FRDP
SERVING GRASSROOT COMMUNITIES

# DROUGHT 2026 SITUATION REPORT






## The Thar Desert (Tharparkar and Umerkot districts), Sindh



Issued: 12 November 2026

**51%**
less monsoon rain than normal, Sindh, Jul–Sep 2026
[2]

**98%**
of cultivating households reported lower yields than 2025 (291/297)
[1]

**79%**
of households struggled to get enough food (past 30 days)
[1]

**36%**
had someone go a full day and night without food
[1]

**65%**
reported a water source had dried up
[1]

**77.4%**
received no aid in the prior 3 months
[1]



**The population of Tharparkar generally and the people living in rural vicinities of the northern Tehsil of Tharparkar and the Eastern Tehsil of Umerkot districts, face multi-dimensional vulnerabilities shaped by a harsh environment, limited infrastructure, and high dependence on climate-sensitive livelihoods. These vulnerabilities are interconnected and tend to intensify during periods of drought.**

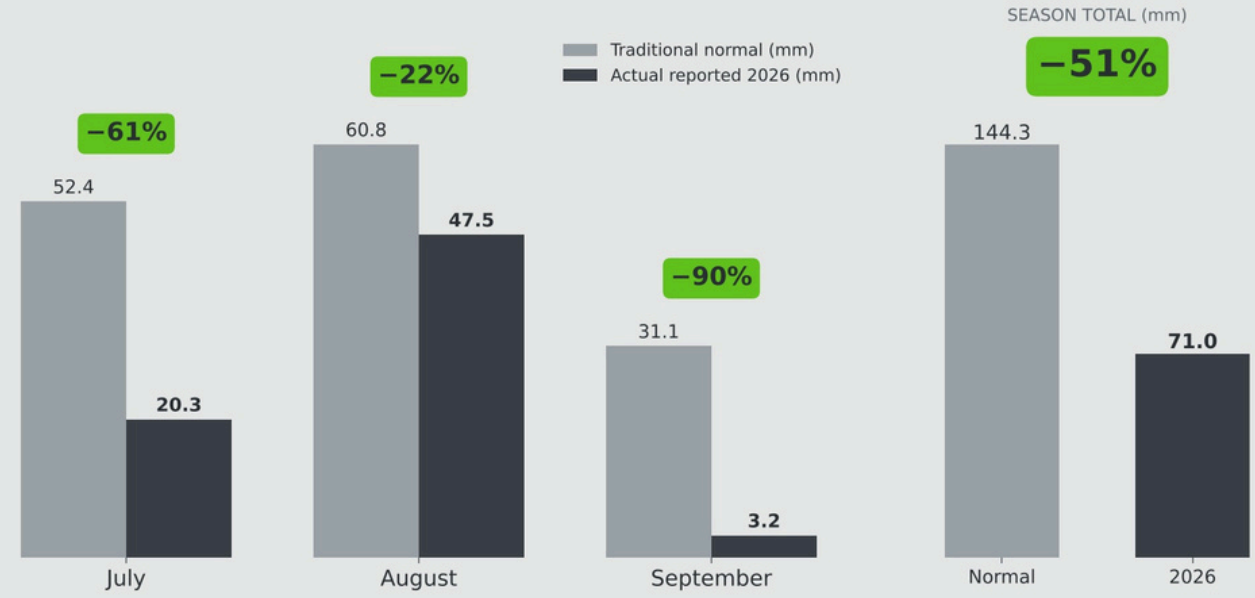
**Since February 2026, FRDP has been closely monitoring the emerging drought situation since February 2026; for this purpose, community consultations were convened in selected settlements within drought-prone tehsils of Tharparkar and Umerkot districts. Participants included pastoral households, village elders, women representatives, and community volunteers. Discussions relied on locally maintained seasonal calendars, recollection of past drought cycles, and collective mapping of environmental signals that historically precede severe dry spells, the current coping mechanisms, and potential vulnerabilities. Following the incorporation of community observations, the findings were presented for institutional review with the MET Department, PDMA Sindh, and DDMA Tharparkar, and the Technical Working Group on Anticipatory Action. Some of the key findings from the consultations are presented in this Drought 2026 Situation Report.**

**PROPOSED Immediate ACTIONs:**
Map out resources, conduct Multi Sectoral Rapid Need Assessment, focused response in the two districts. A calamity-hit notification is issued by the Government of Sindh Relief Department

**SITUATION**
Serious drought-related humanitarian deterioration in the assessed parts of Tharparkar and Umerkot, with risk of further worsening in the coming months; FEWS NET anticipates Crisis outcomes in other vulnerable parts of Sindh through at least January 2027.

