



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Pakistan Country Brief December 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

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

Income Level: **Lower middle**

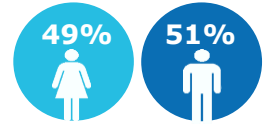
2019 Human Development Index:
152 out of 189

In Numbers

2,140 mt of food distributed in November 2020

US\$ 28.59 million six months (Jan 2020 – Jun 2021)

306,345 people assisted in November 2020



Operational Updates

- COVID-19 has had a devastating impact on Pakistan’s poor, calling for a rapid emergency response. To ensure vulnerable groups are able to cope with the repercussions of the pandemic and to prevent their conditions from deteriorating further, WFP is providing emergency cash assistance to 131,644 people across Sindh, Balochistan and KP and in-kind food support to 144,969 people in one district of Balochistan. **In December, WFP supported 70,015 individuals (including 30 transgender people) through unconditional cash stipends and 13,325 people with in-kind food support.**
- The monsoon floods in late August affected 2.5 million people in Sindh, a province already facing high levels of food insecurity. Following a request from the Government, WFP carried out the first phase of an emergency flood response in September 2020, reaching 71,500 people through in-kind food support across the four most affected districts. WFP initiated the second phase of relief assistance in November 2020 targeting 117,000 additional people, to meet persistent humanitarian needs. **So far, 97,279 people have been assisted through cash-based transfers under the second phase which is expected to be completed by mid-January.** Following the relief phase, WFP along with its Government and development partners will focus on recovery efforts i.e. livelihoods support and asset rehabilitation.
- In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa’s tribal districts (ex-FATA), female enrolment in schools is extremely low, particularly at secondary level. To incentivize the enrolment and continued attendance of adolescent girls in the region, WFP is providing unconditional cash-based transfers to female students. **In December, WFP distributed PKR 6,192,000 to families of 3,096 female students.**

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Jan 2020 – Jun 2021 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
474.41m	195.43 m	28.59 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.

- WFP and the Government of Pakistan are working on various initiatives across Pakistan to improve the country's nutrition crisis. **To combat chronic malnutrition, WFP has established 27 facilitation centres under the Government led EHSAA's Nashonuma programme.** At these facilitation centres, children and pregnant and lactating women receive specialized nutritious foods and health support. In response to the high prevalence of acute malnutrition in the country, WFP is continuing its community-based management of acute malnutrition (CMAM) programme to treat moderately acute malnourished children under 5 and pregnant and lactating women. **WFP has set up 62 CMAM sites as of December.** To reduce the prevalence of micronutrient deficiencies, WFP has initiated a programme to fortify wheat flour produced by small-scale mills. These mills are the source of wheat flour for nearly 70 percent of the population, most of them the poorest of the poor. **As of December, 10 small-scale wheat flour mills are producing fortified wheat flour, with assistance from WFP.**
- In March 2020, the Government closed its borders with Afghanistan due to security concerns and to contain the spread of COVID-19. This has affected numerous families that were reliant on cross-border trade as their main source of livelihood. **In December, WFP carried out an assessment in KP's Khyber district to assess the food security situation of 6,000 households located close to the Afghan border.** The assessment revealed that 53 percent of the households were food insecure, out of which 8 percent were severely food insecure and 45 percent were moderately food insecure. Another 38 percent of the households were identified as marginally food secure, which meant exposure to any further shocks would land them into the moderately food insecure category.
- **WFP and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in close coordination with the Government, carried out an assessment to evaluate the impact of recent shocks i.e. the locust attack and COVID-19 on the food security and livelihoods of people residing in Sindh, Punjab and Balochistan.** The findings revealed that 50 percent of households in the surveyed districts were food insecure; out of these, 5 percent were severely food insecure and 45 percent were moderately food insecure. The findings also exposed that the multiple shocks had severely impacted the production of wheat. Overall, 93 percent of farming households reported a reduction in wheat production in 2020 compared to a normal year.

Donors

Australia, Republic of Korea, 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.