



World Food Programme

WFP Pakistan Country Brief

February 2025

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



Little Meesum enjoys the specialised nutritious food provided by the Benazir Nashonuma programme, ensuring better health and growth. ©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 and recurrent natural disasters 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.**

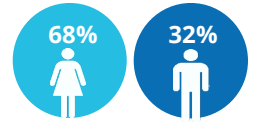
Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

In Numbers

96,492 people benefited through resilience building, and livelihood support programmes

397,726 pregnant and breastfeeding women and children received health and nutrition services and supplementary nutritious foods through the Benazir Nashonuma Programme (BNP).



Operational Updates

Emergency preparedness, Resilience and Livelihoods

- WFP, FAO, and the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) hosted Balochistan's inaugural consultative workshop on 24 February, gathering 35 officials from various sectors to establish the Provincial Multi-Hazard Vulnerability and Risk Assessment (MHVRA) Guidelines for the province.
- WFP, supported by NDMA, conducted a 3-day MHVRA training from February 25-27, for the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Balochistan, to enhance risk assessment capacities to strengthen evidence-based planning and decision-making.
- Under WFP's contribution to the UN system's Living Indus Initiative, WFP continues to facilitate community-led construction of concrete water reservoirs to enhance water resource management in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Punjab. In February, fruit plants were planted around the completed water reservoirs to augment the diets and income of the targeted communities
- Under its climate resilience work in four flood-affected districts in KP, Sindh, and Balochistan, WFP focused on infrastructure development activities including flood protection structures along with capacity strengthening activities equipping women with marketable skills (e.g. beautician skills and salon management, digital marketing for entrepreneurs).

Nutrition, Education and Social Protection

- Through the Government of Pakistan's Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), WFP implements the national stunting prevention programme, which targets pregnant and breastfeeding women and children from the poorest households across the country. To date, the programme has provided services to 2.9 million pregnant and breastfeeding women and children less than 2 years of age. In February, 398,000 women and children received 35.8 million sachets of lipid based nutritional supplements, along with health services and nutrition awareness through 566 facilitation centres across 158 districts of the country.

Country Strategic Plan (2023–2027)



Total Requirement (US\$)	Allocated Contributions (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (US\$)
787.34 m	481.14 m	18.67 m

* US\$ 155.35 million (BISP unreceived funds) have been deducted from the from the available funds as they pertain to future tranches of the host-governments multiyear contribution

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 co-led provincial level meetings in preparation for the Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Summit which will take place in Paris in March. Stakeholders gathered in Lahore, Peshawar, Quetta and Karachi to discuss and agree on priorities for their provinces and the country. The national level consolidated commitments will be endorsed by the Government and submitted for the International N4G summit scheduled at the end of March.
- Due to winter school breaks, no school-based programmes were implemented in February. However, WFP initiated work to expand central kitchens in Quetta in preparation for the new school year and expansion to 20,000 students.
- WFP led two sessions at the Second National Conference on Social Protection in Karachi, from 24 to 26 February, and shared insights on its ongoing programmes and priorities with key stakeholders. The conference organized by GIZ in collaboration with Ministry of Poverty Alleviation & Social Safety/BISP convened partners for a comprehensive dialogue regarding advancements, recent developments, and future strategies aimed at enhancing social protection systems in Pakistan.

Food Systems

- WFP engaged in the provincial level launch of the Social Protection Program for Adolescent Nutrition in collaboration with BISP, GIZ, Nutrition International, and CERP. The project targets addressing adolescent malnutrition by empowering girls to advocate for healthy practices within their communities through a variety of interventions. As part of this initiative, WFP has started a pilot for an e-voucher system to provide subsidized *chakki* fortified wheat flour to targeted households, enhancing access and awareness of fortified flour among adolescent girls.
- From 25 to 28 February, WFP teams attended a Nutrition and Supply Chain Workshop for Large Scale Fortification hosted by WFP's Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok to discuss and develop action plans for expansion of rice fortification across the region.

Donors

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