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## EMERGENCY SUPPORT TO IMPROVE FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURE-BASED SUBSISTENCE LIVELIHOODS OF DROUGHT-AFFECTED POPULATION IN BALOCHISTAN AND SINDH PROVINCES OF PAKISTAN

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SDGs:



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### Implementing Partners

Ministry of Food Security and Research (MNFS&R), National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), Provincial Directorates of Agriculture, Livestock, Sindh and Balochistan, Government of Pakistan.

### Beneficiaries

Drought-affected households of Balochistan and Sindh provinces, including subsistence livestock holders and farmers, small-scale farmers and women-headed households (HHs).

### Country Programming Framework (CPF) Outputs

#### CPF 2018-2022.

Government Priority 1: Zero Hunger: Healthy, Safe and Nutritious Food for All.

Country Outcome 1.2: Government officials utilize national/provincial agriculture and food information systems for institutionalization of evidence-based policies/frameworks/strategies/guidelines.

Output 1.2.1: National/provincial agriculture and food security information systems functional and knowledge products in place.

Government Priority 2: Climate Smart Resilient Agriculture and Sustainable Ecosystems including Forests, Fisheries, Livestock, Rangeland and Water Management.

Country Outcome 2.2: Disaster-prone communities enabled to better anticipate and cope with natural calamities related to climate change.

Output 2.2.2: Disaster-affected communities are timely assisted to respond to human-made or natural disasters.



## BACKGROUND

Pakistan has an estimated population of around 208 million, with 40.9 million living below the national poverty line. The country is not only prone to natural disasters that adversely impact the food security and livelihoods of its inhabitants, but is also vulnerable to climatic changes that are expected to increase the occurrence and severity of droughts in the southern part of the country, especially in Balochistan and Sindh provinces, where between 65 and 95 percent of the population lives in rural areas. Drought is increasingly common in these provinces, with serious consequences on food security, livestock, crops, water resources, the environment and aquifers. In August 2018, the Provincial Disaster Management Authority of Sindh identified 513 villages in eight districts of Sindh as calamity-hit (drought-affected). In December 2018, 18 districts in Balochistan were identified as calamity-hit by the PDMA, Balochistan.

Both Sindh and Balochistan provinces have a high prevalence of poverty and food insecurity. The incidence of multidimensional poverty is 43 percent and 71 percent in Sindh and Balochistan, respectively, and even higher in rural areas. According to the preliminary results of a National Nutrition Survey in 2018, global acute malnutrition rates are above emergency thresholds in most drought-affected districts. A Sindh drought needs assessment conducted in October 2018 classified between 32 and 36 percent of HHs (0.72-0.89 million people) as severely food insecure and 1-1.6 million people classified as moderately food insecure. A similar assessment conducted in 14 drought-affected districts of Balochistan in January 2019 indicated that 58 percent of surveyed HHs experienced moderate or severe hunger.

In response to the drought emergency in the two provinces the PDMAs declared a state of calamity in the affected districts while the NDMA requested the United Nations System to activate an emergency response coordination system. A drought response plan for emergency support to 2.1 million people in the prioritized districts was developed, with a funding requirement of USD 96.3 million in January 2019, to be led by FAO and the World Food Programme (WFP). The current project was developed to provide immediate emergency assistance to extremely food-insecure drought-affected agro-pastoralist communities in the provinces of Balochistan (in Nushki and Chaghi districts) and Sindh (in Umerkot and Sanghar districts). The project would also conduct an Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) acute food insecurity (AFI) analysis for the drought-affected areas.

## IMPACT

The project has significantly improved the resilience of the targeted drought-affected agro-pastoralist communities and ensured the availability of, and access to, food for both humans and livestock. The IPC AFI analyses produced by the project will help to classify the drought-affected areas based on the prevalence of acute food insecurity, as well as identifying major contributing factors to such insecurity, and providing actionable knowledge by consolidating wide-ranging evidence on AFI and contributing factors. The information generated through IPC analysis will be useful for policy-makers and development partners in planning drought emergency response in Sindh and Balochistan provinces, with key lessons learned for other provinces and regions in the country.

