



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Pakistan Country Brief January 2021



## 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**

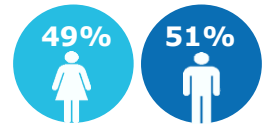
## In Numbers

**355 mt** of food distributed

**US\$ 2.12 m** cash-based transfers made

**US\$ 27.21 m** six months (Feb– Jul 2021) net funding requirements

**301,116** people assisted in December 2020



## Operational Updates

- Multiple shocks since the beginning of 2020, including heavy snowfall, locust outbreaks and the COVID-19 pandemic, have had a devastating impact on the nutrition and food security of Pakistan's poor. WFP continues to provide emergency assistance to the most vulnerable groups across the provinces of Sindh, Balochistan and KP to help them cope with the repercussions of these shocks and to prevent their conditions from deteriorating further. **In January, WFP supported 114,998 individuals, through unconditional cash stipends.**
- Heavy monsoon rains in August 2020 caused devastating floods across Pakistan, affecting 2.5 million people and leaving 1.2 million people highly vulnerable in Sindh province alone. Following its first phase of flood relief operations between September -November 2020, WFP carried out the second phase of flood response through multipurpose cash transfers targeting 117,000 people residing in three of the most flood affected districts of Sindh (Mirpurkhas, Umerkot, Sanghar). **In January, 112,158 people in the targeted areas received cash transfers.** Following the relief phase, WFP along with its government and development partners will focus on recovery efforts with livelihoods support and asset rehabilitation in the affected areas.
- WFP continues to support the Government in establishing facilitation centres under its nationwide 'EHSAAS Nashonuma' programme to prevent stunting among children and pregnant and lactating women (PLW). **So far, WFP has established 29 facilitation centres where children and PLW receive specialized nutritious food and health support. It was agreed by the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) Board in early January that a further 19 centres will be established in an additional 6 districts.**

Contact info: Arnhild Spence ([arnhild.spence@wfp.org](mailto:arnhild.spence@wfp.org))  
Country Director: Chris Kaye  
Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/pakistan](http://www.wfp.org/countries/pakistan)

## Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Feb- Jul 2021 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>474.41 m</b>	<b>191.92 m</b>	<b>27.21 m</b>

## 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.

## Operational Updates (continued)

- In erstwhile FATA of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Province, female enrolment in schools is extremely low, particularly at secondary level. To incentivize their enrolment and continued attendance, WFP is providing cash-based transfers to adolescent female students. These transfers are unconditional during the COVID-19 pandemic but will become conditional upon school attendance once they reopen. **WFP has reached over 5,000 female students as of January 2021.** An annual review meeting was held to share the progress, challenges and recommendations related to the project. WFP also provided capacity development and technical support to the Education Department of KP, including the provision of IT equipment, COVID-19 prevention kits and trainings on cash-based integrated education programming.
- Assistance to internally displaced people (IDPs) in the newly merged districts (erstwhile FATA) in KP continues to evolve. With the reduction in available funding for WFP's in-kind support, WFP has reached an agreement with the Provincial Government for support to continue through government channels. In view of the importance of a smooth transition, WFP will continue to support with available resources with the focus on those residing in camps. **In January, WFP provided 2,372 IDPs with in-kind food support** and will continue this support for a further six months prior to their return to areas of origin.
- Climate change has been widely recognized as a driver of hunger. In recent years, Pakistan has experienced recurrent droughts, floods and heavy snowfall as a result of climate change, hampering the country's already precarious nutrition situation. **In January, WFP, together with a consultancy firm, initiated a climate risk analysis for Pakistan under its 'Critical Climate Initiative'** designed to support climate vulnerable countries to access financing opportunities for climate change mitigation.

## Donors

Australia, China, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Canada, ECHO, Emergency Preparedness and Response Trust Fund, Ireland, Japan, Republic of Korea, Norway, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, UK, UN Centralized Emergency Response Fund (CERF), One UN Trust Fund, and USA.