



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Pakistan Country Brief August 2023



Saira Baloch, WFP's Programme Associate for Nutrition, administers specialized nutritious food to Shafa Habibullah in the Bolan Medical Complex, Benazir Nashonuma Programme Facilitation Centre, Quetta. Photo: WFP/Balach Jamali

Operational Context

Pakistan faces significant multidimensional risks that are impeding its progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Vision 2025, (which outlines the country's national development priorities). Pakistan continues to grapple with a protracted economic crisis and increased political polarization. The convergence of political instability, economic uncertainty and security threats could further destabilize the country. The IPC Acute Food Insecurity analysis in April 2023 revealed that 10.5 million people, (29% of the studied population), are currently experiencing acute food insecurity, falling into IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) and Phase 4 (Emergency) from April to October 2023. Projections for November 2023 to January 2024 suggest that the number of individuals in crisis and emergency phases is expected to increase to 11.8 million.

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 the 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 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 maintains offices and operations across all of Pakistan's provinces.



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

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

2021-2022 Human Development Index: **161 out of 191**

In Numbers

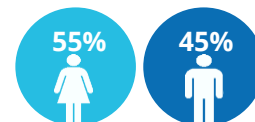
2,278 mt of food assistance distributed in August 2023

US\$3 million Cash-based Transfers (CBT) completed in August 2023

US\$30.42 million for six months (September 2023 – February 2024) net funding requirements

Shortfall against the Pakistan 2022 Flood Response is **US\$58 million** (out of US\$ 225 million)¹

900,500 people assisted in August 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. As of August 2023, 59,388 pregnant and breastfeeding women (PBW) and 102,246 children under 5 received moderate acute malnutrition treatment under the TSFP (26 percent of target); and 22,548 PBW and 17,216 children age 6-24 months have been supported under BSFP (84 percent of target).
- Since August 2022, WFP has provided over **3.8 million flood-affected people** with **80,000 mt** of food and nutrition assistance and **US\$33 million** in Cash Based Transfers (CBT). Since April 2023, WFP has implemented asset creation and livelihood support activities to strengthen the resilience of 1.14 million people, in the provinces of Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Punjab, and Sindh.
- In August 2023, Pakistan experienced persistent monsoon rains and flash floods, resulting in **214 fatalities, 316 injuries, and significant damage to 5,763 houses**, as reported by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). In Punjab, severe flooding along the Sutlej River led to the displacement of 378,000 people and caused infrastructure damage. WFP maintained close coordination with the authorities, monitoring the emerging needs and expressing readiness to assist the Government in its relief and rescue operations. In response to these emerging needs, the targeted caseloads of the ongoing BSFP in Sindh were re-evaluated, with WFP prioritizing flood-affected individuals in Khairpur district, Sindh (in addition to the ongoing CBT response). Additionally, WFP focused on providing assistance to vulnerable households in IPC 3 and 4 categories, particularly those affected by the floods in upper and lower Dir districts of KP, as part of their ongoing resilience-building initiatives
- WFP's resilience-building interventions help **reduce the negative impact of recurrent disasters** on targeted communities. In 2023, activities focused on restoring land access to flood-affected areas for nearly a million people. The restoration of irrigation channels, water courses, and water ponds/reservoirs benefitted over 66,000 households (400,000 people). Moreover, under climate change adaptation, WFP has partnered with the Forest Departments of KP, Punjab, and Pakistan Administered Kashmir to plant over a million bushes and trees.

Country Director: Coco Ushiyama

Contact info: Alice Chen, Head of Partnerships, Communication and Reporting (alice.chen@wfp.org)

Additional information: www.wfp.org/countries/pakistan

Country Strategic Plan (2023 - 2027)

Total Requirement (US\$)	Allocated Contributions (US\$)	Six-Month (Sep 23 to Feb24) Net Funding Requirements (US\$)
904 million*	262.15 million	30.42 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:

- Provide capacity support for the government's emergency preparedness and response infrastructure, systems and services
- Provide long-term adaptation, skills development, access to assets, links to agriculture, financial inclusion and risk financing

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:

- Provide technical assistance to provincial and federal governments in their efforts to implement effective nutrition interventions and improve the enabling environment while concurrently supporting the private sector in the production of nutritious food.
- Provide capacity strengthening to provincial and federal governments to enable them to improve safety net design and delivery

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:

- Provide technical assistance to the Government and the private sector for a strengthened 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:

- Provide humanitarian assistance to meet the basic food and nutrition needs of communities at higher risk of vulnerability to natural hazards and shocks.

- Since the programme's inception in 2020, WFP has provided specialized nutritious foods and cash transfers to **1 million women and children (508,482 PBW and 491,098 children under 2 years)** enrolled in the **Benazir Nashonuma Programme**. Pakistan's national stunting prevention programme is implemented through **487 facilitation centers** in 157 districts, with the goal of expanding support to 1.7 million PBW and children by June 2024.
- The IPC Acute Malnutrition analysis was conducted in 32 flood-affected districts across Balochistan, KP and Sindh Provinces; preliminary findings of the analysis are being finalized.
- WFP has scaled down its humanitarian support operations in Afghanistan. In 2022, WFP successfully dispatched around **350,000 mt of commodities valued at US\$144 million**. In 2023, however, there has been a considerable decrease in locally procured commodities for Afghanistan, due to funding constraints and the increased cost of wheat flour in Pakistan. Since August 2021, the combined quantity of domestically and internationally sourced commodities dispatched to Afghanistan stands at **498,957 mt, (with a value of US\$332 million), out of which 5,675 mt** was dispatched in August 2023.

Challenges

- Following the extension of the Pakistan 2022 Flood Response Plan to 31 December 2023, WFP urgently requires a total of **US\$58 million**, including **US\$45 million** for CBT response and **US\$13 million** for nutrition support interventions. Owing to funding constraints, WFP has been steadily reducing its operations from the original goal of assisting 1.1 million individuals to supporting 850,000 people in August 2023. If the funding gap continues, a more significant decrease is anticipated in the upcoming months.
- The present state of Pakistan is marked by continuous political polarization and an uncertain law and order situation. The National Assembly of Pakistan was dissolved on 9 August 2023, leading to the establishment of an interim caretaker government. Meanwhile, the significant surge in fuel prices and energy expenses has sparked widespread protests. The security situation in the country remains precarious, evident from six terrorist attacks occurring in KP and Balochistan in August 2023.

Monitoring

- Pakistan now ranks 18th globally in terms of inflation impact, amid significant socio-political challenges. In July 2023, annual inflation dropped to 28.3 percent, the lowest since January 2023. This decline could be attributed to high policy rates aimed at controlling price surges. The rate of food inflation however remained stable at 39.5 percent. Factors affecting inflation include fuel price hikes, escalating energy costs, Rupee devaluation, higher production expenses, and costly imported goods.

Donors

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

¹ The Pakistan 2022 Flood Response plan was prepared in September 2022 and the funding requirements stipulated in the plan have not been adjusted to account for depreciation of the PKR and operational realities and currency rate fluctuations.