## ACHIEVEMENT OF RESULTS

The project provided immediate emergency assistance to address the urgent needs of extremely food-insecure drought-affected agro-pastoralist communities in the provinces of Balochistan (Nushki and Chaghi districts) and Sindh (Umerkot and Sanghar districts). Livestock-dependent pastoralist families received animal feed and health support to protect their core livestock assets and livestock-based livelihoods, while farming families were provided with crop packages to resume agriculture production. In addition, the local capacities of the government, communities and other stakeholders were enhanced through training in such areas as livestock management, crop and fodder production and kitchen gardening, dietary diversity and food processing, water management, community livestock extension, community animal health work, livestock emergency guidelines and standards, cash transfer programming and information management.

Coordination support was provided at national and provincial levels to ensure effective cooperation among stakeholders and to prepare a situation analysis for enhanced preparedness and response planning. The project prepared information products (4W [Who, What, When Where] matrix, gap analysis, humanitarian dashboards, info-graphs, organizational presence matrix), conducted survey and research activities in collaboration with other partners and shared this information with members of the Food Security and Agriculture Working Group (FSAWG), thus ensuring a pragmatic approach.

Finally, the project conducted IPC AFI analysis for the drought-affected areas of the target provinces to determine and reveal the number of people in each phase of food insecurity (IPC Phase Classification) in each district of the two provinces.

## IMPLEMENTATION OF WORK PLAN AND BUDGET

Activities related to the procurement of agricultural inputs, animal feed, livestock vaccination through Letters of Agreement (LoAs) and training related to livestock were delayed, which affected the efficiency and timely response for the drought-affected communities, particularly in Balochistan. In May 2021, a request was made for a no-cost extension of six months to enable all the planned project activities to be completed. This was granted.

All activities were implemented within the planned budget. A reprogramming of the budget was carried out in late 2020 to re-allocate the available funds and a new activity (1.14) was introduced.

## FOLLOW-UP FOR GOVERNMENT ATTENTION

The capacity-building provided under the project has enabled line department officials and farmers to pursue the activities introduced under the project without further technical assistance. However, as learning is a continuous process, further assistance should be provided to farmers in terms of technical capacity-building to enable future intervention through self-reliant efforts.

## SUSTAINABILITY

### 1. Capacity development

The project built the capacity of farmers in sustainable agricultural practices and of government and non-government officials in the analysis of food security. The project was implemented in close coordination with the green sector line department, involving the department in such activities as site identification, the selection and endorsement of beneficiaries, orientation sessions at distribution sites and the conduct of certain activities under LOAs, all of which created knowledge-sharing opportunities. Such coordination encouraged a sense of project ownership and a uniform level of understanding. At national and provincial level, strong coordination was also maintained by organizing regular FSAWG coordination meetings and, with the support of MNFS&R, IPC AFI analysis training and analysis workshops. It is expected that MNFS&R will continue to support the organization of these activities.

### 2. Gender equality

Project assistance was implemented by targeting households rather than individuals, which ensured that both women and men benefited equally from all project interventions, including the distribution of seeds, the vaccination of livestock and capacity-building activities.

### 3. Environmental sustainability

Environmental issues were not directly addressed by the project.

### 4. Human Rights-based Approach (HRBA) – in particular Right to Food and Decent Work

Human rights issues were not directly addressed by the project.

### 5. Technological sustainability

The beneficiaries who received agricultural inputs were oriented in sustainable agricultural practices to increase yield. The capacity of farmers, government officials and food security analysts was built in crop and livestock production and management, water management, dietary diversity and food processing, and IPC AFI analysis.

### 6. Economic sustainability

The outset of this project in drought-affected areas also contributed to the introduction of other projects, particularly in Balochistan districts, such as a Central Emergency Response Fund project with funding support from the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), a project funded by the Pakistan Humanitarian Pool Fund and projects by other agencies such as WFP.



## DOCUMENTS AND OUTREACH PRODUCTS

- ❑ **FAO.** 2019. *IPC Acute Food Insecurity Analysis Reports for Balochistan.* July 2019. 10 pp.
- ❑ **FAO.** 2019. *IPC Acute Food Insecurity Analysis Reports for Sindh.* July 2019. 10 pp.



