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.

Operational Updates

- WFP continued to provide emergency relief assistance to vulnerable groups in Pakistan affected by multiple shocks including the COVID-19 pandemic. In February, WFP transferred USD 1.6 million to 125,697 people residing in Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

- WFP and the Government of Pakistan continued efforts to reduce stunting through the Ehsaas Nashonuma programme. By the end of February 2021, 33 facilitation centres were established across 13 districts in Azad Jammu & Kashmir, Balochistan, Gilgit-Baltistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh and Punjab, with 17 more planned for the coming weeks. So far, 18,281 pregnant and lactating women and children under 2 have been supported through the programme.

- To meet the persistent humanitarian needs in the flood-affected districts in Sindh province, WFP transferred USD 42,100 to 3,893 people in February under the flood relief assistance’ second phase. In total, 102,654 people have been reached through the second phase since December. Awareness sessions on dengue prevention along with good nutrition, health and hygiene practices were also carried out. WFP is currently preparing recovery efforts together with its government and development partners, to rebuild livelihoods and rehabilitate assets that can support sustainable food security in the affected districts.

- In the the newly merged districts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, female enrolment rate in schools is extremely low, particularly at elementary and secondary level. To incentivize the enrolment and continued attendance of girls in schools in these districts, WFP continued to provide cash-based transfers to adolescent female students. In February, WFP transferred PKR 3,772,000 to 1,886 adolescent girls in the region.
Operational Updates (continued)

- WFP’s Regional Bureau in Bangkok is conducting a study to better understand the impact of COVID-19 on urban food systems, and to recommend actions for mitigating the impacts of future shocks. In Pakistan, Peshawar has been selected for inclusion in the study. Findings will be available by June 2021.

- WFP provided a two-day training on 25-26 February 2021 to government officials in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province on the implementation of cash transfer programmes. The main objective of the training was to build the government’s capacity for designing and managing cash-based education support programmes.

- WFP is partnering with the provincial Government of Balochistan to develop a school feeding and school-based safety net programme. The programme will target districts with high rates of poverty and low literacy rates. So far, WFP has conducted consultations to understand the local context and assess the needs of the people.

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.