of agriculture and occupies a unique position in the national economy. The sector meets the domestic demand of milk, meat and eggs. It is a source of livelihoods and income and acts as a coping mechanism in disaster situations for many rural households in Pakistan. Pakistan's national livestock herd size has been estimated at 174 million heads during 2014-15, an increase of 3% from the previous year.

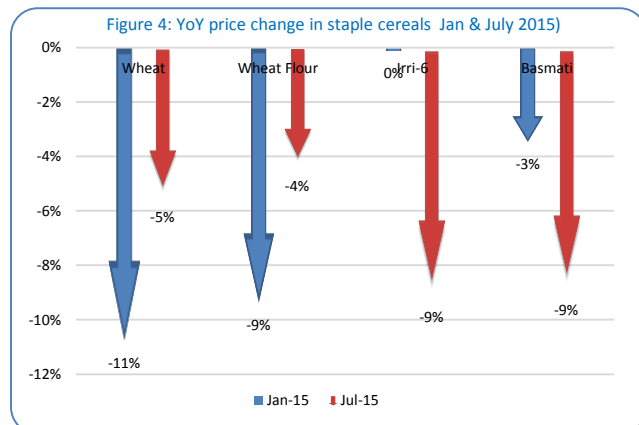
The major products of livestock are milk and meat. Compared to the previous year, production of milk has increased by around 7%, and meat by 5%. A significant increase of 9% has been noticed in the poultry production. Analysis of trends from July 2014 to July 2015 reveals that livestock prices remained generally stable until May 2015, and have been increasing since then (Figure 3).



In July 2015, the prices of beef, milk and mutton were found higher by 13%, 11%, and 2% respectively, compared to their prices a year ago. Similarly, compared to the beginning of the current year, in July the prices of beef, mutton and milk recorded an increase of 9%, 5% and 7% respectively.

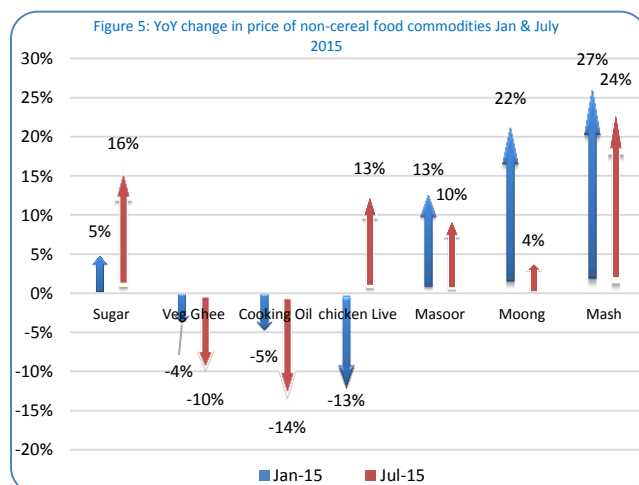
Markets and food prices

The prices of staple cereals in Pakistan are on decline since 2014. The prices of wheat and wheat flour in July 2015 were thus lower by 5% and 4% respectively, compared to a year ago. These prices in January 2015 were lower by 11% and 9% respectively, compared to January 2014. Since January 2015, the prices of wheat and wheat flour declined by 7% and 5% respectively, until July 2015.



The downward trend was also recorded for prices of rice. The prices of *Irri-6* and *Basmati* registered a decrease of 9% each in July 2015 compared to a year ago. In January 2015, the price of *Irri-6* remained the same while that of *Basmati* recorded a price decrease of 3% compared to January 2014. Compared to the beginning of the current year, in July, prices for *Irri-6* and *Basmati* rice were recorded lower by 7% and 6% respectively.

Analysis of price differentials in essential food commodities, based on geographic dimension, indicates that generally food prices remained relatively low in Punjab due to better food availability conditions. For instance, in July 2015, the average retail price of wheat flour in Quetta was recorded 4% higher against its price in Multan in July 2015. Similarly, the price of wheat flour in Sindh were 11% higher in Karachi (Sindh) compared to Multan (Punjab)⁵.



