



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Pakistan Country Brief December 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 of the people of Pakistan. WFP also provides technical support to the Government by conducting research to generate evidence to guide Government policy makers and assistance for developing relevant national strategies. WFP Pakistan's work also 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: **40% of children between 6-59 months**

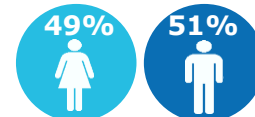
In Numbers

1441.227 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 14,157 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 27.72 million six months (January 2020 - June 2020) net funding requirements representing 52% of total.

94,662 people assisted
in December 2019



Operational Updates

- WFP, along with Aga Khan University Karachi, Benazir Income Support Programme and the Health Department of Punjab, conducted a national-level **dissemination event for the stunting prevention research** carried out in district Rahim Yar Khan, Punjab. The study focused on the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of using a combination of interventions i.e. specialized nutritious foods (SNF), unconditional cash transfers (UCT) and social and behavioural change communication (SBCC) to prevent stunting among children aged 6-23 months.

The study showed a 15% reduction in the prevalence of stunting in the group receiving cash and SNF, as well as the group receiving cash, SBCC and SNF. This was in comparison with other children aged 24 months in the control arm. The cost analysis revealed that these two groups were the most cost-effective interventions in reducing stunting among children aged 24 months. The findings emphasize the need for SNF, in combination with cash transfers and SBCC, to be scaled up to improve the nutritional status of children in Pakistan.

- A 15-minute radio program was pre-recorded by WFP in collaboration with Radio Pakistan, to create awareness and generate demand for fortified wheat flour in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK). The program consists of a panel discussion between health experts from the Department of Health AJK, Food Department AJK and WFP. The program is expected to be aired once a week for a year, reaching 600,000 people in AJK.
- Additionally, WFP placed 166 posters, along with brochures and leaflets, to increase awareness on the benefits of consuming fortified wheat flour at Union Council Food Department depots in AJK.

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Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Jan 2020 - June 2020 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
447.4 M	123.63 M	27.72 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.

- Orientation sessions were also held for 1,500 lady health workers and lady health supervisors in AJK to educate them regarding the wheat-flour fortification program. WFP carried out the sessions in collaboration with the AJK Food and Health Departments, with the intention of increasing the consumption of fortified wheat flour in the region. So far, sessions have been carried out in Neelam, Jhelum, Bagh Muzaffarabad and Haveli districts. In Muzaffarabad district, the sessions are currently ongoing.
- WFP conducted a consultative meeting with the Planning and Development Board, Lahore, Government of Punjab. The main objective of the meeting was to discuss the provincial Government's plans for the initiation of the Punjab school meals programme and WFP's expected role. It was agreed that WFP and the School Education Department will formalize the partnership through an agreement, PC-II (feasibility report) will be revised and options for a joint venture will be explored.
- WFP has launched the second phase of the drought response conditional livelihood project in Sindh (Tharparker and Umerkot districts) and Balochistan (Chaghi and Washuk districts). WFP has completed the partner NGO selection process and has provided all new staff members with orientation sessions regarding programme implementation.
- WFP held a meeting to explore future collaborative activities between WFP and FAO. The meeting was attended by top management and technical leads. During the meeting, both agencies shared ideas on how they can work together in areas such as climate change, disaster risk reduction, livelihoods, joint assessments, supply chain, social protection and cash-based transfers.
- In collaboration with the Provincial Disaster Management Authority and selected District Disaster Management Authorities, WFP organized a consultative workshop on 4 December 2019 to review and endorse the "Organizational Capacity Assessment and Development of Capacity Enhancement Plan," which was developed for Sindh.

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 (CERF), One UN Trust Fund, and USA.