# 1 RAINFALL: POOR, AND WORST AT THE END

Farmers missed the ploughing window; the traditional water sources were unable to recharge




*Season total is the sum of the three monthly values (144.3 mm vs 71.0 mm = −51%). Total bars are scaled to their own axis. Source: PMD Monsoon 2026 Report; Monthly Climate Summary, Sept 2026 [2]*

# 2 WHY THE HARVEST FAILED

The rain did come. Then it stopped. Farmers took tractors on rent and seed on credit, which they never paid back

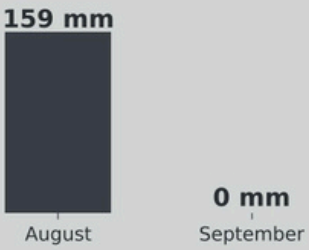
**Early rain encouraged sowing** → **Crops germinated** → **Follow-up moisture failed**

### MITHI



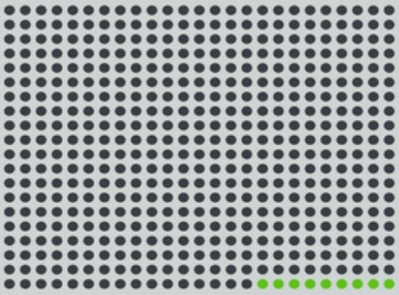

126 mm in one day, early August: the whole month's rain in a few hours

### CHHOR, UMERKOT




August rain fell in two days, followed by virtually none in September

### 98% LOWER YIELDS

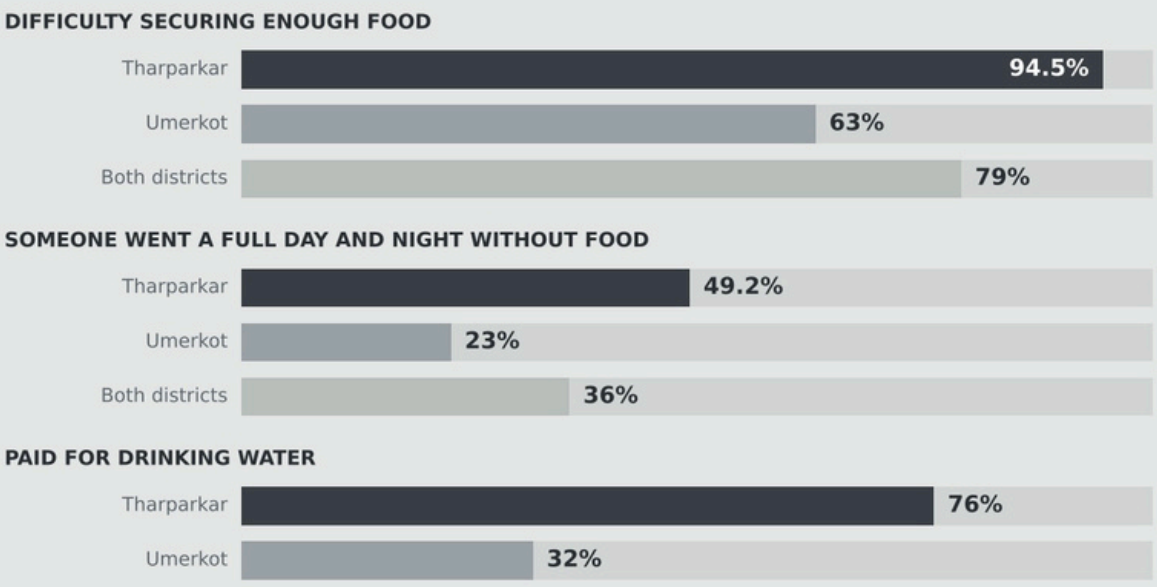


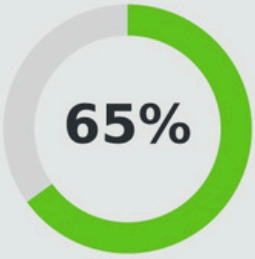
491 of 500 cultivating households reported lower yields than in 2025

*Sources: PMD Mithi/Chor station observations; KII; FGDs*

# 3 FOOD AND WATER: WHAT HOUSEHOLDS TOLD US

65% reported their water sources are drying up; women and girls who fetch water described longer journeys and difficulty finding water at traditional sweet wells.



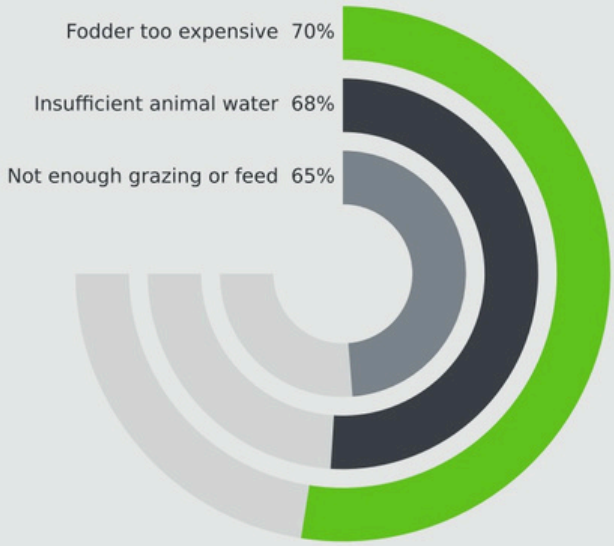

say their water sources are drying up





# 4 LIVESTOCK UNDER GROWING PRESSURE

The major livelihood for the desert people is livestock, and it also serves as a security deposit for the drought years; young people, along with larger animals (cows, buffaloes), are migrating to barrage areas to protect their assets.