On the other hand, the prices of pulses have continued to rise (Figure 5). The average retail prices of *Dal Mash*, lentil *Masoor*, and *Dal Moong* in July 2015 were higher by 24%,

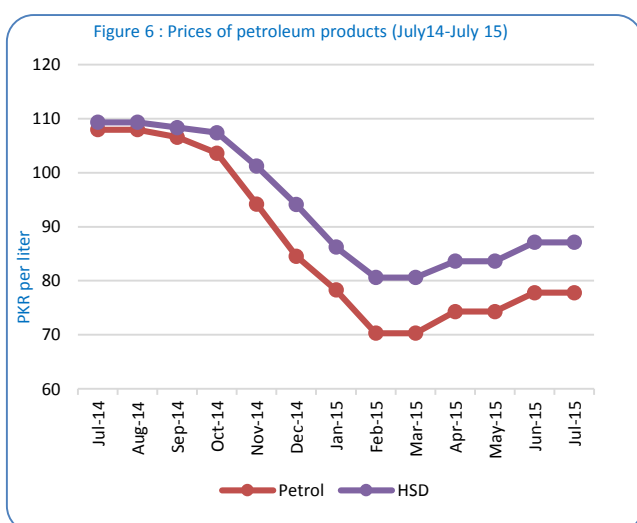
⁵Pakistan Bureau of Statistics

10% and 4% respectively, compared to a year ago. Such an increase in the price of pulses – which are the main sources of protein for common populations – is likely to have negative impact on the nutrition security. Other commodities with increase in prices include sugar (16%) and chicken (13%), while the prices of cooking oil and vegetable ghee registered decreases of 14% and 10% respectively during the same period⁶.

A hike in prices of poultry, pulses, vegetable and fruits have been observed during June-July this year which could be expected before the holy month of Ramadhan.

Decline in fuel prices eased food prices

In 2014, fuel prices have declined significantly in the global as well as domestic markets. Transferring benefits of lower fuel prices internationally to the general public at the domestic level, the government notified significant reduction in the prices of petroleum products from August 2014 until February 2015. Decline in fuel prices is one of the contributing factors to the recent decline in the food prices. However, after a continuous decline of several months, in April 2015 the Government notified an increase of 5% on average in the prices of petroleum products. Notwithstanding, in July 2015 the prices of Super petrol and High Speed Diesel (HSD) were recorded 28% & 20% lower against their prices a year ago. Compared to the beginning of the current year, a nominal decrease of 1% was recorded in the price of petrol and high speed diesel in July 2015.

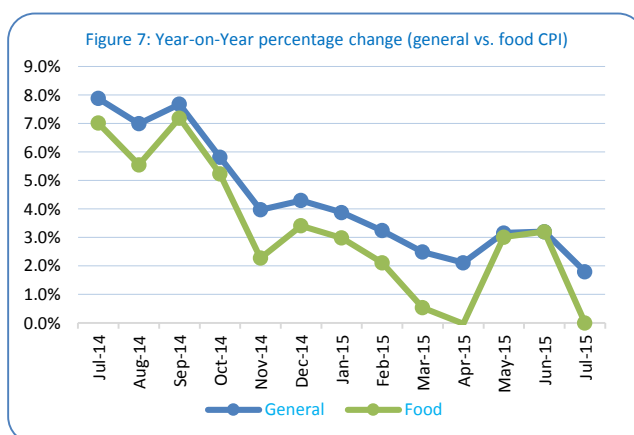


⁶ Pakistan Bureau of statistics

⁷ The terms-of-trade, measures the purchasing power of a particular livelihood group as a ratio of primary income good relative to the price of the primary expenditure good. The increasing ToT

Inflation watch

The general as well as food inflation based on Consumer Price Index (CPI) experience decreasing trend in the past one year until July 2015 (Figure 7). With some fluctuations, the inflationary pressure eased significantly until the first quarter of 2015. The reduction in prices of food and some non-food commodities were the main driving force behind the decline in overall inflation index. Food commodity prices started to increase in the second quarter of 2015 that caused an increase in the inflation index in May 2015. However, the inflation (both general as well as food) recorded a decline in July 2015. In July, general and food CPI stood at 1.8% and 0.6% higher respectively, than a year ago.

