



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
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LIVES

WFP Pakistan Country Brief April 2023



Khadeeja, 31, brings her son Muhammad Kamrah (18 months) to the Benazir Nashonuma Facilitation Centre in Badin, in Sindh province, to assess his nutritional status. Photo – Marco Frattini.

Operational Context

Pakistan continues to make significant investments aimed at accelerating progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and its national development programme, Vision 2025. High levels of malnutrition, frequent natural hazards, an unpredictable security environment in parts of the country and an ongoing economic crisis are, however, persistent challenges constraining the country's socio-economic development.

WFP's Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2023-2027 supports Pakistan's achievement of its national development priorities and the SDGs, particularly SDG 2 (Zero Hunger). Alongside the provision of critically needed relief and nutrition support to vulnerable groups, WFP's programmes complement Government efforts to strengthen food and nutrition security for the people of Pakistan. WFP also provides technical support to the Government through research that contributes to the development of sustainable and effective national policies and strategies. WFP's support to Pakistan also includes interventions aimed at strengthening national ownership, community resilience, and disaster risk management and preparedness. WFP is the Government of Pakistan's trusted and reliable partner, with a presence in the country since 1968.



Population (World Population Prospects 2022): **236 million**

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

Income Level: **Lower middle**

2021-22 Human Development Index: **161 out of 191**

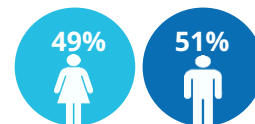
In Numbers

714 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$4.3 million Cash-based Transfers (CBT) completed

US\$29.4 million six months (May-October 2023) net funding requirements

677,077 people assisted in April 2023



Operational Updates

- Acute malnutrition among children remains a growing concern in areas of Balochistan and Sindh provinces. A [rapid survey](#) conducted in February-March 2023 by UNICEF, in 15 flood-affected districts revealed that nearly one-third of children aged 6-23 months suffered from Moderate Acute Malnutrition and 14 percent from Severe Acute Malnutrition. As part of an interagency effort with WHO and UNICEF, WFP is scaling up its Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programme (TSFP), in 23 priority districts of Sindh and Balochistan provinces.
- In April 2023, in collaboration with the Government, WFP initiated a Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme (BSFP) in Sukkur district, Sindh province. The programme aims to reach **46,524 pregnant and breastfeeding women (PBW) and children aged 6-23 months**.
- To address persisting needs and to facilitate flood recovery, WFP has supported over **3.7 million flood-affected people** with 77,745 mt of food and nutrition assistance and USD 23.3 million in Cash-based Transfers (CBT) since August 2022.
- An IPC workshop took place from 10 to 16 April to finalize and share with Government partners the findings of the IPC Acute Food Insecurity analysis (April 2023 to January 2024). Results indicate that 10.5 million people are in IPC phase 3 (Crisis) or above across 43 districts.
- WFP has finalised the second round of Post Distribution Monitoring (January to February 2023) to assess the impact of food assistance on flood-affected populations. The findings revealed that:
 - Between November-December 2022 to January-February 2023, the percentage of households exhibiting acceptable food consumption declined by 8 percent, while households exhibiting borderline food consumption increased by 14 percent
 - Households consuming inadequately diverse diets increased by 9 percent
 - flood-affected people said their priority needs include cash assistance, food assistance, housing reconstruction, agriculture and livestock support, and health services.

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Country Strategic Plan (2023 - 2027)

Total Requirement (US\$)	Allocated Contributions (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (US\$)
780.7 million	231.3 million	29.4 million

Strategic Result 1: People are better able to meet their urgent food and nutrition needs

Strategic Outcome 1: Communities in Pakistan at higher risk of vulnerability to climate change and other shocks are more resilient and have enhanced capacity to improve their livelihoods by 2027.

