



World Food Programme

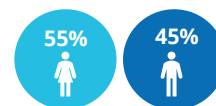
SAVING  
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# WFP Pakistan Country Brief February 2024



Imam and her daughter Zamira receive specialized nutritious food, as part of the Benazir Nashonuma Programme. Photo: WFP/Marco Frattini

## In Numbers



528,600 people assisted

2,763 mt food and US\$ 1.3 million in cash distributed

293,300 pregnant and breastfeeding women and children assisted under Benazir Nashonuma Programme

US\$ 10.3 million net funding requirements (March–August 2024)

## Operational Updates

- The final round of **food assistance under the 2022 flood response programme** was distributed in Sindh province, providing 66,400 people with 809 mt of food.
- WFP assisted 36,600 people with US\$ 331,500 cash transfers in exchange for their participation in **resilience-building activities focused on asset creation and livelihood improvement** in 12 districts across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Sindh, Balochistan and Pakistan Administered Kashmir (PAK). Implementation was carried out in partnership with the Pakistan Forest Department and the selected cooperating partners.
- WFP continued implementing **community management of acute malnutrition** in 11 flood-affected districts of Balochistan, KP and Sindh provinces. Cumulatively, 65,500 pregnant and breastfeeding women (PBW) and children were provided 2.5 million sachets of specialized nutritious food (SNF) to treat moderate acute malnutrition.
- In partnership with Pakistan's Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), WFP is implementing the Benazir Nashonuma Programme (BNP), a nationwide initiative to prevent stunting. This programme operates in 158 districts through 539 facilitation centres, including 35 mobile units, enrolling 1.74 million PBW and young children. In February, WFP supported 293,300 PBW and children aged 6-23 months with 26.4 million sachets of SNF, along with health services and health and nutrition awareness.
- Community Management of Acute Malnutrition** (CMAM) services are also provided through BNP facilitation centres to treat malnutrition. In February, 6,800 malnourished PBW and children were enrolled, bringing the total enrolled for CMAM services to 123,800. In addition, the **adolescent nutrition programme** continues to be implemented through 29 BNP facilitation centres in six targeted districts. In February 2024, WFP enrolled 4,300 girls in the age group 15-19 years.

## Operational Context

Pakistan continues to navigate a complex landscape marked by multidimensional risks hindering progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals and Vision 2025. Economic fragility and political polarisation pose ongoing challenges. Recurrent natural disasters and persistently high inflation rates exacerbate vulnerabilities, pushing more individuals into poverty and threatening their overall resilience. Pakistan ranks 99 out of 129 nations on the Global Hunger Index, highlighting its 'serious' hunger levels (Hunger Hotspots- WFP and FAO, June to November 2023).

World Food Programme's (WFP) country strategic plan aligns with Pakistan's development objectives and the global Sustainable Development Agenda, with a targeted focus on zero hunger (SDG 2). Through critical relief efforts and nutrition support, WFP plays a crucial role in supporting vulnerable populations. WFP also collaborates with the government to strengthen food and nutrition security, offering policy guidance and sustainable strategies to fortify Pakistan's food systems and build resilience against climate-related challenges.



Population (2023 National Census): **242 million**

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

Income Level: **Lower middle**

2022-23 Human Development Index: **161 out of 191**

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## Country Strategic Plan (2023–2027)

Total Requirement (US\$)	Allocated Contributions (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (US\$)
787.34 million	252.46 million	10.3 million

**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:** The Governments of Pakistan, France, Germany, Norway, USA, New Zealand, Denmark, Canada, Japan, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and the European Commission.

- WFP also implemented a nutrition-focused social safety net intervention in Sindh and Balochistan provinces, providing cash assistance to households with malnourished children and PBW. Through this initiative, 62,500 beneficiaries received US\$ 1 million in cash assistance.
- WFP conducted a **two-day training of trainers session focused on people-centred programming** for its cooperating partners (CPs) to enhance their capacities in line with the transition towards strategic, long-term development programming from emergency response and early recovery.
- WFP participated in a **stakeholder workshop on 'Monitoring Food Systems for Healthy and Sustainable Diets in Pakistan'**, facilitated by the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) and the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council. WFP highlighted its contribution to strengthening the country's food systems and emphasized the importance of generating evidence through the implementation of pilot interventions in food systems.
- WFP signed an agreement with the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) to provide technical support in designing the sample framework for the **comprehensive food security and livelihood assessment (CFSLA)**, which will be launched in April 2024, covering 49 priority districts across-four provinces.
- WFP organized a session for development partners with Dr. Saskia Depee, WFP's Chief for Analytics and Science for Food and Nutrition, to explore how strategies and interventions from various sectors can enhance food security and nutrition. The discussion drew on global evidence and experiences, and partners also deliberated on the cost, affordability, and accessibility gaps of healthy, nutritious diets, as well as their linkages with climate change.

## Challenges

- Following elections in February 2024, the ongoing security threats, political instability, and social unrest remain significant concerns with potential for causing access and implementation constraints for WFP programmes. Law enforcement agencies continue to implement stringent security measures to address the situation.

## Monitoring

- Pakistan continues to grapple with a fragile economic situation marked by soaring food inflation, high inflation, currency depreciation and escalating food and fuel import costs. According to the February 2024 Market Price Bulletin, headline inflation, based on the consumer price index (CPI), rose by 1.8 percent in January 2024 compared to December 2023. Additionally, year-on-year inflation surged to 28.3 percent in January 2024, up from 27.6 percent in January 2023.