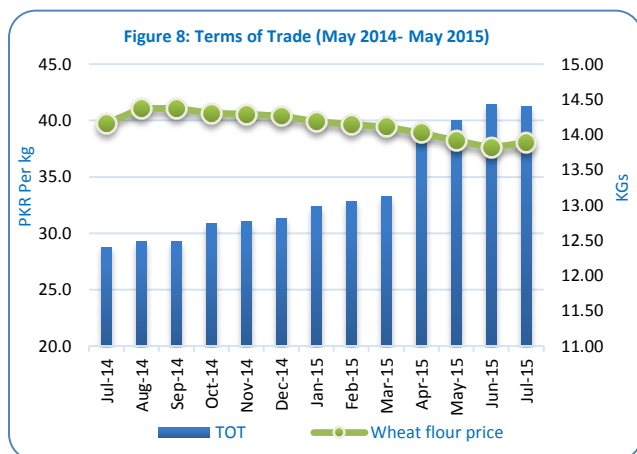


Terms of Trade (ToT)⁷ for wheat flour⁸

The purchasing capacity of daily wage unskilled labor has shown significant improvement over the past year mainly due to declining trends in the price of wheat flour. In July 2015, a daily wagger could purchase 14.4 Kgs of wheat flour with a day's wage while it was 12.4 Kgs in July 2014, an improvement of about 16%. Similarly, it has improved by 11% in July 2015 compared to its level in the beginning of this year (January 2015). This improvement in purchasing capacity is an indication of some improvement in household food security, particularly for the poorest segments of society.

indicates improved purchasing capacity. Here, ToT is measured as the amount of wheat flour that can be purchased with a day's wage of unskilled labor.

⁸ Amount of wheat flour that could be purchased with a day's wage of an unskilled labor

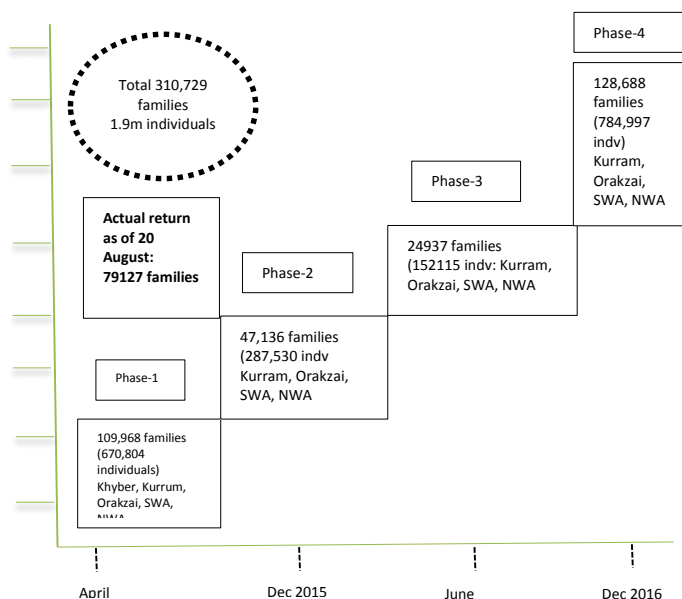


Displacement and food security

Update on returnees in FATA

WFP is working on relief, nutrition, education and livelihood activities to support the returns of IDPs from different agencies of FATA. Displaced populations from Khyber Agency, North Waziristan Agency (NWA) and South Waziristan Agency (SWA) have started returning to their homes. As of end-August, some 79,127 families have returned to their homes since March 2015. Figure 9 provides details on total number of displaced families expected to return as per the plan and actual returns since the beginning of 2015:

Figure 9: Planned return timeline by FATA secretariat (showing actual return until August 2015)



Livelihood and food security of returnees in FATA



Since last several years many displaced populations from the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) have been residing in Peshawar and other districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. During the last years, there have also been returns of populations to their areas of origin in different agencies of FATA. A study on the livelihood and food security of these returnee populations was conducted in order to have an understanding on their situation and needs. This study was jointly conducted by WFP, FAO, Food Security Cluster, and IRC, in coordination with FATA Secretariat. It is based on interviews of 1,931 households, 78 traders, market mapping, focus group discussions and key informant interviews, conducted in December 2014.

The study found that most of the families are dependent on unstable sources of income such as non-agricultural unskilled labour and their income from more stable sources such as selling of agricultural produce and livestock has reduced significantly compared to their pre-displacement situation.

About 60% of the households own agricultural land and 86% of them reported cultivating their land. However, produce from their farms is only sufficient for 3.5 months on average to meet the household consumption needs.

