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.

Operational Updates

- WFP, in partnership with the Government, continues its efforts to reduce stunting in Pakistan through the nationwide Ehsaas Nashonuma programme. Since June 2020, WFP has provided specialized nutritious food and health support to 42,357 pregnant and lactating women and 63,997 children under two years of age, through 48 facilitation centres. To bridge the gap in the community-based management of acute malnutrition service (CMAM) in the targeted districts, WFP also continued the provision of moderate acute malnutrition treatment services at the facilitation centres.
- WFP is implementing a multi-donor funded resilience building programme in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) in districts bordering Afghanistan. 83,544 people received conditional cash transfers in KP in January, while distribution in Balochistan will begin in February.
- With support from King Salman Humanitarian Aid & Relief Centre (KS Relief), WFP has initiated a CMAM programme in nine vulnerable districts of KP and five districts of Azad Jammu & Kashmir. So far, 57,500 women and children under five have received Specialised Nutritious Food (SNF) through the programme.
Operational Updates (continued)

• WFP has expanded the ‘KP Stunting Prevention Rehabilitation Integrated Nutrition Gain programme’ (KP SPRING) from the original two districts of Dera Ismail Khan and Tank to the additional districts of Bannu and Naushera. The project is co-funded by WFP and the KP Provincial Government. Through a multi-sectoral approach, it provides pregnant and lactating women and children aged 6-24 months with locally produced SNF to augment dietary intake and reduce incidences of chronic and acute malnutrition. Deworming and iron and folic acid tablets are also provided under the initiative. So far, 12,579 women and children have been supported through the programme.

• WFP continued the implementation of its livelihoods recovery programme to support families affected by multiple shocks including monsoon rain-induced flooding, the COVID-19 pandemic, locust infestation and persistent droughts in Sindh and Balochistan. In January, WFP assisted 2,457 vulnerable people through cash-based transfers that were conditional upon participation in community rehabilitation activities and trainings.

• WFP has significantly expanded its chakki (small-scale mill) wheat flour fortification programme from 10 chakkis in Islamabad and Rawalpindi to 47 chakkis in Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK) and Gilgit Baltistan (GB).

• WFP concluded its community-based management of acute malnutrition (CMAM) programme in Sindh’s Umerkot and Balochistan’s Quetta districts funded by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office of the United Kingdom (FCDO). Through the programme, 51,818 children under five and 33,748 pregnant and lactating women were treated for moderate acute malnutrition through the provision of SNF. In addition, WFP strengthened the capacity of local health care workers through multiple trainings on managing acute malnutrition. A total of 169,925 caregivers also received messages on health and hygiene practices through community sensitization sessions.

Donors

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