



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Pakistan Country Brief March 2019



Operational Context

Pakistan is making significant investments to accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals and its national development programme – Vision 2025. However, high levels of malnutrition, frequent natural disasters, political instability and a volatile security climate in parts of the country are challenges that continue to obstruct socio-economic progress.

WFP Pakistan's Country Strategic Plan seeks to support this progress. Alongside the provision of critically needed relief and nutrition support to vulnerable population groups, WFP assistance in the country aims to complement the Government's efforts in enhancing food and nutrition security among vulnerable populations and provides technical support in developing relevant national strategies. WFP Pakistan's work encompasses community resilience building, disaster risk management and preparedness elements for sustainability and national ownership.

WFP has been present in Pakistan since 1968.



Population (2017 census):
207.7 million

2016 Human Development Index:
147 out of 188

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **44% of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

4,727 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 362,000 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 30.59 m six months (Apr 2019 - Sep 2019) net funding requirements

274,000 people assisted
in March 2019



Operational Updates

- Since 2017, WFP has been carrying out **operational research in Rahim Yar Khan, Punjab** to determine the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of using a combination of programmatic interventions i.e. unconditional cash transfers, Social and Behaviour Change Communications and specialized nutritious foods to prevent stunting among children aged 6-24 months. The WFP team conducted a field visit to Rahim Yar Khan in March. During the field visit, the need was highlighted to develop an exit strategy for the partner organization managing the research component of this initiative. To address this concern, WFP developed and shared standard operating procedures (SOPs) governing the exit strategy of the partner organization. The SOPs focus heavily on ensuring that appropriate information is shared with all stakeholders in a timely manner.
- As part of **WFP-IFRC's capacity strengthening initiative**, Volunteers Information Management System (VIMS) software is being developed for use by Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) in Pakistan. A progress review meeting with the software vendor (Cybervision) was held on 12 March. The vendor has handed over the beta version of the VIMS to PRCS for testing and feedback. The volunteer data/information is being incorporated into the system, which is due to be launched in the second quarter of 2019.
- In response to the **drought in Sindh and Balochistan**, WFP has started planning food **assistance for assets programs** in district Killa Abdullah, in Balochistan. Implementation is scheduled to start in May for seven months. Area prioritisation has been completed at tehsil level and is ongoing for the union council level. Cash Feasibility assessments have been completed and partner selection process is ongoing. In addition, implementation of the nutrition support **Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) intervention** has started in Killa Abdullah, Balochistan and Tharparkar, Sindh. This CMAM response is scheduled to continue up until September 2019. Both of these responses are being implemented with the support of resources from the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF).

Contact info: Katrien Ghooes (Katrien.ghooes@wfp.org)

Country Director: Finbarr Curran

Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/pakistan

Country Strategic Plan (2017 - 2021)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Apr-Sep Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
446.9 m	97.86 m	30.59 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Affected populations in Pakistan have timely access to adequate food and nutrition during and in the aftermath of natural disasters and shocks (SDG 2.1).

Focus area: Crisis response

Activities:

- Unconditional resource transfers to support access to food
- Asset creation and livelihood support activities.

Strategic Outcome 2: The social protection system at the federal and provincial levels provides the populations most in need, especially women, adolescent girls and children, with improved and sustained access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food by 2022.

Focus area: Root Causes

Activities:

- Institutional capacity strengthening activities
- School meal activities.

Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 3: The entire population of Pakistan, especially children under 5, adolescent girls and women of reproductive age, has improved nutrition in line with national targets for 2025.

Focus area: Root Causes

Activities:

- Malnutrition prevention activities
- Enhanced social and public-sector capacity to identify, target and assist nutritionally vulnerable populations

Strategic Result 4: Food systems are sustainable

Strategic Outcome 4: Communities in disaster prone districts have more resilient food systems and development gains are better protected by disaster risk management systems at all levels by 2022.

Focus area: Resilience building

Activities:

- Climate adaptation and risk management activities.
- Emergency preparedness activities

Strategic Result 5: Countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs (SDG target 17.9)

Strategic Outcome 5: Federal and provincial systems have strengthened capabilities to provide food security and essential services by 2022.

Focus area: Root Causes

Activities:

- Institutional capacity strengthening activities.

- The **Inception meeting of the Seasonal Livelihood Programming (SLP)** steering committee and thematic working group, was held on 8 March. The forum unanimously endorsed SLP implementation in the newly merged districts (ex-FATA) along with other relevant districts across the country. Consultative workshops were held for district Khyber held on 11-15 March in Peshawar, and from 18-22 March for district Umerkot. Both workshops were attended by around 50 participants representing the federal Government, provincial Government, district administration and relevant line departments, technical institutions, UN Agencies, NGOs, and the community.
- **Building Disaster Resilience in Pakistan (BDRP) Phase II:** The Project Management Committee (PMC) meeting of BDRP phase 2 was organised on 14 March in Lahore and 26 March in Peshawar. The meetings were chaired by Directors General of the respective Provincial Disaster Management Authorities (PDMAs). Participants included project stakeholders including relevant Government line departments, FAO, UNDP and Concern Worldwide. Progress on activities, and the effectiveness of the outcomes of this project were discussed in these meetings.
- **WFP's Supply Chain Technical Assistance to Food Departments** continued for grain storage silos. Engineering support was provided to design and develop infrastructure to store the strategic grain reserves. Proper management of strategic grain reserves helps to contribute to food security safety nets by maintaining an appropriate quantity and quality of stock, minimize losses and enhance the ability to respond to shocks. Based on the recommendations of a detailed feasibility study, the design and tendering process of the project is ongoing. The project will be implemented through Public Private partnerships.
- **Supply Chain optimization** of the Health Supply Chain program (focusing on Family Planning) is ongoing. This project is funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in collaboration with the Government of Pakistan's Population Welfare Department and the Departments of Health in Balochistan and Sindh. The objective of the program is to increase the availability of family planning commodities on shelves for the population. WFP is contributing supply chain expertise and has conducted an end-to-end supply chain assessment of Family Planning stakeholders in Lasbella district, Balochistan to assess the situation on the ground and identify areas for improvement.

Donors

Australia, China, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Canada, ECHO, Emergency preparedness and Response Trust Fund, Ireland, Japan, Norway, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, UK, UN Centralized Emergency Response Fund, One UN Trust Fund, and USA.