

PAKISTAN

OPERATIONS, FACTS AND FIGURES



Overview

At the end of July 2010, northern Pakistan was hit by a massive wall of water, as the heaviest monsoon rains in living memory submerged homes, villages and towns. Although the death toll was mercifully limited, the destruction continued downstream as the floodwaters crashed southwards through the provinces of Punjab, Sindh and Balochistan. Up to six million people require food assistance as a result of the flooding, many in remote locations cut off by roads and bridges destroyed by the raging waters.

WFP's response was immediate, drawing on pre-existing offices, personnel, transport infrastructure and food stocks in some of the worst affected parts of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK), a province where millions were already receiving WFP food assistance as a result of conflict, displacement and grinding poverty. Further existing assets and expertise were deployed to enhance the response in other parts of the country, while additional international staff were flown in to bolster the huge operation.

The floods hit a country in which some 45 million are estimated to be severely food-insecure, according to a 2008 UN joint assessment. Although some progress has been made towards meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), an estimated 36 percent of the population live below the poverty line and almost half are illiterate. Pakistan continues to face a volatile security situation and widening developmental gaps between rural and urban communities.

Despite considerable security-related challenges (including an attack on WFP's Islamabad office in October 2009), WFP provides ongoing support about 10 million people in Pakistan. Since August 2008, fighting in northwest Pakistan has caused massive displacement and destruction of property and livelihoods.

WFP stepped in to provide food assistance to 2.6 million people – the displaced, those trying to return to their homes, and other communities seriously affected by the crisis. This operation continues. The global food price hike of 2008 had a particularly severe effect on Pakistan's poor and its effects continue to reverberate – many poor families spending up to 70 percent of their income on food. In a bid to combat high food prices and prevent the further entrenchment of poor nutrition, WFP provides assistance to 5.5 million people, mainly through school meals and self-targeting food-for-work programmes.

WFP has been working in Pakistan since 1968 and underpinning its emergency and relief response to natural disasters and conflict is a programme to address chronic hunger in the country. This focuses on better access to education through the provision of school meals and the empowerment of women through take-home rations to schoolgirls and to women attending healthcare facilities. WFP also supports activities which create income-generating opportunities for women and help raise their social status.

All WFP's work in Pakistan is designed to complement existing government programmes, adhere to the objectives of the MDGs and fall within the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for Pakistan. WFP's goal is to provide the kind of support which allows communities to build self-reliance, and to maintain its emergency response capacity.



Note: Boundaries and names shown do not imply official endorsement by the United Nations

WFP COUNTRY OFFICE
Islamabad

PROVINCIAL OFFICES
Peshawar, Quetta, Lahore
Karachi, Muzaffarabad

PRESENCE SINCE 1968

WFP OPERATIONS IN 2010

WFP beneficiaries: 10 million
Value of assistance: USD 395 million

FACTS AND FIGURES

Population: 170 million
Human Development Index Rank: 136
Per Capita Income (\$): 1085
Adult Literacy:
Men – 65%
Women – 40%
Primary School Attendance:
Boys – 62%
Girls – 51%
Children Under 5 Suffering From:
Underweight – 38%
Stunting – 37%
Wasting – 13%

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Emergency Operation Flood Response August September 2010

The unprecedented floods of mid-2010 have affected as many as 20 million people and left up to six million in need of emergency food assistance. WFP's response was immediate and focused on delivering life-saving food supplies, including high-energy biscuits, ready-to-eat food for infants and young children and fortified wheat flour. All possible delivery mechanisms are being used, including helicopters, trucks, push-carts and donkeys. Special Operations for logistics and emergency telecommunications have also been launched.

Emergency Operation Internally Displaced and Conflict Affected in Northwest March 2009 December 2010

Intense fighting and resultant displacement across FATA and KPK since August 2008 have made an already difficult existence even worse for many communities availability of food has been dramatically reduced, and access to it restricted for the poorest. In 2010, WFP continues to assist up to 2.6 million people the displaced, those attempting to return to their homes, and affected members of host communities.

Emergency Operation Assistance to People Affected by High Food Prices October 2008 December 2010

Pakistan continues to suffer the effects of food price hikes. A 2008 UN assessment found that poor households now spend up to 70 percent of their available income on food, but are still unable to provide themselves with an adequate diet. WFP's response aims to reduce the gap between people's basic needs and the support provided by existing government programmes, primarily through schools, food-for-work and nutrition activities targeting 5.5 million people.

Relief Operation Assistance to Food-Insecure Households in Balochistan and FATA September 2007 December 2010

About 60 percent of Balochistan and FATA lives below the poverty line. WFP support aims to improve household food security while addressing the health and nutrition of women and young children, and promoting education. The operation targets 1.3 million people in 2010.

Country Programme January 2005 December 2010

Women and children are the first to suffer from under-development, particularly in the areas of health and education. In response, WFP Pakistan seeks to improve access to food in ways that boost the social standing of women and girls. By providing take-home food rations to girl students, WFP aims to improve their attendance rates and completion of primary education. Similar incentives are provided to pregnant and breast-feeding women who make use of healthcare services. WFP also supports activities which create income-generating opportunities for women.

Logistics

WFP has established a network of humanitarian hubs as part of an extensive logistics network designed to meet the needs of the people we are assisting in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Even before the floods, WFP was expecting to handle some 600,000 metric tons of food for distribution in the two countries double the amount of 2008 and triple 2007. WFP has also massively increased its wheat milling capacity across the country over the past few years.

