



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Pakistan Country Brief September 2024



Sughar Bai (44) a lady healthworker from Kantio, Tharparkar, measures the Mid-Upper Arm Circumference of a pregnant woman in her community. WFP/Anam Abbas

Operational Context

Pakistan continues to face a complex landscape of risks, hindering progress towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Vision 2025. Economic fragility, political polarization, recurrent natural disasters, and high inflation rates deepen vulnerabilities and increase poverty levels, undermining resilience.

The 2023/2024 Human Development Report places Pakistan in the 'low' human development category with a Human Development Index (HDI) value of 0.540 and global ranking of 164 out of 193 countries. Pakistan is also ranked 99th out of 129 countries in the Global Hunger Index.

WFP's Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027) aligns with Pakistan's development objectives and the 2030 Agenda, with a targeted focus on Zero Hunger (SDG 2). By providing essential relief and nutrition support, WFP plays a critical role in aiding vulnerable populations. Additionally, WFP supports the Government of Pakistan in enhancing food and nutrition security through policy guidance, technical expertise, and the development of sustainable food systems. The plan also aims to bolster resilience against climate-related challenges.



Population (2024): **244 million**

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

Income Level: **Lower middle**

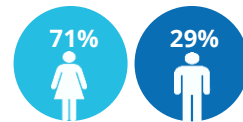
2023-24 Human Development Index: **164 out of 193**

In Numbers

401,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women and children received health and nutrition services and supplementary nutritious foods through the Benazir Nashonuma Programme (BNP).

17,000 moderately malnourished pregnant and breastfeeding women and young children received treatment through various CMAM activities.

23,000 people benefited through resilience building, and livelihood support programmes



Operational Updates

Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Livelihoods

- On 5 September, WFP and FAO Pakistan launched the **'Integrated Disaster Preparedness for Resilience Building' project**. The project, funded by EU Civil Protection & Humanitarian Aid (ECHO), will focus on enhancing disaster preparedness and anticipatory measures, with pilots in districts Nushki (Balochistan) and Khairpur (Sindh). The inception workshop gathered key stakeholders, reaffirming their commitment to strengthening institutional capacities and advancing disaster readiness.
- WFP is implementing **multi-year resilience-building activities** in three districts of Sindh Province. In September, nearly **23,000 people** (51 percent women and girls) received **US\$185,000** in cash transfers for the month.
- In September, WFP conducted **feasibility assessments** in targeted districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Punjab under the Government's **Living Indus project** where WFP and partners will construct **450** structural water reservoirs (concrete water ponds) along with associated activities.

Nutrition & Health, Education and Social Protection

- WFP is partnering with the Government of Pakistan to implement the **Benazir Nashonuma Programme (BNP)** which targets pregnant and breastfeeding women (PBW) and their children < 2 years of age from the poorest households in the country. To date, 2.5 million PBW and children have been enrolled and are receiving services. In September, WFP supported **401,000 PBW and children** with **36 million** sachets of specialized nutritious foods and provided health services and nutrition awareness.
- Through the BNP, **13,000 malnourished children and PBW** were identified and enrolled in treatment programmes for acute malnutrition in September.
- A **UN Partners (WFP, UNICEF and WHO) coordination meeting** chaired by the Director General of Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) was held on September 26 to discuss the integration of Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) and Social and Behaviour and Change Communication (SBCC) components into the BNP.

Country Strategic Plan (2023–2027)



Total Requirement (US\$)	Allocated Contributions (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (US\$)
787.34 million	476.44 million	26.78 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 supported **17,000** moderately malnourished PBW and children under the Community Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) activities in six districts of Balochistan and Sindh.
- Through **CMAM integrated programme**, 1,000 families (6,500 people) received **US\$43,252** in cash transfers for the month.
- A total of **147 Chakkis (small scale local millers)** across the country are fortifying wheat flour for consumption by the general public with technical support from WFP. In September, **2,750 mt** of wheat flour were fortified, benefiting **893,000 consumers**.
- As of September 30, the Balochistan Provincial Office and its partner, Secours Islamique France (SIF), reached **6,700 primary schoolchildren** in 19 government schools of Quetta District with school meals. For its pilot school meals programme in Balochistan, WFP and SIF plan to reach 13,000 children in over 50 schools by the end of October using a central kitchen model. This pilot is co-funded by the Government of Balochistan.
- WFP and the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa initiated the **Adolescent Girls' Cash Stipend Programme, targeting 33,000 secondary school girls** in the merged districts along the Afghanistan border was. A formal launch of the programme is expected in October.
- The **Global Shield in-country process** led by the Government of Pakistan and facilitated by UNDP, is assessing risks and needs to develop a tailored support package for climate risk protection in the country. Under this, WFP and GIZ are specifically supporting the **Adaptive Social Protection (ASP)** component.

Food Systems

- The International Finance Corporation (IFC) finalized the **environmental and technical assessment** for the Sindh food department under the wheat storage silos construction project in Sindh province
- In September, WFP completed a **value chain assessment of fortified wheat flour** from farm to *chakki*, identifying areas for capacity strengthening in production and storage. Stakeholders showed strong interest in fortification and improving storage solutions. WFP will use these findings to shape 2025 priorities focused on food security, nutrition, and supply chain resilience.

Challenges

- Persistent political polarization, coupled with the persistent high costs of public services in the country have led to several instances of civil unrest during the month. Additionally, the ongoing political demonstrations in Islamabad, and security incidents Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan provinces have led to movement and access constraints.

Donors

Government of Pakistan, Canada, France, Norway and United States; the European Commission (ECHO), the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) and The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

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