



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Pakistan Country Brief September 2023

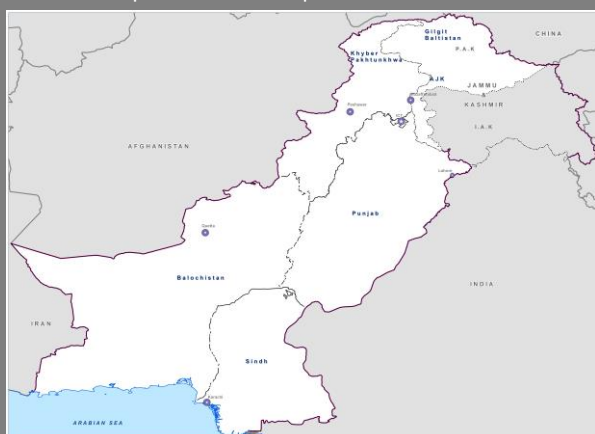


After floods destroyed Waqar Ali's village, he sold vegetables. WFP cash aid enabled him to purchase his initial stock. Additional funding from ECHO allowed him to expand his shop and invest in a pakora cart. Photo: WFP/Anam Abbas

Operational Context

Pakistan faces multiple challenges hindering its progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and its national development goals (strategy Vision 2025). Political instability, economic uncertainty and security threats compound food and nutrition security in the country. The April 2023 Integrated Food Security Phase Classification analysis showed that 10.5 million people were experiencing acute food insecurity (Crisis and Emergency levels). Projections for November 2023 to January 2024 suggest that this is expected to increase to 11.8 million. The recent IPC Acute Malnutrition analysis estimated that 2.14 million children are suffering acute malnutrition with 23 districts classified as Phase 4 (Critical).

WFP's Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2023-2027 aligns with Pakistan's national goals Pakistan's and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, focusing on Zero Hunger (SDG 2). Alongside the provision of critical relief and nutrition support to vulnerable people, WFP supports government efforts to enhance food and nutrition security, provides policy advice and helps develop sustainable strategies to reinforce Pakistan's food systems. WFP's support includes strengthening community resilience, disaster risk management, and has an operational footprint across all provinces.



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

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

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

In Numbers

733,812 women, men, girls and boys assisted

1,612 mt of food distributed

US\$1.2 million in cash-based transfers provided

US\$30.83 million net funding requirements for the next 6 months

Operational Updates

- Since the start of its flood response in August 2022, WFP has since provided **3.8 million flood-affected individuals** with 80,000 mt of food and nutrition assistance, along with US\$34 million in cash-based transfers (CBT).
- In September, WFP provided **1,612 mt of food, nutrition and US\$1.2 million in CBT to 392,515 people** recovering from the floods, mostly in Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) provinces.
- As of September 2023, **1.18 million people received resilience building support**, including 8,088 mt of food and US\$13.6 million in CBT to vulnerable households in Balochistan, KP, Punjab and Sindh provinces. WFP began implementing flood recovery activities with a focus on asset creation and livelihood support in April 2023.
- WFP expanded its targeted supplementary feeding programmes (TSFP) in Sindh and Balochistan and continued to implement blanket supplementary feeding programmes (BSFP) in Sindh province. As of September, nearly 73,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women (PBW) and 119,000 children under 5 received treatment for moderate acute malnutrition. Around 32,000 PBW and 20,500 children aged 6-24 months, were supported within BSFP. WFP aims to assist over 636,000 women and children in 23 districts of Sindh and Balochistan provinces.
- In September, WFP supported more than **59,000 PBW and 58,500 children under 2 years of age with 950 mt of lipid-based nutritious supplementary foods** through 508 Facilitation Centres in 157 districts across all provinces. WFP aims to prevent child stunting by providing specialized nutritious foods, behaviour change communication, and acute malnutrition management within the first 1,000 days from pregnancy onwards. This support is delivered through the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) under the Benazir Nashonuma Programme (BNP)¹. WFP has so far reached 1.12 million beneficiaries out of the 1.7 million targeted beneficiaries it aims to reach by June 2024.
- As a complement to the BNP, WFP is engaged with identifying and enrolling girls aged 15-19 years to the Government's **Adolescent Nutrition programme**, which provides a cash stipend of 1,000 Pakistani rupees per quarter, along with iron & folic acid supplementation and health education. In September,