**70%**

say fodder is too expensive

**68%** insufficient animal water

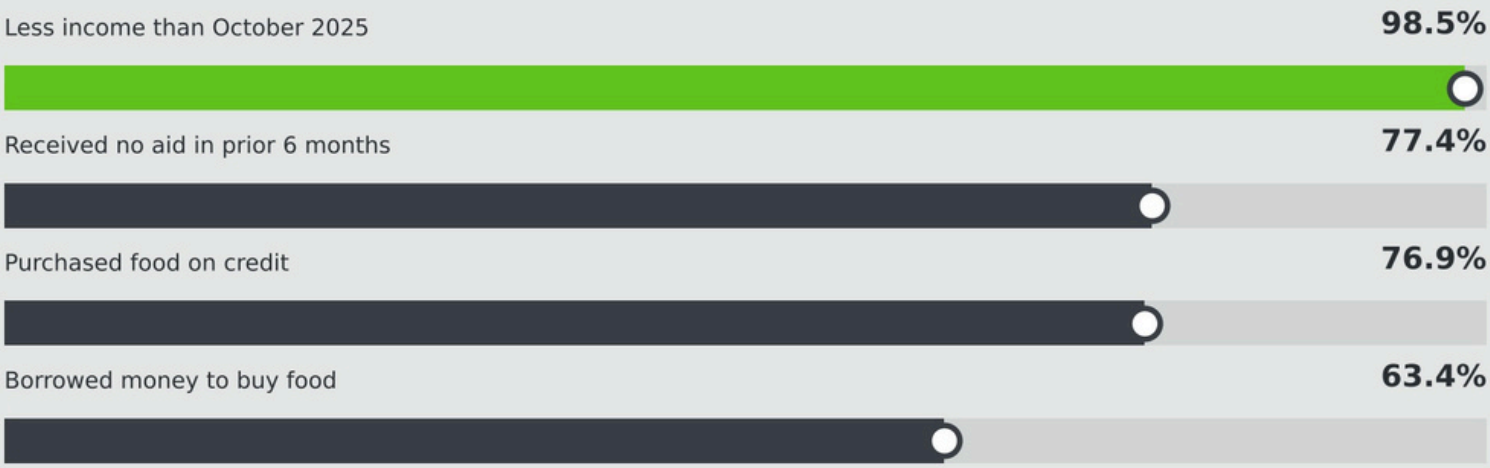
**65%** not enough grazing or feed

Farmers report deteriorating animal condition and earlier movement of herds towards irrigated areas.

*Source: FGD*

# 5 INCOME, COPING AND THE ASSISTANCE GAP

"Crop loss is now a cash and credit crisis"; we are no more favorites of our landlords.




> The KIIs with Market Associations and traditional moneylenders said: households are buying less while older credit remained unpaid.

# Way Forward

Food security, water, livelihoods, and Livestock are critical priority sectors, given the scale and severity of reported needs and deteriorating trends. Livestock and humanitarian assistance coverage are assessed as high-priority concerns, requiring timely and targeted interventions. The findings point to the need for an integrated response combining immediate food assistance, emergency water supply, livelihood protection, livestock support, and improved humanitarian assistance coverage, with particular attention to the most vulnerable households in Tharparkar and Umerkot.

1. The DDMAs to activate the District Humanitarian Partners Forum, lead the development of an integrated, phased approach that combines immediate life-saving assistance with livelihood protection and early recovery.
2. 15,000+ of the most vulnerable and food-insecure households require unconditional emergency food assistance or cash/voucher assistance
3. Promote public-private partnership for Management of ROs in almost 750 water-scarce villages, facilitate rehabilitation, functionalization, and community-led ownership
4. Establish and arrange emergency drinking water through water tankering and designated temporary communal water points for severely affected villages.
5. Synergies Social Security and Relief services through Adoptive Social Protection Actions.
1. Engage the Livestock Department to increase outreach services, with the provision of livestock fodder services,
7. Health Department to arrange Mobile Health Screening and Referral systems
8. Ensure gender-responsive and inclusive targeting, with particular attention to female-headed households, persons with disabilities, older people, and marginalised communities.
9. Apply the humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality, and independence.
10. Integrate protection, safeguarding, PSEA, and accessible FCRM across all interventions.
11. Develop clear exit and transition strategies to connect emergency assistance with longer-term drought preparedness and resilience.