## ACHIEVEMENT OF RESULTS - LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

<b>Expected Impact</b>	<b>People of Balochistan and Sindh have improved food security, nutrition and resilience</b>		
<b>Outcome</b>	Drought-affected households of Balochistan and Sindh provinces have improved agriculture-based livelihoods		
	<b>Indicator</b>	Food security and agriculture-based livelihoods of drought-affected population revitalized/ improved	
	<b>Baseline</b>	0	
	<b>End Target</b>	13 865	
	<b>Comments and follow-up action to be taken</b>	A total of 16 517 HHs received support through a variety of activities. Some HHs received more than one type of support/training, including animal feed and health support, training in kitchen gardening and diet diversity. Double counting was avoided in reporting the achieved target. The target was overachieved as a result of the animal health support provided to the HHs.	
<b>Output 1</b>	Drought-affected targeted households provided with timely support regarding animal health, livestock de-stocking and crop inputs (seeds)		
	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Achieved</b>
	– Number of HHs supported with animal feed.	– 2 318	– Yes
	– Number of HHs provided with animal health support.	– 3 900	– Yes
	– Number of small animals vaccinated against <i>Peste des Petits Ruminants</i> (PPR), Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and de-wormed.	– 19 500	– Yes
	– Number of large animals vaccinated against FMD and de-wormed.	– 7 800	– Yes
	– Number of HHs trained in improved animal health and production (including feed and feeding management, feed preservation, operation calendar etc), and resilience-building (disaggregated by gender).	– 2 682	– Partially
	– Number of livestock mandi (through cash or voucher) established/ strengthened.	– 1	– Yes
	– Number of HHs supported through destocking of their livestock.	– 923	– Partially
	– Number of animals destocked.	– 1 846	– Partially
	– Number of HHs provided with crop-related support (i.e. maize, millet (bajra), sorghum/guar seed).	– 1 202	– Partially
	– Number of farming HHs trained in crop production and management (disaggregated by gender).	– 840	– Partially
	– Number of HHs (women) supported by homestead gardening packages.	– 500	– Partially
– Number of HHs (women) trained in kitchen gardening.	– 500	– Partially	
– Number of HHs (women) trained in dietary diversity and food processing.	– 500	– Yes	
– Number of HHs trained in water management.	– 500	– Partially	
<b>Baseline</b>	0		
<b>Comments</b>	The project team and partners were able to complete most project activities with most targeted HHs (see details below). The set targets were wholly or partially achieved, although the COVID-19 outbreak in early 2022 impacted the overall project plan and timelines. The procurement and delivery of seeds, animal feed and vaccination were delayed, which subsequently affected the timely implementation of activities.		
<b>Activity 1.1</b>	Identification of beneficiaries for livestock inputs (concentrated animal feed, fodder crop seeds and vaccination)		
	<b>Achieved</b>	Yes	
	<b>Comments</b>	This activity was linked to Activities 1.2 and 1.4. The beneficiaries for livestock inputs were identified, selected and verified in line with approved beneficiary selection criteria. For the selection of beneficiaries, FAO adopted a participatory approach to ensure the transparency of the process. A thorough community consultation process was adopted with project beneficiaries and the affected communities to enable the smooth implementation of the project.	
<b>Activity 1.2</b>	Procurement and distribution of livestock inputs (394 tonnes concentrated animal feed)		
	<b>Achieved</b>	Yes	
	<b>Comments</b>	To provide timely assistance to drought-affected families, FAO procured 419 tonnes of animal feed for distribution among 2 394 HHs. The technical specifications of animal compound feed were developed by the Livestock Officer, and the specifications were reviewed and approved by the project Lead Technical Officer. The compound feed contained essential ingredients for animal maintenance and production, including seed cakes, crop by-products (such as wheat bran, rice polishing, maize and pulses) and required nutrients. The technical evaluation of bids and animal feed sample analysis were included in the procurement plan to ensure that farmers received good quality feed in time.	

