



World Food Programme

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WFP Pakistan Country Brief March 2025



Bakhtawar participates in a WFP-supported vocational skills session for women in Jacobabad, Sindh. Photo: 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). WFP works with national and provincial governments to support human capital development through nutrition and education programmes as well as in climate resilience and livelihoods. WFP provides technical support to strengthen government capacity in emergency preparedness and response, social protection, and sustainable food systems.



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**

126,900 people received cash assistance through climate resilience and livelihood support programmes

411,700 pregnant and breastfeeding women and children received health and nutrition services and specialised nutritious foods through the Government's Benazir Nashonuma Programme

10,400 secondary school girls received conditional cash stipends through the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's (KP) Adolescent Girls' Cash Stipend Programme

66 percent of the individuals assisted by WFP in March were women and girls

Operational Updates

Emergency preparedness, Resilience and Livelihoods

- WFP concluded a 5-month climate resilience project in four flood-affected districts spanning KP, Sindh, and Balochistan. Project results include more than 200 trainings (food preservation, advanced embroidery, livestock management, financial literacy, entrepreneurship etc.) and 550 community structures, including access paths, flood protection walls and other structures, animal shelters, washing platforms to wash clothes, and fuel-efficient stoves, benefiting more than 300,000 people.
- On March 11, WFP signed an agreement with the Pakistan Meteorological Department to support their work in enhancing community level early warning capacities for climate forecasting.
- WFP received the 'Notice of Effectiveness' from the Green Climate Fund for the 4-year project on 'Integrated Climate Risk Management for Strengthened Resilience to Climate Change in Buner and Shangla Districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The project is valued at US\$9.8 million and will commence next month.

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 3 million pregnant and breastfeeding women and children less than 2 years of age. In March, 411,700 women and children received 35.9 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 million	338.17 million	17.87 million

* US\$ 145.56 million (BISP unreceived funds) have been deducted 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.

- Under the adolescent girls' stipend programme with the Government of KP, WFP completed the second round of conditional cash transfers to the parents of 10,400 girls (8,000 households). WFP also finalised a health and nutrition workbook for teenage girls participating in the programme in eight tribal districts of northwest Pakistan.
- The school meals pilot programme in Quetta district of Balochistan resumed in 39 schools in the month of March, after the winter break. However, since Ramadan began in March, the programme provided take-home packets of fruits to the students instead of cooked meals during this fasting period.
- The Balochistan Provincial Office also completed expansion of the central kitchen in Quetta City, which is now set to prepare meals for more than 20,000 children daily.
- WFP programme teams and the Punjab Provincial Office presented the findings of a joint scoping study of the Government of Punjab's school milk pilot. The study focused on ways to strengthen the supply chain and monitoring systems.

Food Systems

- WFP conducted similar dialogues in Balochistan, leading to the Balochistan Food Department expressing renewed focus on upgrading its strategic grain reserve storage and the digitalization of procurement systems.

Donors

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