Most of the households were found to have considerably less assets compared to their situation before displacement. For example, 54% had sewing machines before displacement while only 35% of respondents reported having them after return. Similarly those owning plough decreased from 13 to 4%, tractor from 5 to 2%, cooking stove from 26 to 17%, bicycle from 22 to 11% and cart from 33 to 22%.

Overall, only 28% of the households were having acceptable food consumption, while 18% had poor food consumption and 54% are in the border line consumption group. Female headed households were much worse off with 56% of them with poor

consumption. Similarly, households owning agricultural land and those owning livestock had better food consumption than those not owning them. Households benefiting from WFP's school feeding programme were better off than non-beneficiaries.

The average monthly expenditure of a household was PKR 24,790 of which 47% of the expenditure went to fulfil food needs followed by 14% expenses on health.

Almost half (48.7%) of the respondents reported taking loans to meet the basic needs (this proportion was highest in Kurram at 86%). The main reason for taking loan was to fulfill household food needs (62.2%), followed by medical expenses for 13% households.

Respondents identified food assistance, housing support, and support for agriculture and livestock as their main needs.

Climate risks and food security analysis

In line with global concerns on the impacts of climate change and in response to alarming climate projections for South Asia, WFP Pakistan is conducting a Climate Risks and Food Security Analysis of Pakistan, in collaboration with the Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC) and FAO.

The analysis will provide a snapshot of the climate vulnerabilities of food security in Pakistan and will support programme targeting and policy making, both in-house and at the government level. Based on the preliminary findings of the analysis, WFP has begun talks on potential interventions in collaboration with governmental authorities in order to strengthen the national resilience to food security in response to climate change. WFP will continue to develop initiatives throughout the year based on the final findings of the Climate Risks and Food Security Analysis of Pakistan.

WFP is supporting the Ministry of Climate Change in its preparations for COP21 in Paris by providing baselines and analyses on which the MoCC can develop its discourse and commitments to be presented at the international event. Furthermore, WFP is committed to provide technical support at all stages leading up to the conference in December, including briefs, thematic analyses, maps and policy support. WFP's support is to be continued beyond COP21 in order to assist the government on institutional activities and the implementation of adaptation measures.

Assessment of unregistered vulnerable families displaced from North Waziristan Agency

More than half a million persons from North Waziristan Agency were displaced after law and order operations started in June 2014, thus



adding complexity to the situation where more than a million displaced people were already living in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) for several years. Displaced populations that have been registered are entitled to humanitarian assistance. However, considerable number of such families have not been able to get registered due to lack of Computerized National Identity Card (CNIC), other legal documents or issues relating to family trees. This is particularly the case for specific type of vulnerable groups such as female headed or child headed families. Thus, it is likely that many vulnerable families were not able to receive the much needed humanitarian assistance due to these limitations.

A study was conducted jointly by WFP, UNHCR and the Protection Cluster, involving door-to-door survey of 7,554 such families displaced from North Waziristan and residing in various host locations of Bannu, Lakki Marwat, Karak, Peshawar and D. I. Khan. From this survey, 6,263 displaced families were identified as vulnerable and eligible for humanitarian assistance. Of these, 76% were female headed families, 10% were families headed by elderly, 6% were families headed by persons with chronic disability, 5% were single females, and 2% were child headed families.

The food security situation of the assessed families was found precarious, with very little opportunity for earning income; the meagre income they made (average monthly family income was PKR 11,101) hardly adequate for basic food and house rent. Ninety percent of the respondents reported that they did not have adequate purchasing power, even though food was generally available in the markets. Thus 98% of the families reported having problem meeting their food needs and therefore resorted to a variety of negative coping strategies.

This assessment was first of its kind in identifying vulnerable and unregistered families, which was then linked to the humanitarian assistance (Food, Cash and NFIs). In addition, UN Women initiated assisting families to obtain CNICs and get registered for regular humanitarian assistance. Some 400 such families have already received their CNICs. It is expected that the approach used in this assessment can be replicated by humanitarian agencies elsewhere in similar situations.

The report is available at:

http://vam.wfp.org.pk/Publication/Assmnt_Unreg_Vul_Fam_NWA_March_2015.pdf

Global Zero Hunger Challenge and the Zero Hunger Initiative in Pakistan

The Zero Hunger Challenge (ZHC) is a global movement launched by the United Nations Secretary General in 2012, calling upon all Governments and other stakeholders to combine their efforts towards the goal of eliminating hunger in our lifetimes. The Government of Pakistan was already ahead of this global call for action with the announcement of its own National Zero Hunger Programme (NZHP) earlier that year.

