



## **WFP's groundbreaking partnership with the Government of Pakistan to reduce stunting**

**Side event on the margins of the second regular session of the Executive Board**

**Tuesday 15 November 2022, 13:30–14:30**

**Auditorium (hybrid), WFP headquarters**

### **Context**

Pakistan is facing a major challenge to meet the food security and nutrition targets of Sustainable Development Goal 2 by 2030. Despite progress in recent years, the nutrition and hunger situation in Pakistan remain serious. Over 29 million Pakistanis go to bed hungry every night, 12 million Pakistani children are stunted and 5 million are wasted. In addition to the impact on lives, there is a development cost of USD 7.6 billion in lost opportunity to the Government each year, representing 3 percent of GDP, due to malnutrition. The recent floods have only served to exacerbate this situation.

Since 2017, the World Food Programme has been supporting the Government of Pakistan to address chronic malnutrition as part of the largest social protection programme in South Asia, the Benazir Nashonuma Programme (BNP). WFP has supported the design of the programme and has been tasked by the Government to lead its operational implementation.

On 16 December 2021, WFP's Executive Director, David Beasley, joined the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Pakistan for the provision of USD 204 million to WFP. The commitment is the largest single agreement WFP has signed with a host government and the largest nutrition project in a single country. WFP's support continues under the leadership of the current Government, its Prime Minister, Shehbaz Sharif and Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Shazia Marri.

## Objective

The purpose of the event is to showcase the Government of Pakistan-WFP partnership and especially how ***the financing and implementation*** of the integrated national stunting prevention programme is helping to build capacity and sustainability and serves as a potential ***model for Government/United Nations agency partnerships*** elsewhere.

The event will:

- Highlight how with modest unearmarked funding, WFP was able to position itself as a long-term partner to the Government to support an evidence-based approach to programme design and implementation.
- Demonstrate how the Government of Pakistan has effectively capitalized on WFP's expertise in logistics, nutrition and programme management to help it address a national priority.
- Demonstrate how, under the leadership of the Government, WFP is helping to develop complementarities in the area of nutrition with key United Nations humanitarian and development partners and the private sector.

## Agenda

### Welcome and opening:

- **Mr Naveed Akbar**, Director General, Ministry of Poverty Alleviation, Government of Pakistan

### Keynote speaker (10 minutes)

- **Hon. Shazia Marri**, Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety and Chairperson of the Board, Benazir Income Support Programme (Government of Pakistan)

### Benazir Nashonuma programme documentary video (5 minutes)

### Panel discussion: moderated by Mr Naveed Akbar (20 minutes)

- Hon. Shazia Marri, Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Government of Pakistan
- Ms Ute Klamert, Deputy Executive Director, Partnerships and Advocacy Department, WFP
- Ms Valerie Guarnieri, Deputy Executive Director, Programme and Policy Development Department, WFP
- Mr Chris Kaye, Country Director, Pakistan, WFP

### Q&A session and remarks from the floor (moderated by Mr Naveed Akbar, Director General, Benazir Income Support Programme) (10 minutes)

### Closing comments (5 minutes)

- Ms Ute Klamert, Deputy Executive Director, Partnerships and Advocacy Department, WFP