



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Pakistan Country Brief June 2020



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 hazards, a volatile security climate in parts of the country and the impact of COVID-19 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 policy makers and assist in the development of relevant national strategies. WFP’s work in Pakistan 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

2019 Human Development Index:
152 out of 189

Income Level: **Lower middle**

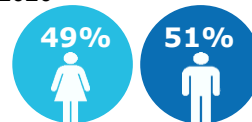
Chronic malnutrition: **40% of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

1,852 mt of food distributed

US\$ 56.39 million six months (July- December 2020) net funding requirements representing 69 percent of total.

321,935 people assisted in May 2020



Operational Updates

- WFP has developed a response plan based on the [food security and nutrition analysis](#) conducted by WFP and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to support the Government’s COVID-19 Socio-Economic Impact and Response Plan. Under this plan, 46 districts have been prioritized across Pakistan based on the prevalence of food insecurity, malnutrition, COVID-19 cases, and the susceptibility of the district to natural hazards. WFP has also been working alongside the Government and other UN partners to monitor the impact of COVID-19 on household food security and nutrition, to establish a countrywide surveillance system. This will include the needs of those impacted by the locust infestation.
- WFP and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa’s Education Department are finalizing a new cash-based education programme. The programme will be implemented across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa’s newly merged districts and frontier regions, targeting 20,000 secondary-school female students. WFP will provide unconditional cash transfers to all registered students while schools remain closed due to COVID-19. Once schools reopen from the second week of July, the cash transfers will become conditional upon attendance in order to incentivize parents to send their daughters back to school. WFP is in discussion with the United Nations Children’s Foundation (UNICEF), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and other partners to integrate sexual and reproductive health components into the school curriculums within the targeted areas.
- WFP plans to scale up its community-based management of acute malnutrition programme across 23 districts with extremely high malnutrition rates to support the national nutrition working group’s COVID-19 response strategy. The intervention will provide supplementary nutritious foods to pregnant and lactating women and children under 5 years of age suffering from moderate acute malnutrition, in order to improve health and reduce the prevalence of malnutrition.

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	July- December 2020 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
447.4 M	173.04 M	56.39 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.

WFP established a technical working group to evaluate the feasibility of conducting various community rehabilitation activities as part of its food assistance for assets initiative in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province. The working group comprises of staff members from all of WFP's technical units, i.e. monitoring and evaluation, gender and protection, vulnerability analysis and mapping, programme and engineering. This is to ensure that resources are used towards activities which are gender-neutral, socially feasible and with maximized impact on vulnerable communities.

For a second consecutive year, WFP's research work has been highlighted at the American Society of Nutrition Conference. Findings from the social protection-focused stunting prevention research conducted in Rahim Yar Khan, Punjab, were presented at the global conference. The study showed a 15 percent reduction in the prevalence of stunting in the group with cash-based transfers and specialised nutritious foods intervention groups at 24 months of age, when compared with the control arm. The findings emphasize the need for specialized nutritious food, in combination with cash-based transfers and social and behaviour change communication, to be scaled up to improve the nutritional status of children in Pakistan.

WFP and the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), continue to implement the shock-responsive social protection project as part of the drought response in Sindh and Balochistan Provinces. Under this project, WFP has been providing cash top-ups to 50,000 of the most vulnerable drought-affected households registered with BISP. Each person assisted receives PKR 12,000 (US\$ 72) over a period of three months in addition to their normal BISP cash entitlement. So far, two rounds of cash disbursement have been completed and the final round has been initiated.

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.