In line with the ZHC strategy, the NZHP of Pakistan has acknowledged the need for effectively coordinating the efforts by all stakeholders in the different sectors related to food security, such as agriculture, livestock, fisheries, health and nutrition, social protection, livelihood support, food access and school feeding. The need to leverage the participation of civil society, expand public-private partnerships and engage the third-sector organizations are also highlighted as important priorities of the programme.

The proposed framework of interventions for the NZHP in Pakistan is closely related to the five main pillars of the ZHC (stunting prevention, food access, sustainability of the food production systems, support to smallholder farming and food loss/waste prevention). Acknowledging that many actions are already under implementation by several stakeholders in each of these areas (attached as Annex II), the NZHP of Pakistan has carried out a mapping exercise to assess the related initiatives under implementation by all stakeholders in each of the four provinces of the country, identifying the gaps, overlaps and possible linkages/synergies between the programmes.

The way forward for the NZHP in each of the Provinces is now being discussed with the respective provincial Governments, and Zero Hunger Workshops will be held during the second semester of 2015 in Quetta, Peshawar, Karachi and Lahore. Based on the overview of the current scenario and the recommendations drafted during the mapping phase, the participants will prepare a work plan for enhancing the coordination of all the Zero Hunger-related initiatives in the context of their respective Provinces. The workshops shall also discuss the design of pilot projects in specific food insecure areas, to be started in 2016.

Upon completion of the provincial consultations, a National Food Security Seminar shall also be held in the second semester of 2015 in Islamabad, bringing together representatives from all provinces for discussion of the Provincial Zero Hunger Work Plans.

Background on the Zero Hunger initiative in Pakistan

The Government of Pakistan announced a National Zero Hunger Programme (NZHP) in March 2012, at the conclusion of the first national food security seminar organized by the Ministry of National Food Security and Research (MNFSR) and supported by WFP and FAO. After a series of provincial consultations, a

Pakistan-Brazil seminar was organized on food security and poverty alleviation in December 2012, and supported by the Embassy of Brazil, FAO and WFP. This was followed by the announcement of zero hunger and family farming programme by MNFSR and the establishment of a zero hunger coordination cell within MNFSR, supported by WFP.

A high level, multi-sectoral, inter-ministerial policy mission visited Brazil 2014, organized by WFP Pakistan in collaboration with WFP's Centre of Excellence Against Hunger in Brasilia. The delegation was led by the Minister of National Food Security and Research and the National Coordinator of Pakistan's NZHP. The primary objective of the visit was to learn from the Brazilian experience in addressing food security and nutrition challenges. Facilitated by the WFP Centre of Excellence in Brasilia, the delegation drafted a pilot action plan to initiate the Pakistan's Zero Hunger Programme.

Rainfall situation

As per Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), most of the Global and Regional Climate Models indicate – “A weak monsoon with some uncertainties, producing slightly less than normal rainfall during July to September in Pakistan. However, due to interaction of easterly & westerly systems, a few extreme rainfall events (exceeding 100 mm/day) may occur over AJK, North-East Punjab and KP resulting into flooding”. This forecast has proved to be close to reality. There were localized but significant floods towards end July to mid of August, particularly affecting Chitral in KP, and few districts in Punjab, and parts of Kacha⁹ area in Sindh.

Food security outlook

Recent reports suggest that the global wheat production outlook is generally good. Similarly, the wheat harvest in Pakistan was also good, thus, indicating comfortable situation in terms of national availability of staple cereal in the country. The Federal Committee on Agriculture (FCA), set production target of 6.9 million tons for rice from an area of 2.84 million hectares for *Kharif* season (April-October) 2015 slightly lower than 7.0 MT production in 2014.

In addition, consistent decrease in the fuel prices for more than a year has resulted in bringing down the price of key food commodities which eventually has positive impacts on the economic access of the poor households. If this trend continues, household food security is likely to improve. However, onset of any disaster can negatively affect the food security of the vulnerable populations, and thus continued monitoring is required for the preparedness. Other related factors such as impact of wheat support prices, economic growth, and employment will also have a bearing on household food security in the months ahead.