Focus area: Resilience building

Activities:

- Enhance the Government's emergency preparedness
- Strengthen the resilience and self-reliance of communities at higher risk of vulnerability

Strategic Result 2: People have better nutrition, health and education outcomes

Strategic Outcome 2: Pakistan's people at higher risk of vulnerability, especially women and children, have greater access to affordable, nutritious diets and basic social services (education, health and nutrition) by 2027.

Focus area: Root Causes

Activities:

- Strengthen Institutional capacity to implement effective nutrition interventions and implementation of the Government's safety net programme
- Strengthen national social protection systems

Strategic Result 3: People have improved and sustainable livelihoods

Strategic Outcome 3: Pakistan's food systems are resilient to shocks and support access to healthy and nutritious food by all of Pakistan's communities by 2027

Focus area: Root Causes

Activities:

- Enhance government and private sector capacity to strengthen the food supply chain system's resilience to shocks, and supply chain and market system for fortified and other nutritious food

Strategic Result 1: People are better able to meet their urgent food and nutrition needs

Strategic Outcome 4: Communities in Pakistan at higher risk of vulnerability to climate change and other shocks have access to adequate food and nutrition before, during and in the aftermath of shocks.

Focus area: Crisis response

Activities:

- Strengthen vulnerable communities' resilience and preparedness
- Conduct emergency preparedness activities
- Provide relief assistance during and following disasters

Donors

Australia, Republic of Korea, Italy, Germany, the People's Republic of China, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Canada, European Community Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO), Emergency Preparedness and Response Trust Fund, Japan, Norway, Pakistan, the Philippines and Saudi Arabia. Switzerland, UN Centralized Emergency Response Fund (CERF) Fund, United Kingdom and the USA.

- According to WFP's market monitoring in April 2023, headline inflation based on Consumer Price Index (CPI) reached an all-time high since 1974, at **35.4 percent** in March 2023. Food prices continued to increase for the 13th consecutive month, with CPI food inflation in March 2023 **increasing by 47.15 percent** compared to March 2022. National and international factors suggest that high prices will persist for the foreseeable future.
- In preparation for the upcoming monsoon, WFP is amping up early warning, disaster preparedness, mitigation, and country capacity strengthening efforts. WFP is coordinating with relevant Government departments and stakeholders to formulate joint plans and strategies.
- In April 2023, heavy rainfall, and dust storms in KP, Balochistan and Sindh provinces in KP province caused significant damage and resulted in 6 fatalities and 15 injuries in April 2023. This also aggravated the recovery prospects of these flood-affected regions. WFP is closely monitoring the continued impact of weather extremes on Pakistan and updating its operational and contingency plans accordingly.
- Since its inception in 2020, WFP has provided **591,932 PBW and children under 2** (including children 0-6 months) SNF and cash stipends under the Benazir Nashonuma Programme (BNP), Pakistan's nationwide stunting prevention programme. As of March 2023, a total of 54,000 women and children have graduated from the programme, currently implemented through **484 fully operational Facilitation Centres (FCs)** in 157 districts across the country. The programme aims to expand support to 1.7 million PBW and children in all districts of Pakistan, by June 2024.
- WFP continues to facilitate the transport of food commodities from Pakistan to Afghanistan, as part of its support to the ongoing Afghan humanitarian response. In April 2023, 18,988 mt of food were dispatched. This brings the total amount of locally and internationally produced commodities dispatched to **457,792 mt** (valued at US\$195.3 million) with a total transportation cost of US\$ 28.5 million since August 2021.

Challenges

- Due to limited and diminishing resources, WFP assistance coverage has been scaled down from 2.7 million people at the end of 2022 to 0.8 million people in April/May 2023.
- WFP faces a total shortfall of **US\$ 95 million** for all its operations in Pakistan for 2023, of which **US\$ 57 million** for cash assistance are urgently needed. If sufficient funding is not received, WFP would be forced to further reduce the number of people it supports. WFP also requires an additional **US\$ 22 million** for its TSFP response; US\$ 3.4 million for the current eight Priority 1 districts through December 2023 and US\$ 18.2 million for 15 additional Priority 2 districts, for a period of six months.