

### CONTEXT

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- Pakistan is highly susceptible to natural hazards, such as drought, earthquakes, floods, and landslides. In recent years, these hazards have generated widespread population displacement and exacerbated humanitarian needs, particularly among low-income households.
- Multiple shocks since early 2020, including desert locust infestations, monsoon flooding, severe winter weather, the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, and the residual effects of the 2018/2019 drought, have disrupted livelihoods and exacerbated humanitarian needs in Pakistan, particularly in Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPk), and Sindh provinces. An estimated 11 million people in Pakistan will require humanitarian assistance in 2021, with the highest needs in Balochistan, KPk, and Sindh, according to the UN.
- Heavy monsoon rainfall caused severe flooding in 2020, adversely affecting more than 2 million people in Balochistan and Sindh and exacerbating existing vulnerabilities resulting from chronic food insecurity and prolonged drought, the UN reports. Food insecurity remains high in 2021, with approximately 3.3 million people in the two provinces projected to face acute food insecurity through late 2021, according to an IPC analysis.<sup>1</sup>
- Levels of wasting—the deadliest form of malnutrition—in Pakistan remain high, particularly in KPk, where prolonged insecurity and long-term displacement have restricted livelihood opportunities, impeding households' ability to afford nutritious food. Pakistan's global acute malnutrition rate is 17.7 percent, which exceeds the UN World Health Organization (WHO) emergency threshold of 15 percent.



### ASSISTANCE

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- USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) provides ongoing support to community leaders and Government of Pakistan (GoP) authorities to help prepare for and mitigate the effects of natural disasters. USAID/BHA assistance for disaster risk reduction includes capacity-building programs for emergency responders, trainings on early warning systems and rapid response mechanisms, and workshops on coordination and information sharing for community leaders and GoP disaster management specialists.
- With FY 2020 funding, USAID/BHA supported the UN World Food Program and non-governmental organization (NGO) ACTED to provide cash assistance to flood-affected households in Sindh, helping flood survivors rebuild their livelihoods and strengthen their resilience to future shocks.
- In addition to early recovery, risk reduction, and resilience (ER4) activities in Pakistan, USAID/BHA supports the provision of emergency food and nutrition services to vulnerable households in Balochistan, KPk, and Sindh

<sup>1</sup> The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a multi-partner initiative that developed a standardized scale to classify the severity and magnitude of food insecurity. The IPC scale, which is comparable across countries and time, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5—for acute food insecurity.

adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. In FY 2020, USAID/BHA provided approximately \$8 million to help vulnerable households meet their basic food and nutrition needs. For example, USAID/BHA worked with the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) to provide nutrition services to more than 24,000 children younger than five years of age experiencing severe wasting in Balochistan and KPK.

- USAID/BHA also provides continued support to displaced populations, host communities, and returnees in KPk and the former Federally Administered Tribal Areas, with programs facilitating the transition from a humanitarian to development response and needs-based vulnerability assessments to inform the prioritization of populations targeted for assistance. For example, USAID/BHA has supported Concern International since FY 2009 to implement a countrywide response program designed to quickly provide targeted grants to local partners with the access, capacity, and knowledge required to meet the health, protection, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene needs of host communities, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and returnees. USAID/BHA also supports the program to deliver relief commodities following natural disasters, facilitate humanitarian coordination and information management, and provide economic recovery and agriculture interventions to IDPs returning to areas of origin.



USAID/BHA is supporting local NGOs to conduct COVID-19 awareness campaigns in coordination with the Provincial Disaster Management Authority in Balochistan, KPk, and Sindh.  
Photo Credit: Concern International

USAID/BHA Funding in Pakistan <sup>2</sup>			
	Emergency <sup>3</sup>	ER4	TOTAL
FY 2020	\$7,998,340	–	\$7,998,340
FY 2021	–	\$3,000,000	\$3,00,000

<sup>2</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of July 7, 2021. Totals include estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement; subject to change.

<sup>3</sup> Includes funding for programs that integrate ER4 activities with emergency response.