¹ The Benazir Nashonuma Programme (BNP) provides financial incentives to pregnant and lactating mothers and children under two, aiming to increase the uptake of essential health and nutrition services and prevent chronic malnutrition.

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 Net Funding Requirements (US\$)
904.5 million*	262.15 million	30.83 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

Activity 1: Enhance the Government's emergency preparedness.

Activity 2: 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

Activity 3: Strengthen Institutional capacity to implement effective nutrition interventions and implementation of the Government's safety net programme.

Activity 4: Strengthen national social protection systems.

Activity 5: Strengthen school meals safety net programmes.

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

Activity 6: 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

Activity 7: Strengthen vulnerable communities' resilience and preparedness.

Strategic Result 5: Humanitarian and development actors are more efficient and effective

Strategic Outcome 5: Humanitarian and development partners and Government of Pakistan have access to reliable common services on demand.

Focus area: Crisis response

Activity 8: Ensure more efficient, effective and coordinated interventions.

Donors

Australia, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Bulgaria, Canada, CERF, ECHO, Emerging Donors Matching Fund, EU, France, Germany, IFAD, Japan, Kuwait, Multilateral funds, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, UAE Mohammad bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives, UK and USAID.

Operational Updates (continued)

1,771 adolescent girls were enrolled through 29 FCs across six targeted districts.

- WFP also implements community-based management of acute malnutrition (CMAM) for early detection and treatment of children with moderate acute malnutrition and enrolled 83,400 malnourished children in September through 31 mobile units.
- Community Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) Surge Programme focuses on enhancing provincial and district health authorities' capacity to effectively address seasonal spikes in malnutrition cases. WFP assisted 3,300 children under 5 and 3,800 PBW in one district in Sindh this month. WFP is expanding CMAM activities to three districts in Balochistan, with training sessions on updated protocols and social and behaviour change communication interventions completed in all districts.
- In September, WFP delivered an additional 8,320 mt of food to Afghanistan, as part of its humanitarian support to the country. This brings the total amount of commodities dispatched since August 2021, to 507,277 mt (valued at US\$334 million).

Challenges

- Over the next six months (October 2023 to March 2024), WFP requires US\$30.83 million. Out of which, US\$9.2 million is for Strategic Outcome 1 and US\$15.4 million is for Strategic Outcome 2.
- In September 2023, Pakistan faced escalating socio-political instability resulting in protests, sectarian tensions, a bomb blast in Mastung and heightened border tensions with India and Afghanistan. According to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, September's inflation rate was 31.4 percent, the country's highest level of inflation since May 2023; concurrently, food inflation slightly declined to 38.5 percent, and the Pakistani rupee appreciated by nearly 6 percent.

Monitoring

- The latest post-distribution monitoring for flood affected areas was completed in August 2023, covering the period May to July 2023, revealed a reduction in negative coping strategies due to a shift to cash assistance but a slight decline in household food consumption. Compared to April assessments, more households had borderline food consumption and fewer had acceptable consumption. The decline in use of coping strategies indicates that the target beneficiaries had exhausted their coping capacities and reduced consumption, and expenditure analysis shows that a large portion of household income is spent on food, indicating a strong reliance on external aid.
- WFP's September Market Monitor showed annual price increases in August 2023 for staple cereals (i.e., various rice strains and subsidized wheat flour). Compared to July 2023, however, prices decreased slightly for wheat and wheat flour. The most significant price hikes were linked to non-cereal food items (i.e., eggs, sugar and pulses).