

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES



WFP IN PAKISTAN

Strategic Objective 2: Social Protection and Education

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 (SDG

SUMMARY

In 2014, UNESCO reported that more than 51 million people in Pakistan, aged 15 years and older, were illiterate. Of these, 37 percent were men and 63 percent women.

With this in mind, WFP designs its programs under this objective to harness the potential of social sector platforms – focusing on their ability to reduce the food insecurity and nutrition vulnerabilities of the poorest communities, while also reducing other deprivations such as illiteracy.

ACTIVITIES 2018

- *Initiated nutrition-sensitive programming.* WFP raised awareness of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Pakistan's largest safety net, and other social protection platforms as to the importance of – and opportunities for – making their

programmes nutrition sensitive. This began by partnering with BISP to disseminate innovative nutrition messages to BISP beneficiary committees in 32 districts across Pakistan, which have a total outreach of over 1 million people.

- *Expanded cash transfers in drought-affected regions.* WFP collaborated with BISP to avert further deterioration of food security in drought-affected parts of Sindh's Tharparkar district. WFP supported the vertical expansion of BISP's unconditional cash transfer programme through a humanitarian cash top-up (above the amounts normally provided by BISP) to 63,000 food-insecure and drought-affected households.

- *Improved school meals programmes.* WFP redesigned its school meals programme to improve its response to local conditions and fit with the changing context of ex-FATA– Newly Merged Districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (NMD-KP).

PLANNED ACTIVITIES 2019

- *Enhance nutritional outcomes.* WFP will continue its operational research project begun with BISP in 2018. This includes a study on enhancing nutritional outcomes of social protection systems – underway at Aga Khan University in Rahim Yar Khan. The study will determine the cost-effectiveness of approaches to prevent stunting of children aged 6-23 months, while also informing the future expansion of the programme.
- *Scale-up responsiveness.* WFP will continue to scale up its shock-responsive initiatives in drought-affected areas of Sindh and Balochistan provinces.
- *Support to education, social protection and nutrition targets.* The WFP Education Support Programme is based on an integrated approach, working with Directorate of Education ex-FATA and BISP to facilitate direct implementation. Targeting the poorest, the programme will support 30,000 beneficiaries in 2019, through conditional cash transfers and unconditional nutrition awareness training. The aim of the programme is to ensure better education in ex-FATA and pave the way for adolescent girls to attend secondary school.
- *Improve understanding of girls' education in ex-FATA.* As part of the Education Support Programme, WFP will conduct a study to identify issues contributing to the low enrolment of girls in the schools of ex-FATA (NMD-KP).
- *Develop school feeding model for Islamabad.* WFP will provide technical support for the design of a context-specific and cost-effective school feeding model for the Islamabad Capital Territory. Due to WFP Pakistan's advocacy, the Federal Ministry of Education and Professional Training plans to initiate a school feeding programme to improve school participation rates and eradicate illiteracy, poverty and malnutrition. WFP received an official request from the Ministry to assist.

CROSS-CUTTING RESULTS

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

Protection. All people targeted by WFP assistance were able to access assistance without any protection challenges. WFP takes protective principles, such as its Do No Harm approach, into consideration when planning a programme.

Gender equality. All programs ensure gender equality WFP's shock-responsive social protection programme provides cash transfers to female-headed households in Tharparkar, Sindh.

"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"