Activity 1.3	Procurement of vaccines and anthelmintic for large and small ruminants	
	Achieved	Yes
	Comments	This activity was linked to Activity 1.4. Foot and Mouth Disease and PPR vaccines and injectable de-wormers (Ivermectin) were procured to protect core livestock assets. The technical specifications and quality control were followed based on the FAO standard procurement procedure.
Activity 1.4	Vaccination/de-worming of livestock of 7 800 large and 19 500 small ruminants	
	Achieved	Yes
	Comments	The project finalized the vaccination modalities with the Livestock and Dairy Development Department of Sindh and Balochistan. Following finalization, an LoA was signed with the Directorate of Livestock and Dairy Development, Balochistan, for animal health checks, FMD and PPR vaccinations, and the de-worming of large and small ruminants in collaboration with two other FAO projects, in order to have greater coverage and a more efficient use of resources. Health camps were organized with the support of the livestock departments of the target districts, and 92 000 large ruminants and 296 000 small ruminants, substantially above the planned targets, were vaccinated against the highly contagious diseases of FMD and PPR, while 388 000 animals were de-wormed, benefiting around 15 500 HHs, at an average of 25 animals/HH.
Activity 1.5	Capacity development of 2 682 households on animal health and production (including feed and feeding management, feed preservation, operation calendar, etc.)	
	Achieved	Partially
	Comments	A total of 40 participants received training. An LoA was signed with the Centre for Advanced Studies in Vaccinology and Biotechnology, University of Balochistan. Under this agreement, two training events were provided, as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– a 28-day training course on animal health and improved animal husbandry practices for 20 community animal health workers; and</li> <li>– a 14-day training course on livestock extension techniques for 20 community livestock extension workers.</li> </ul>
Activity 1.6	Identification of one site for Livestock Market (Mandi) establishment/strengthening through cash or voucher	
	Achieved	Yes
	Comments	This activity was carried out in August 2019. The site for the livestock market (mandi) was completed in consultation with the livestock department.
Activity 1.7	Identification of 923 households and their animals for destocking	
	Achieved	Partially
	Comments	FAO signed a United Nations to United Nations agreement with WFP to transfer conditional cash grants for the destocking of animals in Nushki district. Around 1 500 animals were destocked and funds transferred to 238 households by injecting a total cash amount of PKR 1 019 000.
Activity 1.8	Identification of 1 202 households for crop inputs (crops/fodder seed and vegetable kits)	
	Achieved	Partially
	Comments	A total of 892 HHs was identified under this activity, with was linked to Activities 1.9 and 1.10. Households were assessed and finalized in line with FAO's beneficiary selection criteria for the distribution of crop inputs
Activity 1.9	Procurement and distribution of 27.4 tonnes of crops and seed	
	Achieved	Yes
	Comments	The tendering process to procure the requisite varieties of seed (maize, millet and sorghum/ guar) was launched twice. However, FAO efforts to procure Federal Seed Certification and Registration Department-certified drought-tolerant seed varieties were unsuccessful because of the unavailability of the requisite certified seed varieties in the local market and the absence of the requisite seed variety stocks in sufficient quantity with government research institutes (such as the National Agriculture Research Council and the Arid Zone Agriculture Research Institute). As a result, following FAO consultation with the government line departments and affected communities, and considering the local crop calendar and needs of beneficiaries, in order to utilize the funds effectively, FAO decided to utilize the budget and procure wheat seeds (50 kg/HH) for distribution in Nushki district. In line with this decision, 32.1 tonnes of wheat seeds were procured for distribution to 642 farming households with at least one acre of land.

