



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Pakistan Country Brief August 2020



Operational Context

Pakistan is making significant investments to accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals and its national development programme – Vision 2025. However, high levels of malnutrition, frequent natural hazards, a volatile security climate in parts of the country and the impact of COVID-19 are challenges that continue to obstruct socio-economic progress.

WFP Pakistan's Country Strategic Plan seeks to support this progress. Alongside the provision of critically needed relief and nutrition support to vulnerable population groups, WFP assistance in the country aims to complement the Government's efforts in enhancing food and nutrition security of the people of Pakistan. WFP also provides technical support to the Government by conducting research to generate evidence to guide policy makers and assist in the development of relevant national strategies. WFP's work in Pakistan also encompasses community resilience building, disaster risk management and preparedness elements for sustainability and national ownership.

WFP has been present in Pakistan since 1968.



Population (2017 census):
207.7 million

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

Income Level: **Lower middle**

2019 Human Development Index:
152 out of 189

In Numbers

3,344 mt of food distributed in July 2020

US\$ 36.6 million six months (Sep 2020 – Feb 2021) representing 69 percent of total.

262,155 people assisted in July 2020



Operational Updates

- In August, WFP and the Government launched an ambitious nation-wide stunting prevention programme linked to the country's national safety net (BISP/ EHSAAAS), which provides unconditional cash transfers to over 4.5 million ultra-poor households. This programme targets mothers and children enrolled in the Government's safety net and will use the Government's primary health care system to provide a comprehensive package of four interventions: locally produced specialized nutritious foods, conditional cash transfer top-ups, awareness sessions on feeding and hygiene practices, and routine child monitoring and immunization. The aim is to reach over 120,000 women and children over the course of two years.
- In response to the findings of the recently published national nutrition survey, which showed that rates of acute malnutrition in Pakistan far exceeded the emergency threshold, WFP is scaling up its community-based management of acute malnutrition (CMAM) programmes throughout the country, in close partnership with UNICEF, WHO and health authorities. WFP's ongoing CMAM programmes are aimed at providing 252,072 children under five and pregnant and lactating women (PLW) with specialised nutritious food (SNF). SNF is provided along with behavioural change communication on infant and young child feeding practices and health and hygiene practices. In the coming months, WFP plans to reach an additional 94,222 children and PLW suffering from moderate acute malnutrition (56,556 children and 37,666 PLW).
- To enhance Pakistan's emergency response capacity, WFP constructed a Humanitarian Response Facility (HRF) in Muzaffarabad, Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) —an area prone to natural disasters. This HRF facility has a storage capacity of 1,000 mt and will be used for prepositioning food and non-food items for relief activities and emergency response.
- To support the Government's COVID-19 response, WFP and the National Disaster Management Authority have been conducting fortnightly Logistics and Supply Chain Working Group (LSCWG) meetings. The LSCWG working group brings together heads of UN agencies, international financial institutions, and the Ministry of Health, to optimise the supply chain management of critically needed supplies for the COVID-19 response.

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Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	September 2020-February 2021 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
447.4 m	177.9 m	36.6 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Affected populations in Pakistan have timely access to adequate food and nutrition during and in the aftermath of natural disasters and shocks (SDG 2.1).

Focus area: Crisis response

Activities:

- Unconditional resource transfers to support access to food
- Asset creation and livelihood support activities.

Strategic Outcome 2: The social protection system at the federal and provincial levels provides the populations most in need, especially women, adolescent girls and children, with improved and sustained access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food by 2022.

Focus area: Root Causes

Activities:

- Institutional capacity strengthening activities
- School meal activities.

Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 3: The entire population of Pakistan, especially children under 5, adolescent girls and women of reproductive age, has improved nutrition in line with national targets for 2025.

Focus area: Root Causes

Activities:

- Malnutrition prevention activities
- Enhanced social and public-sector capacity to identify, target and assist nutritionally vulnerable populations

Strategic Result 4: Food systems are sustainable

Strategic Outcome 4: Communities in disaster prone districts have more resilient food systems and development gains are better protected by disaster risk management systems at all levels by 2022.

Focus area: Resilience building

Activities:

- Climate adaptation and risk management activities.
- Emergency preparedness activities

Strategic Result 5: Countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs (SDG target 17.9)

Strategic Outcome 5: Federal and provincial systems have strengthened capabilities to provide food security and essential services by 2022.

Focus area: Root Causes

Activities:

- Institutional capacity strengthening activities.

- WFP is preparing to provide emergency unconditional cash and food assistance to 24,205 chronically food insecure households that have been severely affected by COVID-19. Assistance will be provided to households across the provinces of Balochistan, Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). Distributions are planned to start by late September.
- WFP carried out workshops in KP province to initiate the COVID-19 emergency relief assistance programme. During the workshops, WFP's cooperating partners were trained on various aspects of the project, i.e. village prioritization, beneficiary selection, beneficiary registration, formation of Village Development Committees, monitoring, mainstreaming gender equality and protection, security and maintaining compliance standards.
- In 2020, Pakistan has witnessed a second year of locust outbreak which has severely affected its main agricultural lands in Balochistan, Punjab, Sindh and KP, seriously threatening its national food security. Due to its extent, the outbreak was declared a national emergency by the Government. To support the Government, WFP along with FAO is carrying out a needs assessment across 25 severely affected districts of Balochistan, Sindh and Punjab. The assessment will be conducted in close coordination with the food security and agriculture working group and other relevant government departments.
- Heavy monsoon rains have caused severe flooding and landslides across Pakistan, particularly in the Sindh, KP and Punjab provinces. On 25 August 2020, the Sindh Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) announced a state of emergency and declared 20 districts as calamity affected. To support the relief of this emergency, WFP is carrying out a rapid needs assessment in the flood-affected areas while proactively preparing food for distribution to the affected people in Sindh.

Donors

Australia, China, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Canada, ECHO, Emergency Preparedness and Response Trust Fund, Ireland, Japan, Norway, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, UK, UN Centralized Emergency Response Fund (CERF), One UN Trust Fund, and USA.