

Humanitarian Crisis Analysis 2025

Pakistan

31 March 2025

1. Crisis overviewi



Pakistan is still affected by the aftermath of the unprecedented floods in 2022, which continued well into 2023. The floods submerged one third of the country, affecting 33 million people. Half of those affected were children. It left 20.6 million in need of lifesaving assistance. Over 767,000 houses were destroyed and nearly 1.3 million houses damaged. 89 per cent of this was in Sindh Province. In total, 7.9 million people were displaced, while at least 664,000 individuals placed into relief camps and informal sites. There were more than 1,100 fatalities. The impact on farmland and agriculture has been immense, with more than 1.1 million livestock reportedly killed. The floods aggravate the already vulnerable communities, resulting in high levels of food insecurity and malnutrition.

In addition to the effects of the floods, Pakistan is currently hosting approximately 2.8 million Afghan nationals, who are mostly concentrated in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces. These provinces also experience high levels of multidimensional poverty. In September 2023, the Pakistani government issued the Illegal Foreigners Repatriation Plan (IFRP), leading to different degrees of voluntary returns of Afghan nationals. Cumulatively, from 15 September 2023 to 28 February 2025, 842,429 individuals have returned, with close to 58 per cent of the returnees are children.

2. Humanitarian needs & affected population

Despite aid and rehabilitation efforts during 2022 and 2023, the devastation from the floods still create humanitarian needs in 2024. Monsoon season runs from July to September in Pakistan. Although the monsoon season of 2024 was not as devastating as the enormous floods of 2022, 368 deaths were reported during the period of 1st of July to 23st of September 2024. Pakistan is highly susceptible to climate change, making it one of the world's most disaster-prone countries. Areas hit hardest by the 2022 floods are still struggling to fully recover, and while reconstruction and rehabilitation are proceeding, millions of people remain increasingly vulnerable to natural hazards.

The food security situation has been affected by the lingering impacts of the 2022-23 floods. A Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis show that approximately 11 million people (22 percent of the analysed population) in parts of Balochistan, Sindh, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in Pakistan are facing high levels of acute food insecurity between November 2024 and March 2025 with 1.7 million people in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency). Despite some positive developments such as a decline in food inflation and increased household wheat stocks, significant challenges continue to impede progress in food security. These challenges include domestic conflicts, harsh winters, unfavourable agricultural output prices, anticipated climatic shocks, and limited livelihood opportunities. The Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) rate in the country is twice that of the South Asian region average and four times higher than the global average. Pakistan also has one of the highest burdens of low birthweight babies globally with a national average of 22.7 per cent and up to 50 per cent in some provinces. Women and girls thereby often bear the brunt of malnutrition-related burdens, including the responsibility for caregiving and household management.

A specific vulnerable group in Pakistan are the Afghan nationals of varying legal status. The rate of arrest, detention, deportation, and returns has decreased significantly since its peak in October and November 2023. In January and February 2025, the Government of Pakistan issued a directive, requiring Afghan nationals in Pakistan to relocate from Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) and Rawalpindi, or else face deportation. This has resulted in an uptick in arrests, detentions and deportations of Afghan nationals in ICT and Rawalpindi.

3. The humanitarian response

There will be no joint humanitarian response plan launched for 2025 as there is no longer an on-going floods situation in the country. However, humanitarian needs are still high in Pakistan, as described under section 2 above.

The main donors in Pakistan during 2024 were The Government of Pakistan, USA, European Commission Humanitarian Office (ECHO), Qatar, The Netherlands as well as Sweden as the sixth biggest humanitarian donor. The largest sectors in financial terms during 2024 were Food Security, Health, Education, Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and Child Protection.

The global freeze and scale-back of US humanitarian funding announced in January 2025 is having major consequences on aid operations, and the Humanitarian Country Team is adapting the response in light of the new funding landscape.

In 2024 and 2025, OCHA Pakistan will focus more on building capacity of the Government partners including local government organizations to respond to the most vulnerable and help them prepare for extreme events; humanitarian access and promote the protection of people in all humanitarian action. For development cooperation with Pakistan, there is a United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for the period 2023-2027. However, Sida has no staff in country or any long term development cooperation with Pakistan. Sida's involvement in the implementation of UNSDCF, and our analysis of its relation to the humanitarian needs, nexus or peace and conflict, is therefore limited.

4. Sida's humanitarian allocation

Sida's priorities regarding humanitarian assistance is to save lives and alleviate suffering, and assist where the needs are most severe. At the time of writing of this Humanitarian Crisis Analysis for Pakistan, Sida's priorities consists mainly of: addressing the consequences of past flooding and preparedness for any future disasters, enhance food security and nutrition, and the protection situation for Afgha nationals in Pakistan.

The geographical focus is where the needs are most severe, which at the time of writing of this Humanitarian Crisis Analysis are the Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces. Sida prioritises flexibility and is therefore largely providing flexible support to enable partners to adapt their multi-sectoral country programs and respond swiftly to emergent humanitarian needs, including any future climate driven disaster.

INITIAL ALLOCATION (SEK)		
PARTNER	SECTOR	INITIAL ALLOCATION
Action Against Hunger	Shelter, NFI, FSL, Health, Nutrition, WASH, Protection, GBV, Multipurpose Cash	9,000,000
Islamic Relief	FSL, WASH, Protection	30,000,000
UNICEF	Multi-sector, Education, Nutrition, WASH, Child Protection	27,000,000
TOTAL		66,000,000

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ⁱ The 2025 initial allocation of humanitarian funding is based on Sida's humanitarian allocation analysis methodology. The analysis reflects the current humanitarian situation across crises and is being updated continuously with the latest available data. The information in the HCA is based on reports, data, and information from partner organisations and other entities, as well as observations from field visits and dialogue with partners.