Activity 1.10	Procurement and distribution of 500 Homestead Gardening Packages for assorted vegetable production at household level		
	Achieved	Partially	
Comments	Under this activity, 250 HHs were reached. As a result of the unavailability of the requisite certified seed varieties in the local market and the absence of requisite seed variety stocks in sufficient quantity with the government research institutes, it was decided to procure the Kharif seed package to meet the current needs of HHs. Given the quantity of available seeds, 150 packages for kitchen gardening were procured. These included bitter melon (50 gm), brinjal (10 gm), chilli (50 gm), cucumber (10 gm), okra (50 gm), tomato (10 gm) and pumpkin seeds (50 gm). Other packages, comprising watermelon seeds (400 gm) and musk melon seeds (1 000 seeds), were procured for 100 targeted HHs. The remaining funds were reprogrammed.		
Activity 1.11	Capacity development of 500 households (women) on kitchen gardening		
	Achieved	Partially	
Comments	Under this activity, 250 HHs were reached. The beneficiaries of this and the following activity were the same. In 2019, a training of trainers (ToT) event was organized for 250 women beneficiaries of Sindh province on kitchen gardening, dietary diversity and food processing to improve family food security and nutrition, and increase vegetable production. In Balochistan, orientation sessions did not take place as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent travel restrictions.		
Activity 1.12	Capacity development of 500 households (women) on dietary diversity and food processing		
	Achieved	Partially	
Comments	Under this activity, 250 HHs were reached. The beneficiaries of this and the previous activity were the same. In 2019, a ToT event was organized for 250 women beneficiaries of Sindh province on kitchen gardening, dietary diversity and food processing to improve family food security and nutrition, and increase vegetable production. In Balochistan, orientation sessions did not take place as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent travel restrictions.		
Activity 1.13	Capacity development of 500 HHs on water management		
	Achieved	Yes	
Comments	The target of 500 HHs was achieved. A ToT and community training in water management for 250 HHs in Sindh and Balochistan, respectively, were completed in 2019.		
Activity 1.14	REPROGRAMMED – Installation/construction of 20 solar water troughs/pumps for animals in Sindh		
	Achieved	Partially	
Comments	Considering the needs in Sindh, 14 solar water troughs for animals were constructed in Sanghar and Umerkot districts, Sindh.		
Output 2	IPC acute food insecurity analysis reports available for drought notified areas in Sindh and Balochistan		
	Indicators	Target	Achieved
	– Number of government and non-government officials trained in analysis of food security. – Number of IPC acute food insecurity analysis reports published (one each for drought-affected areas of Sindh and Balochistan).	– 50 – 2	– Yes – Yes
Baseline	0		
Comments	This output was completed. The IPC AFI analysis reports 2019 for Sindh and Balochistan were shared with key stakeholders.		
Activity 2.1	Awareness-raising meetings with government officials and IPC member organizations		
	Achieved	Yes	
Comments	This was completed. Government officials and IPC members were informed about the IPC training and analysis workshop.		
Activity 2.2	Identification/nomination of relevant officials for training and analysis workshop		
	Achieved	Yes	
Comments	This was completed. Provincial and federal government departments nominated officials for participation in IPC training and analysis workshops.		
Activity 2.3	IPC acute food insecurity analysis training and analysis workshop		
	Achieved	Yes	
Comments	This was completed. An IPC AFI training and analysis workshop was held in Quetta at the PDMA Office in April 2019. IPC AFI reports were prepared and endorsed by provincial governments (PDMAs).		

<b>Output 3</b>	Improve evidence-based food security coordination and situation analysis for enhanced preparedness and response planning		
	Indicators	Target	Achieved
	– FSAWG coordination meetings at national level (Islamabad).	– 10	– Yes
	– FSAWG coordination meetings at provincial level (Sindh and Balochistan).	– 20	– Yes
	– 4W matrix and gap analysis in place.	– 5	– Yes
	– Humanitarian dashboards (quarterly) in place.	– 3	– Yes
	– Info-graphs in place.	– As needed	– Yes
– Situation maps (quarterly) in place.	– 3	– Yes	
– Organization presence matrix (quarterly) in place.	– 3	– Yes	
<b>Baseline</b>	0		
<b>Comments</b>	The original targets were more than achieved for six out of seven indicators.		
<b>Activity 3.1</b>	Meetings of FSAWG at national level (Islamabad) and provincial levels (Karachi and Quetta)		
	<b>Achieved</b>	Yes	
	<b>Comments</b>	Regular meetings were held at national level. Meetings at provincial level were held with varying frequency.	
<b>Activity 3.2</b>	Preparation and dissemination of minutes of the meetings of FSAWG		
	<b>Achieved</b>	Yes	
	<b>Comments</b>	Minutes of FSAWG meetings at national and provincial levels were shared with FSAWG partners for information and necessary actions.	
<b>Activity 3.3</b>	Collection of information on 4W from members of FSAWG		
	<b>Achieved</b>	Yes	
	<b>Comments</b>	Information was collected regularly from FSAWG partners at national and provincial levels using the 5W (Who does What Where When and for Whom) matrix. The consolidated information was shared with FSAWG partners and relevant government institutions.	
<b>Activity 3.4</b>	Preparation of gap analysis, humanitarian dashboards, info-graphs in collaboration with OCHA and organizational presence matrix		
	<b>Achieved</b>	Yes	
	<b>Comments</b>	Info-graphs/humanitarian dashboards were prepared regularly and shared with FSAWG partners.	

**Partnerships and Outreach**

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