⁹ Kacha area runs across different districts of Sindh along the river Indus. These areas are unique because these are settled areas which lies within the river bed.

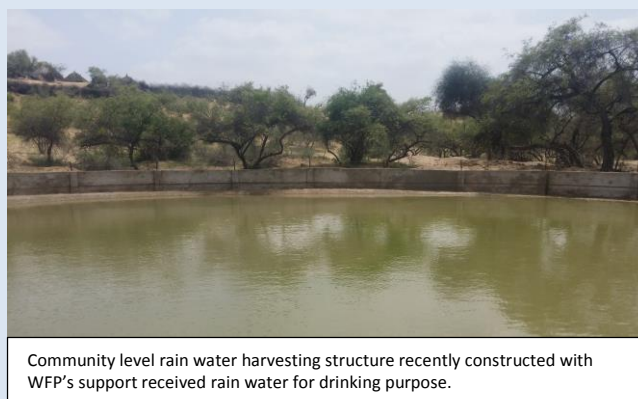
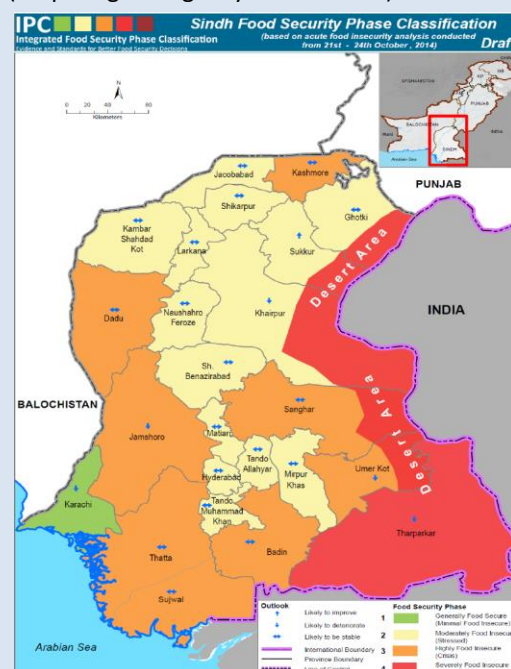
Thar drought

The start of the monsoon season has seen some signs of improvements in the drought affected areas of Thar. In the week of July 20th 2015, Tharparkar and adjoining arid districts received significant quantities of rainfall. The entire district received over 800mm, Diplo and Mithi tehsils getting the most rainfall. The urban areas of the district were as a result flooded. Community members as a result have begun to sow their crops and those who had migrated to other districts have started to return. For successful cultivation they will require an additional rainfall later in the season.

However the 3 years of continuous drought has caused many long lasting damages to the lives and livelihoods of the people in the arid zones. As an indicator of the emergency situation the most recent figures quoted by PDMA estimate 510 child deaths in the period between December 2014 and April 2015. This figure is a considerable increase over the 305 child deaths that were documented until November 2014 since beginning of the year. This situation could be due to multiple causes including impact of drought, poor condition of water and sanitation, and health facilities. Field observations and focus group discussions with community members had also highlighted the damages to livestock, which forms a major component of the livelihood strategies of households in arid areas. The livestock holding of people residing in the desert areas had considerably weakened due to a shortage of fodder and as a result could only be sold for around half the expected price. Residents also indicated that they had experienced significant crop loss to their rain fed agriculture, leading to a greater reliance on markets and adding further stress to their incomes. Some changes in situation were observed with the start of the wheat harvesting season which has led to significant out migration to irrigated areas in search of alternative livelihood sources. In response to the emergency the government had continued to provide support. Wheat distributions were carried out over 6 cycles in Tharparkar and 5 cycles in Umerkot. [3] Discussions with district officials in Tharparkar revealed that in order to improve safe drinking water availability, the Sindh Government started to establish 750 Reverse Osmosis (RO) plants with a total capacity 75,000 gallons/day in the area. Of these 750 RO plants, 250 have already been installed.

