



Photo: WFP/Mahira Afzal

## WFP IN PAKISTAN

### Strategic Objective 1: Relief and Recovery Support

*Affected populations in Pakistan have timely access to adequate food and nutrition during and after the aftermath of natural disasters and shocks (SDG 2.1)*

#### SUMMARY

WFP continues to provide lifesaving relief assistance to vulnerable population groups across the country, maintaining its capacity as a first-level responder for relief in Pakistan.

Existing work under this strategic objective includes providing monthly food assistance to displaced populations and returnees in the former Federally Administered Tribal Areas (ex-FATA) – now known as the Newly Merged Districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (NMD-KP). WFP's work in Pakistan also includes recovery support for families returning home after prolonged displacement through its Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) programmes.

Under this objective, WFP also focuses on ensuring readiness for as-needed responses to local needs. In 2018, this included close monitoring and efforts to build resilience in preparation for drought in Sindh and Balochistan.

#### ACTIVITIES 2018

- The Government of Pakistan (GoP) had planned the return of all displaced families in ex-FATA (NMD-KP) by December 2016. However, some 16,000 families remained displaced as of December 2018. These families predominantly come

from the North Waziristan tribal district of NMD-KP, where, due to continued hostilities with residual pockets of militant groups, several regions remain uncleared by law enforcement agencies. The Government has thus delayed the families' return, and aid cannot go in.

During 2018, WFP supported this displaced population through:

- distributing monthly food rations of fortified wheat flour, fortified vegetable oil, pulses, dates and iodized salts;
- carrying out the distribution to all UNHCR-registered families, in collaboration with the GoP and three national NGOs that have strong field presence and relevant operational expertise – Center of Excellence (CERD), Community Research Development Organization (CRDO) and, before May 2018, Sarhad Rural Support Programme (SRSP).

In addition, WFP's work in ex-FATA (NMD-KP), one of Pakistan's least developed regions, enabled it to:

- gain access to and implement programmes in five tribal districts – Khyber, North Waziristan, South Waziristan, Orakzai and Kurram;

- resolve, in the second half of 2018, initial implementation delays caused by difficulties in receiving government approval for access;
- establish 1,137 Village Development Committees (VDCs) to cover 723,500 people through recovery, rehabilitation and development initiatives;
- conduct livelihood recovery FFA programs for the most vulnerable across all areas cleared by the GoP.

Under the standby partnership arrangement with DFID, WFP effectively coordinated with the National Disaster Consortium led by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) (with FAO and UNICEF) to provide livelihood recovery support in Churan and Malkhow, the two worst affected union councils of Chitral district. This was done through:

- focusing on building resilience among communities affected by floods and earthquakes, and;
- restoring the livelihoods of the returnee population.

This included FFA-supported rehabilitation of 231 km of link roads, which created market linkages and allowed access for GoP and UN partners to provide basic services, plus 13 water-supply schemes, 54 irrigation channels, and 5 irrigation canals, which in turn, enabled 840 beneficiary households to irrigate 1,600 acres of land. In addition, 46 capacity-building trainings were conducted with 2,500 participants, mainly women. As a result, 10,000 households were assisted during 2018 and ex-FATA saw a:

- 10% increase in proportion of households with acceptable food consumption;
- 85% decrease in proportion of houses with poor food consumption;
- 78% improvement in food security of women engaged in these interventions, although securing the participation of women remained a challenge, due to cultural norms.

Recovery support not only helped sustain the return process, it created livelihood opportunities for their reintegration and, in turn, helped avoid recidivism and return of instability in the area.

### PLANNED ACTIVITIES 2019

WFP plans to continue its engagement with the GoP, the UN and other humanitarian partners to save lives and protect livelihoods in emergencies. This will include:

- aligning with the FATA Transition Plan, the Humanitarian Operational Plan and the

### HIGHLIGHTED OUTCOMES

Beneficiaries served by WFP in 2018:

- **159,666** received 21,000 mt of Relief Food Assistance through 10 humanitarian hubs ;
- **409,392** received Food Assistance for Assets (food);
- **314,130** received Food Assistance for Assets (cash);
- Of note, the infusion of cash and food assistance, and WFP's support in desilting water courses and repair of access roads strengthened market and trade capacity, and improved the local economies as a whole.

Government temporarily displaced persons (TDPs) return plan;

- completing relief assistance by the end of 2019 in close coordination with the GoP and UN counterparts for ex-FATA (NMD-KP);
- leading the transition from relief and early recovery to medium and long-term projects;
- ensuring livelihood recovery implementation through increasing coordination and developing partnerships with agriculture and forestry departments;
- engaging with relevant government counterparts for the 3-year PC-1 budget submission, focusing on medium-impact projects with contributions from the GoP;
- preparing for any human-made or natural disaster, such as monitoring and building drought resistance, as was done in Sindh and Balochistan.

### CROSS-CUTTING RESULTS

WFP provided support to people of Pakistan in the cross-cutting areas of protection and gender equality.

*Protection.* People targeted by WFP had access to assistance without any protection challenges. WFP invokes principles, such as its Do No Harm approach, when planning programmes. For example, WFP protects beneficiary data through its Secure File Transfer Protocol System and also has a Beneficiary Feedback mechanism fully in place.

*Gender equality.* WFP encourages women to participate in programme planning and design. It also organizes focus groups with vulnerable women to tailor food for assets activities towards women's concerns and priorities.

*"The Country Strategic Planning (CSP) framework allows WFP to align relief, recovery and development interventions, while upholding its commitment to prioritizing the needs of the most vulnerable people in support of the 2030 Agenda"*