



WFP Pakistan Country Brief July 2023

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



On 31 July, WFP held a donor briefing consultation to discuss WFP's monitoring and control action plan to strengthen risk management, beneficiary verification, and government partnership accountability. WFP/Affsheen Yousof

Operational Context

Pakistan is confronted with substantial multidimensional risks that are obstructing its advancement towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Vision 2025, which outlines the country's development priorities. The country's economy faces significant challenges alongside a noticeable escalation in political polarization. The convergence of political instability, economic uncertainty and security threats could potentially amplify the destabilization of the country. Concurrently, the elevated inflation rates are compounding challenges, pushing more people into poverty, and increasing their vulnerability to shocks.

WFP's Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2023-2027 supports Pakistan's achievement of its national development priorities and the agenda for sustainable development, with a focus on SDG 2 (Zero Hunger). Alongside the provision of critical relief and nutrition support to vulnerable groups, WFP programmes complement Government's efforts to strengthen food and nutrition security for the people of Pakistan. WFP also provides policy and advisory support to the Government, thereby contributing to the development of sustainable and effective national and provincial policies and strategies to strengthen food systems. WFP's support also includes interventions that strengthen national ownership, community resilience and disaster risk management and preparedness. WFP has offices and operations across all Pakistan's provinces.



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**

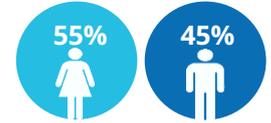
In Numbers

2,980 mt of food assistance distributed in July

US\$ 2.95 million Cash-based Transfers (CBT) completed in July

US\$ 39.914 million six months (August – January 2024) net funding requirements

825,209 people assisted in July 2023



Operational Updates

- WFP continues to scale up its **Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programme (TSFP)** in Sindh and Balochistan provinces, along with a **Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme (BSFP)** in Sindh province, in response to the escalating need for nutrition support. As of July 2023, a total of **154,000 beneficiaries** including 57,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women (PBW) and 97,000 children under 5, received treatment for moderate acute malnutrition (MAM), under the TSFP. Through WFP's BSFP nutrition support, a total of 34,233 beneficiaries, including 26,331 PBW and 8,902 children, received specialized nutritious foods (SNF).
- WFP has provided over **3.8 million flood-affected** people with 80,000 mt of food and nutrition assistance and US\$31 million in cash-based transfers (CBT), since August 2022. WFP has also provided support aimed at strengthening the resilience of **1.07 million people (91 percent)**, out of a total targeted 1.1 million flood-affected people in Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Punjab and Sindh provinces, since April 2023.
- The infrastructure rehabilitated under WFP's resilience-building interventions continues to play a crucial role in safeguarding the targeted communities against the recurrent disasters. In 2023, around 2,000 houses (1,500 houses in Punjab, and 500 houses in KP) were saved by flood protection structures, saving the lives of 13,000 residents. These flood protection structures safeguarded 375 acres of agricultural land in KP province during the flash floods, which occurred in July 2023.
- The **IPC Acute Malnutrition analysis** was conducted in 32 flood-affected districts across Balochistan, KP and Sindh Provinces; preliminary findings of the analysis have been compiled and will be shared once approved by the Government.
- Since its inception in 2020, WFP has cumulatively provided **434,077 PBW** and **428,792 children under 2** with SNF and cash stipends under the **Benazir Nashonuma Programme**, Pakistan's nationwide stunting prevention programme. The programme is currently implemented through **488 fully operational facilitation centres (FCs)** in 157 districts across Pakistan. The programme aims to expand support to 1.7 million PBW and children in all districts of Pakistan by June 2024.

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Country Strategic Plan (2023 - 2027)

Total Requirement (US\$)	Allocated Contributions (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (US\$)
780.8 million*	254.8 million	39.9 million

*Budget revision in progress

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, Bulgaria, Republic of Korea, France, 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.

- WFP has scaled down its support operations for Afghanistan. While WFP successfully dispatched some 350,000 metric tons of commodities valued at US\$144 million in 2022, 2023 has witnessed a considerable decrease in locally procured commodities for Afghanistan, owing to funding constraints and increasing wheat flour prices in Pakistan. Since August 2021, WFP Pakistan has dispatched almost 500,000 metric tons of locally and internationally procured commodities valued at US\$ 207 million.

- WFP held a **multi-stakeholder donor consultation**, focusing on WFP's monitoring systems and control mechanisms, on 31 July 2023. All participants recognised the significance of robust risk management and control mechanisms in promoting proactive risk management, improving performance, ensuring transparency, and ultimately ensuring the successful achievement of shared goals.

- In July 2023, WFP signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Food Authority of the Government of Sindh, to establish **strategic grain reserves**. The initiative, supported by the International Finance Corporation, involves the construction and management of silos with a total capacity of 1,085 mt of wheat, with the goal of reducing food losses, enhancing storage efficiency, and strengthening Pakistan's food system resilience.

Challenges

- Following the extension of the Pakistan 2022 Flood Response Plan to 31 December 2023, WFP urgently requires **US\$ 45 million** for CBT response and **US\$ 18 million** for nutrition support interventions. Owing to funding constraints, WFP will progressively scale down its operations from the initial goal of 1.1 million people to 660,000 people in August 2023. If the resourcing gap continues, a more significant decrease is anticipated in the upcoming months.

- In July 2023, ahead of the upcoming elections, heightened tensions are threatening political stability. A series of explosions in KP and Balochistan provinces, underscored the volatile security environment that could negatively impact humanitarian efforts and potentially disrupt WFP operations and escalate operational risks in some sensitive areas.

Monitoring

- **Inflation Update (June 2023):** While headline inflation in June 2023 decreased to 29.4 percent (from 39.97 in May 2023), it stills remains higher than this point last year. While food prices showed signs of slowing down, overall prices remain elevated, accounting for the 39.49 percent Consumer Price Index (CPI) food inflation. These inflation rates are influenced by multiple factors including fuel price hikes, energy costs, the devaluation of the rupee, increased production costs, and increased prices of imported goods. Moreover, it is anticipated that the prevailing economic and political uncertainties will likely result in continued high prices of essential items in the coming months.