WFP, through support from Australia and ECHO, currently under its CMAM (Community based Management of Acute Malnutrition) response together with Department of Health and other partners is assisting 30,000 malnourished children of ages between 6-59 months and 28,000 malnourished pregnant and lactating mothers in 44 union councils of the district Tharparkar. Recognizing the need to improve livelihoods of dwellers of Thar, WFP started cash for work interventions as early as in January 2014 in 12 Union Councils. To-date, 16,500 families have benefited from these interventions. Each family has received cash of PKR 16,200 to meet their immediate cash needs for buying food, other needs and improving assets.

Map of IPC showing Thar Desert in Phase 4 (Requiring Emergency Intervention)



Community level rain water harvesting structure recently constructed with WFP's support received rain water for drinking purpose.








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[1] Assistant District Commissioner Umerkot

Annex I: Summary of districts/agencies with high to severe food insecurity (IPC phases 3 and 4):

Province	District	Causes
Districts in Phase 4 (severely food insecure) Districts		
Sindh	Tharparkar	Tharparkar is a desert district of Sindh. The population of this district is facing acute malnutrition, unemployment, limited access to safe drinking water and livelihood challenges in this drought affected district of Eastern Sindh.
FATA	FR D.I. Khan, FR Tank, South Waziristan Agency, North Waziristan Agency, Orakzai Agency, FR Kohat	Populations affected by prevailing law and order situation in these agencies were found in the highest levels of acute food insecurity situation due to poor food availability, access and/or utilization.
Balochistan	Chaghai & Dera Bugti.	Two districts were classified as being under Phase 4. These include the highly volatile district Dera Bugti which has low levels of literacy, few sources of income and a debilitating law and order situation. District Chaghai in the desert region has high levels of poverty with little access to food for a large majority of the population. Food is scarce in these areas due to little availability of water coupled with long drought periods. The area offers few livelihood opportunities.
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	Tor Ghar	District Tor Ghar is classified in Phase 4. Sectarian problem and low food consumption and low income opportunities are important points of reference showing overall situation of food security of the presumably poor.
Districts in Phase 3 (high food insecurity)		
Sindh	Dadu, Jamshoro, Sanghar, Umerkot, Badin, Kashmore	Overall high levels of poverty in these districts contributed to their classification under Phase 3. In the previous analysis conducted earlier this year, this time 6 were placed in phase 3 due to improved food security situation of these districts.
AJK	Neelum, Haveli, Sudhnoti.	Due to small landholding, rugged terrain, and remoteness, local employment opportunities are meager. People go downstream or abroad for employment seeking, hence there is large incidence of male out migration. As such majority of the population is facing challenges to meet the food needs.
Gilgit Baltistan	Ghanche, Astore	Very poor access situation in these snow covered hilly terrain where people are impoverished with little income and very little land holding in the remote mountains districts with limited infrastructure.
Balochistan	Musakhel, Kohlu, Kacchi, Kalat, Nushki, Kharan, Washuk, Panjgur, Awaran, Lasbella, Jaffarabad	Limited access to food with almost 70 % of the population living below the poverty line. These districts are considered to be highly food insecure. Among the principal reasons pushing districts towards high levels of food insecurity was a worsening law and order situation.
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	Kohistan, Hangu, Tank	Districts Kohistan, Hangu, and Tank are classified under Phase 3, with district Kohistan's situation projected as improving in the coming months. All three districts have prevalence of high levels of poverty, remoteness and natural disasters. Limited access to food due to low income and small land holding, poor nutrition situation with high IMR and prevalence of diseases, poor food utilization due to high illiteracy and poor access to safe water and sanitation.
FATA	Mohmand Agency, Khyber Agency	Poor access to food due to very poor socio-economic conditions, low local production, physical remoteness and insecurity. It is one of the poorest areas of the country with high mortality rates (CMR and IMR).

