



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Pakistan Country Brief March 2024



Allah Bux finds hope with WFP's cash assistance, gaining access to organic vegetables. Photo: Human Appeal

Operational Context

Pakistan continues to navigate a complex landscape, marked by multidimensional risks which hinders the progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Vision 2025. Economic fragility and political polarization 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 (2023-2027) aligns with Pakistan's development objectives and the 2030 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 supports the Government of Pakistan to strengthen food and nutrition security, offering policy guidance, technical expertise, and sustainable strategies to fortify food systems and strengthen resilience against climate-related challenges.



Population (2023): **242 million**

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

Income Level: **Lower middle**

2023-24 Human Development Index: **164 out of 193**

In Numbers

532,975 people assisted

55%



45%



2,190 mt food and **US\$ 570,000** cash distributed

367,410 pregnant and breastfeeding women and children assisted under the Benazir Nashonuma Programme

Operational Updates

- WFP reached 69,284 people with **resilience-building activities**, including asset creation and livelihood support in 9 districts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Sindh, Balochistan and Pakistan Administered Kashmir (PAK). Additionally, the second phase of a multiyear project, funded by Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been initiated in two districts of Sindh province, focusing on resilience-building of people living in areas which were affected by the 2022 floods.
- WFP supported 75,463 moderately malnourished pregnant and breastfeeding women (PBW) and children under the **community management of acute malnutrition (CMAM)** initiative in 11 districts of Balochistan, KP, and Sindh provinces.
- In partnership with Pakistan's Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), WFP is implementing the Benazir Nashonuma Programme (BNP), a nationwide initiative to prevent stunting. WFP supported 367,410 PBW, and children aged 6-23 months with 33 million sachets of specialized nutritious food (SNF), along with enhancing awareness on health and nutrition.
- Under the **BNP Programme, CMAM** services, aimed at treating malnutrition, are being provided. In March, 9,485 malnourished PBW and children were enrolled. In addition, the **adolescent nutrition programme** continues through 32 BNP facilitation centers in six targeted districts. WFP enrolled 5,120 girls in the age group 15-19 years.
- WFP implemented a **nutrition-focused social safety net intervention** in Sindh and Balochistan provinces, providing cash assistance to households with malnourished children and PBW. WFP provided cash-based transfers to 15,698 CMAM beneficiaries.
- WFP has expanded support from 50 to 20 additional rice mills in Punjab and one in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, while also installing micro-feeders in 29 other mills. Additionally, 30 rice mill operators were trained on topics including equipment usage and quality management.

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Country Strategic Plan (2023–2027)

Total Requirement (US\$)	Allocated Contributions (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (US\$)
787.3 million	244.9 million	12.7 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.

- WFP signed an agreement with the Elementary and Secondary Education Department of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to implement a three-year **cash stipend programme for adolescent schoolgirls**. Under this initiative, 30,000 eligible adolescent girls enrolled in grades 6-12 in targeted schools will receive a monthly cash stipend of PKR 1,000 (US\$ 3.6) for nine months each year. The programme aims to enhance girls' access to education and retention rates in schools.
- From 11 – 22 March, WFP organized partner connect training sessions for WFP field staff and cooperating partners. The sessions aimed to facilitate the reporting of daily distributed commodities, beneficiary numbers, and demographic details.
- WFP offices in Pakistan and Afghanistan, in partnership with WFP's supply chain division at headquarters, concluded an extensive training programme, to enhance data analytics, operational visibility, and promote evidence-based decision-making.
- WFP is developing a sustainability strategy, focusing on safe and hygienic management of SNF packets and minimizing their carbon footprint.

Challenges

- Cross-border transportation faced obstacles at the Torkham and Chaman crossings in Balochistan province due to security concerns and new regulations mandating visas for drivers. With bilateral discussions between authorities of Pakistan and Afghanistan, the issue has been temporarily resolved.

Monitoring

- According to the February 2024 Market Price Bulletin, inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased to 28.3% in January 2024 compared to 27.6% in January 2023. The CPI annual food inflation decreased from 27.5% in December 2023 to 25% in January 2024, which is still significantly high compared to the inflation rates in the neighbouring countries.

High food inflation is mainly being influenced by high energy/utility costs, fuel prices, costs of production and prices of imported food items due to the devaluation of the currency.

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