



WFP Pakistan Country Brief April 2021

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



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 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

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

2019 Human Development Index:
152 out of 189

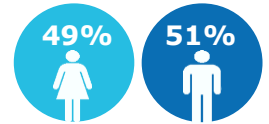
In Numbers

397 mt of food distributed in March 2021

US\$13.35 m cash distributed in April 2021

US\$ 21.29 m six months net funding requirements (May-October 2021)

76,498 people assisted in April 2021



Operational Updates

- WFP has concluded its multiple-shock response programme in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Sindh, with some final households in Balochistan, reached in April. Through the programme, WFP provided unconditional cash grants to 150,819 people affected by recurrent shocks in the country, i.e. locust outbreaks and the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Due to a reduction in funding, WFP is transferring ownership of its support to internally displaced people (IDPs) in KP’s ex-FATA region to the Provincial Government. To smoothen the transition process, WFP has decided to continue supporting those residing in camps with available resources until August 2021. In the month of April, WFP provided 2,372 IDPs residing in camps with in-kind food support.
- WFP, alongside the Government, is continuing efforts to reduce stunting through its innovative nationwide Ehsaas Nashonuma programme. By the end of April 2021, 49 facilitation centres were established across 14 districts in Azad Jammu & Kashmir, Balochistan, Gilgit-Baltistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, Punjab, and Islamabad. So far, WFP has assisted 28,263 pregnant and lactating women and children under two years of age specialized nutritious food and health support through the programme.
- The education sector working group in Pakistan is working to address the needs of children affected by COVID-19 and natural disasters. In March, a working group meeting was held to discuss the group’s COVID-19 response and to assess the situation of the re-opening of schools in the country. The group anticipates that schools may remain partially closed till mid-May 2021.

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Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	May – Oct 2021 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
474.41 m	193.61 m	21.29 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 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) are closely monitoring the drought situation in a few districts of Balochistan and Sindh. National rainfall between the months of October 2020 and March 2021 in the two provinces has been 33 percent below normal levels. The especially large deficit of monthly rainfall in Balochistan (-64.3 percent) and Sindh (-77.3 percent) are causing a moderate drought-like condition. An Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis carried out in January 2021 also revealed that 1.8 million people in Sindh and Balochistan's drought affected districts face high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 and Phase 4). To inform relevant Government stakeholders regarding this dire situation, WFP and FAO facilitated a meeting on 9 April 2021. Additionally, the seasonal climate prediction for April 2020 to September 2021 forecasts that Balochistan will receive rain, but upper Sindh will mainly remain dry.

WFP and FAO are also convening a meeting under the National Food Security and Agriculture Working Group, to review the drought situation. The meeting will be attended by national and provincial level partners from the Government, donor agencies, UN agencies, I/NGOs and research institutes.

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 and pregnant and lactating women. The programme is currently being carried out in five districts of Balochistan and Sindh, with plans to expand in 15 districts of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and KP. The Ministry of Health has also requested WFP to provide technical support for reviewing and revising the existing national CMAM guidelines.

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.