Annex II: Zero Hunger Challenge and current initiatives in Pakistan

Zero Hunger Challenge	Suggested interventions for ZHP in Pakistan (2012)	Core interventions analyzed during Mapping Phase	Current scenario in Pakistan
 <p>Zero stunted children less than 2 years</p>	ii. Nutrition Programs for children under five years of age and PLW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide nutritional support to pregnant and lactating women (e.g. specialized nutritious foods) Provide nutritional support to children under five years of age (e.g. nutritional supplements, promotion of exclusive breastfeeding) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing inter-sectoral coordination and mobilization for nutrition under SUN framework Comprehensive nutrition projects (PC-Is) under implementation, by provincial governments Approved provincial nutrition strategies Opportunity to expand CMAM/LHW coverage
	xiii. Overcoming malnutrition through health and nutrition programmes		
	x. Diversification of food and habit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote diversification of food intake and improved dietary habits (e.g. BCC) 	
	xii. Food and nutrition awareness and education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote food and nutrition awareness and education (e.g. nutrition education in schools) 	
	ix. Improved nutritious quality of food intake	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve nutritious quality of food intake (e.g. biofortification, WFF, USI) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plans for scale up of USI and WFF, NFA Biofortification initiatives at national level
 <p>100% access to adequate food all year round</p>	i. School feeding programme in the most food insecure districts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide school feeding (e.g. provision of take home rations, school meals and high energy biscuits) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provincial governments committed to develop school feeding initiatives Interest in HGSF approach
	iii. Conditional cash/food transfers to the most food insecure households	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide conditional cash/food transfers to the most food insecure households 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiple social safety nets exist at federal and provincial levels (BISP, USC, Bait-ul-Mal, social welfare depts. etc) Need for enhanced coordination in targeting and monitoring BISP plans pilots of conditional cash transfers, interest in linkage with nutrition
	vi. Targeted and conditional social safety nets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide targeted conditional social safety nets (cash, in-kind, housing, health facilities) 	
	viii. Food supply and distribution programmes for the poor and highly food insecure people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Food Distribution (GFD) for food insecure households 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Isolated government initiatives at Provincial level linked with Federal Social Safety nets (USC and BISP)
	xiv. Zero Hunger shops in low-income areas of major cities of Pakistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide food subsidies (e.g. subsidized staple foods) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ample presence of Utility Stores Corporation Isolated/ad hoc initiatives at Provincial Level
	iv. Cash/food support for vulnerable communities affected by man-made and natural disasters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide cash/food support for vulnerable communities affected by man-made and natural disasters (e.g. UCT, GFD, FFW, FFT, CFF) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiple programmes by UN agencies and NGOs covering conflict and disaster-affected areas Need for strengthening of government Emergency Response Management
	vii. Rationalization of market prices of food commodities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulate/intervene in market prices to promote access to food commodities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong role of provincial food departments / PASSCO in staple price regulation
	(not featured at the announcement of ZHP in Pakistan)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide skill-based trainings (e.g. capacity building, professional skills, vocational trainings) Provide targeted productive loans (e.g. microcredit) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> comprehensive network of NGOs promoting skill-based trainings and microcredit services Need for expanding coverage of current initiatives
 <p>All food systems are sustainable</p>	(not featured at the announcement of ZHP in Pakistan)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote sustainable agriculture practices (e.g. organic farming, permaculture, IPM, climate-resilient agriculture, reduction of pesticide residues) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity building projects covering sustainable agriculture practices, need for expanded coverage Provincial governments sensitized to promote sustainable agricultural practices
 <p>100% increase in smallholder productivity and income</p>	v. Stimulus programmes to expand farm outputs and market access (No specific mention to smallholder/family farmers was made at the announcement of ZHP in Pakistan)	Enhance farmer's knowledge and capacity (e.g. farmer field schools, kitchen gardens, trainings on livestock management)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relevant experience and existing framework of rural Extension programmes to support smallholder farmers (e.g. farmer field schools, farmers market collectives etc) Need for expanding the coverage of current initiatives Interest and willingness of Federal and provincial governments to expand support to smallholder farmers Interest and opportunities for public procurement (buyback schemes) from smallholder farmers
		Expand market access by smallholder farmers (e.g. formation of farmer's collectives, buy-back schemes, free markets, direct purchase mechanisms)	
		Facilitate access to farming inputs and access (e.g. seeds, tools, fertilizers, pesticides, veterinary drugs, livestock kits)	
		Provide financial assistance (e.g. crop insurance, loans, financing)	
	xi. Revitalizing processing industry community at sub-national and national level	Facilitate access to food processing/value addition activities by smallholder farmers	
 <p>Zero loss or waste of food</p>	(not featured at the announcement of ZHP in Pakistan)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> pre-harvest loss prevention (agriculture) post-harvest loss prevention (storing, packing, handling and distribution) post-delivery loss prevention (storage) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need for strategies and projects to address food loss and waste at national and provincial levels Provincial governments are sensitized and requested support to minimize losses