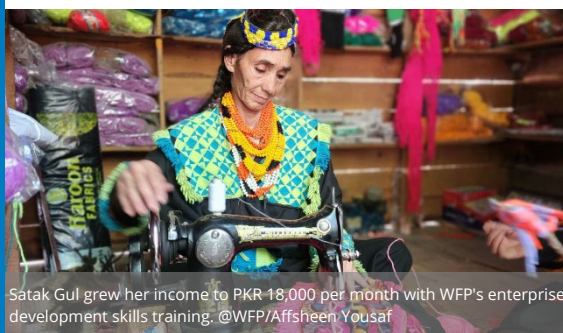




World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Pakistan Country Brief November 2023

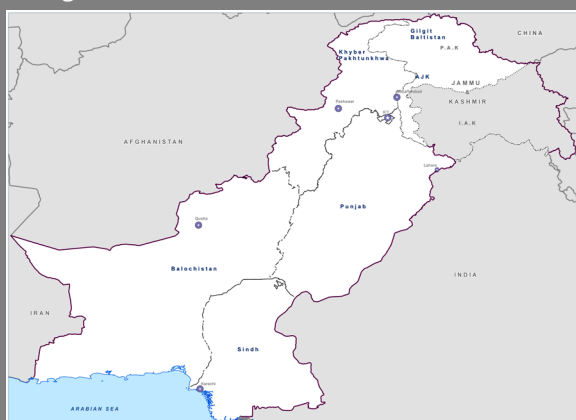


Satak Gul grew her income to PKR 18,000 per month with WFP's enterprise development skills training. @WFP/Affsheen-Yousaf

Operational Context

Pakistan faces multiple challenges that impede its progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and national development priorities (Vision 2025). Amidst ongoing political instability, economic uncertainty, security threats, and persistent food insecurity and malnutrition, the 2023 Hunger Hotspots report by WFP and FAO identified Pakistan as a significant 'hotspot' for acute food insecurity. The 2023 Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analyses indicated that 10.5 million people are experiencing acute food insecurity, projected to rise to 11.8 million by January 2024. The situation is particularly dire in districts impacted by the 2022 floods, with 20 out of the 32 districts included in the analysis, categorized as IPC Phase 2-4 (alert, serious or critical).

WFP's Country Strategic Plan 2023-2027 aligns with Pakistan's national development priorities 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 formulate sustainable strategies that reinforce Pakistan's food systems and improve communities' resilience to recurring extreme weather events.



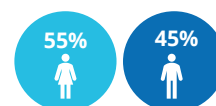
Population (World Population Prospects 2022): **236 million**

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

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

In Numbers



549,300 people assisted

162 mt food distributed

US\$1.7 million provided in cash-based transfers

US\$ 16.6 million funding requirements (Dec-May 2024)

Operational Updates

- Given limited funding, WFP increasingly focused its flood response efforts in November on targeting the most vulnerable populations, assisting 549,300 people with 162 mt of in-kind food and US\$1.7 million in cash-based transfers.
- WFP continues to strengthen community resilience in vulnerable areas through its recovery support activities. The focus continued to be on infrastructure rehabilitation, skills development, and capacity building in Balochistan and KP; community engagement, infrastructure mitigation, and emergency preparedness training in Punjab; alongside flood recovery projects, vocational training, and food distribution in Sindh. Of the total assistance provided to 549,300 people, over 240,000 received conditional cash and in-kind food for resilience building activities and 22,600 people were supported through the community-based management of acute malnutrition (CMAM). Among them, nearly 5,200 pregnant and breastfeeding women (PBW) and over 5,700 children under the age of five years were reached through the targeted supplementary feeding programme (TSFP) in Sindh and Balochistan provinces.
- WFP implements the CMAM Surge programme, which aims to strengthen the capacities of local healthcare facilities in managing seasonal spikes in malnutrition rates. WFP delivered nutrition support to over 5,700 PBW and 8,500 children under the age of 5 years, among whom 2,250 children and 2,200 PBW were people with moderate acute malnutrition. Under this programme, over 300 workers were also trained in Sindh in managing malnutrition.
- WFP's blanket supplementary feeding programme (BSFP) in Sindh province, operational from March 2023, successfully concluded in October. In total, 64,074 PBW and children aged 6-24 months benefitted from it.
- Within the Benazir Nashonuma Programme (BNP), WFP provided specialized nutritious food, nutrition counselling, health services and cash stipends to 280,000 beneficiaries, including 141,000 PBW and 139,000 children across 158 districts. Among them, 3,500 children and 2,530 PBW with moderate acute malnutrition, and 1,660 children with severe acute malnutrition were assisted through CMAM. The BNP has achieved 76% of the 1.7 million people targeted by June 2024.

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Country Strategic Plan (2023–2027)

Total Requirement (US\$)	Allocated Contributions (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (US\$)
787.34 million*	249.09 million	16.6 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, Balochistan, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Bulgaria, Canada, CERF, Chellaram Foundation, Denmark, European Commission, France, Germany, IFAD, Japan, Kuwait, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, USAID.

- WFP enrolled over 4,660 girls within the adolescent nutrition programme under the BNP, which provides girls aged 15-19 with a PKR 1,000 (approx. US\$3.5) quarterly cash stipend, health education, and iron and folic acid supplements to break the intergenerational cycle of malnutrition.
- As part of the small-scale *chakki* mills project, 50 mills across 5 districts in Punjab, KP and Islamabad are fortifying wheat flour with WFP support. The project has successfully fortified 83% (over 675 mt) of commercial production in the targeted districts, exceeding the initial target of 70%. By the end of March 2024, 100 mills in 23 districts will be supported. The project targets local mills, where most Pakistanis buy flour, to reduce malnutrition and stunting.
- As part of its support to the humanitarian operations in Afghanistan, WFP dispatched 8,843 mt of food.
- By the end of November, WFP Pakistan had provided over 35,500 m³ of space for transportation and storage services to 13 humanitarian and development partners across the country.
- WFP Pakistan advanced its sustainability strategy in supply chain, with a focus on reducing its carbon footprint and optimizing waste management in its operations.

Challenges

- Due to the recent deadline imposed by the government, there was a significant increase in returns of Afghan nationals from Pakistan, with nearly 375,000 people crossing the border. Borders were closed for goods, impacting WFP's supply chain support for the Afghan operation.
- The rise in law-and-order issues have been linked to the recent repatriation of Afghan nationals, and continued militant activity is anticipated to persist in the coming months. Under the Regional Response Plan, WFP has been strengthening the resilience of host communities near the Afghan border.
- Pakistan's economy showed some improvements with the International Monetary Fund acknowledging progress and regional exports increasing by 14.2% in four months. However, the economy still faces a crisis, contracting by 0.6% in 2023 and the poverty rate remains at 39.4%, impacting access to food.

Monitoring

- Facing a harsh winter, Pakistan confronts heightened food security challenges, as highlighted by the International Organization for Migration's report on winter preparedness in flood-affected districts. There is an urgent need for assistance to address winterization and bolster food security measures.
- WFP's November Market Monitor revealed that annual food inflation decreased to 26.9% in October from 31.4% in September. However, food inflation is still significantly high when compared with neighbouring countries and is expected to persist in the coming months.