Operational Context

Pakistan is currently facing multidimensional risks, which are impeding its progress towards achieving the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and of the Government's national development programme, Vision 2025. A precarious economic situation is combined with frequent natural hazards, an unpredictable security environment, political polarisation and exclusion. These forces are together pushing more people into poverty and higher levels of vulnerability.

WFP's Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2023-2027 is designed to support Pakistan achieve 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 programmes complement Government efforts to strengthen food and nutrition security for the people of Pakistan. WFP provides technical support to the Government, thereby contributing to the development of sustainable and effective national and provisional policies and strategies that strengthen food systems. WFP's support to Pakistan also includes interventions aimed at strengthening national ownership, community resilience, and disaster risk management and preparedness. WFP has established office presence in all Provinces and regions across the country.

Operational Updates

- As of May 2023, a total of 39,901 beneficiaries were reached with nutrition support services. This includes 9,791 Pregnant and Breastfeeding Women (PBW) and 19,451 Children under 5 who have been assisted under the TSFP out of the targeted 692,000 beneficiaries, and 8,529 PBW and 2,124 children who have been provided Supplementary Nutritious Food (SNF) under the BSFP, out of the targeted 333,780 beneficiaries. In response to the rapidly escalating need for nutrition support, WFP is scaling up its Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programme (TSFP) in multiple districts of Sindh and Balochistan along with its Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme (BSFP) in Sukkur district of Sindh.

- In response to persisting nutrition needs and to facilitate flood recovery, since August 2022, WFP has supported over 3.8 million flood-affected people with 79,903 mt of food and nutrition assistance and USD 27.9 million in cash-based transfers (CBT). Moving forward, WFP plans to assist 1.1 million flood-affected people across Pakistan, in Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Punjab and Sindh province. WFP has so far reached 893,800 people, 81 percent of the target, with the rest pending due to operational constraints and the evolving security situation.

- An IPC Acute Food Insecurity analysis conducted in April 2023 revealed that approximately 10.5 million people (29 percent of the analyzed population) are classified as IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) and Phase 4 (Emergency) for the period between April and October 2023. Out of this population, approximately 8.45 million people are in IPC 3 and 2.07 million people are in IPC 4. The findings underscore the need for targeted interventions to address regional disparities and promote sustainable recovery and development. The analysis was conducted by FAO in collaboration with WFP, UNICEF, Islamic Relief, Save the Children, and other partners across 43 districts. To note that these results have not yet been endorsed by the Government.

- In April and May, as part of WFP's resilience building interventions, over 800,000 people out of the 1.1 million people targeted in all flood-affected provinces of Balochistan, KP, Punjab and Sindh were engaged in community construction of flood protection walls, water diversion and retention schemes, developing small check dams, irrigation clearing, and livelihoods protection activities. In addition, large-scale flood management infrastructure is being constructed in Sindh and Balochistan, which include the establishment of multi-purpose livelihoods and evacuation centres.

In Numbers

- 3,004 mt of food assistance distributed in May
- US$2.95 million Cash-based Transfers (CBT) completed in May
- US$50.02 million six months (June-November 2023) net funding requirements
- 744,228 people assisted in May 2023
In May, WFP implemented a Community Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) Surge project in Qambar Shahdadkot and Sukkur districts in Sindh province. The project aims to facilitate the development of practical tools to strengthen provincial and district health authorities’ capacity to respond to seasonal surges in malnutrition caseload. To date, CMAM Surge has been established in 12 target health institutions, including one Nutrition Stabilization Centre in District Tharparkar.

Since its inception in 2021, WFP has cumulatively provided 670,013 PBW and children under 2 (including children 0-6 months) with SNF and cash stipends under the Benazir Nashonuma Programme (BNP), Pakistan's nationwide stunting prevention programme. As of March 2023, a total of 64,033 women and children have graduated from the programme, currently implemented through 487 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. Since May 2023, Afghanistan requested Pakistan to place dispatches on hold, and thus no additional commodities were dispatched during the month. The cumulative amount of locally and internationally produced commodities dispatched to Afghanistan since August 2021 remains 457,792 mt (valued at US$195.3 million) with a total transportation cost of US$ 28.5 million.

Following the extension of the Pakistan Flood Response Plan to 31 December 2023, WFP urgently requires US$ 53 million for CBT response and US$ 20 million for nutrition support interventions. If funding shortfalls persist, WFP will need to review and reprioritise its operations (e.g., geographic scope and/or ration size/cash transfer amount).

Monitoring

According to WFP’s market monitoring, headline inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) reached its highest level in 50 years (since 1973), representing an increase of 36.42 percent in April 2023. Food prices have increased since April 2022 for the 14th consecutive month, with CPI food inflation in April 2023 increasing by 48.07 percent compared to April 2022.

Climate-shocks continue to cause infrastructure damage and loss of lives and property in Pakistan. National rainfall for May 2023 was above average (+127%) making it the second wettest May in 63 years. Hailstorms in Sindh province resulted in fatalities and damaged homes and other infrastructure.

According to the Punjab Agriculture Department, over 5 percent of the wheat crop has been damaged by heavy rains and hailstorms from March to April 2023. Farmers estimate a higher percentage of damaged wheat by the end of May 2023. While no impact on WFP operations has been reported, WFP is monitoring the situation closely and updating its operational plans and other contingencies accordingly.

In May 2023, the arrest (and subsequent release) of Pakistan's former Prime Minister, Imran Khan resulted in widespread civil unrest. Violent protests erupted nationwide due to Mr. Khan's arrest, in view of which the UN Secretary General urged all parties to refrain from violence. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights condemned the Government of Pakistan's subsequent decision to prosecute civilians involved in the protests under the Army Act. Given the high level of political polarisation and civil unrest in Pakistan, WFP is carefully monitoring the evolving situation’s potential impact on WFP beneficiaries, programmes, and operations.

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 and the USA.