



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Pakistan Country Brief September 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**

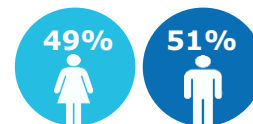
2019 Human Development Index: **152 out of 189**

## In Numbers

**1,659 mt** of food distributed in August 2020

**US\$ 25.8 million** six months (Oct 2020 – Mar 2021) representing 46 percent of total.

**439,058** people assisted in August 2020



## Operational Updates

- Heavy monsoon rains since mid-August caused severe flooding and landslides across Pakistan, particularly in Sindh province. In response to the Government's request, WFP launched a joint Rapid Needs Assessment in early September with partners, followed by in-kind general food distribution to 11,000 of the most vulnerable households in affected areas between 8-23 September. WFP is carrying out a post-flood needs assessment in the provinces of Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. In addition, WFP is coordinating, through the Sindh provincial Food Security Working Group, with other partners in the food sector to map out activities for the rehabilitation and recovery of flood affected communities.
- In Pakistan, four out of every ten children under the age of five are stunted. To fight undernutrition and improve the life chances of these children, WFP is rolling out a nationwide stunting prevention programme '*EHSAAS Nashonuma*' using the country's largest social safety net platform, the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP). The *EHSAAS Nashonuma* programme aims to reach over 120,000 women and children from ultra-poor households. So far, WFP has established 22 facilitation centres, where children and pregnant and lactating women receive specialized nutritious foods, immunization, health monitoring and awareness sessions on feeding and hygiene practices. WFP is working to launch more *Nashonuma* facilitation centres across Pakistan.
- While malnutrition is prevalent across Pakistan, the situation is most alarming in the country's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province, particularly in its tribal districts (ex-FATA). WFP is providing support to the Chief Secretary of KP in developing a Food Security and Nutrition policy for the province. The process is being supported by relevant Government, private sector, UN agency and other stakeholders. WFP provides overall support in the process, particularly focusing on socio-economic access, social protection, nutrition, school feeding, gender and supply chain aspects of the policy.

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### Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Oct 2020 – Mar 2021 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>447.4 m</b>	<b>181.39 m</b>	<b>25.8 m</b>

#### 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.

- The enrollment of girls in schools in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's tribal districts (ex-FATA) is extremely low, particularly at secondary level. WFP, in partnership with the Government, is implementing a school-based safety net programme for secondary schoolgirls in the region. The programme, which targets over 21,000 adolescent schoolgirls, aims to increase female enrolment in secondary schools by providing monthly cash-based transfers conditional upon attendance. Using the result of this initiative, WFP aims to expand this social safety net programme to other provinces and eventually hand over implementation to provincial education departments.
- WFP is continuing preparations for emergency cash assistance to over 180,000 people across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh and Balochistan provinces who are at severe risk of food insecurity due to the compounding repercussions of COVID-19, the locust outbreak, and 2019's drought and snow emergencies. WFP is conducting village prioritization and beneficiary selection, and the first round of cash disbursement is expected to start in October.
- In partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), WFP is carrying out a Food Security Assessment in the Punjab, Sindh and Balochistan provinces to identify the most food insecure households affected by multiple shocks (flood, drought, locust and COVID-19) in the country and to determine the level of risk they are facing.
- To protect frontline healthcare and emergency response workers from COVID-19, WFP provided provincial disaster management authorities and district health facilities with personal protective equipment (PPE).
- WFP is actively participating in the Global Humanitarian Needs Overview 2021 process which will provide the basis for the 2021 Global Humanitarian Response Plan. WFP is contributing to two working groups for this process in Pakistan —the food security and nutrition working group and the natural disaster impact analysis working group.
- WFP contributed to the UN Common Country Assessment for Pakistan, led by the Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator's Office. In addition, WFP, together with UNHCR, is helping prepare a section of the humanitarian-development-peace nexus framework.

## Donors

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