



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

India Country Strategic Plan 2019-2023



CHALLENGE

India has made tremendous progress in the last couple of decades on key indicators including economic growth, poverty reduction, self-sufficiency in food grains and adoption of technological solutions. While there has been a significant drop in malnutrition rates in the country, the progress has not been commensurate with achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

India is home to almost a quarter of the world's chronically undernourished people (190.7 million out of 815 million people or 14.5 percent of the country population). SDG 2, therefore, cannot be achieved globally unless it is achieved in India.

A multitude of factors contribute to malnutrition and food insecurity in India including gender inequalities, lack of access to health and nutrition services caused by social, economic and geographical barriers, urbanization and inhibiting social norms and structures.

Unequal and Inadequate Access:

With integrated markets nationwide, food is generally available, but economic access is limited for many people. The rural households spend 60 percent of their income on food and have limited access to diversified food.

Urbanization:

The development context of India is changing. Urbanization is estimated to increase to 40 percent by 2030, from around 31 percent in 2011. While bringing economic benefits, rapid urbanization presents enormous challenges of food and nutrition security and aggravates inequalities.

Gender Inequalities:

Women do not benefit equally from economic opportunities as reflected by India's rank of 125 out of 159 countries on the Gender Inequality Index and 120 of 131 in female labour force participation. Intra-household food distribution also affects women due to socio-cultural norms that dictate they eat the least and last, irrespective of their age and physiological status.

MISSION

The Country Strategic Plan 2019-2023 aims to deepen World Food Programme's engagement in the areas of nutrition (particularly stunting) and safety nets, to improve access to food, from supply chain to service delivery through scale up of transformative approaches-including gender specific approaches. This includes policies that deliver food and nutrition security through improved government systems and convergent actions by other stakeholders.

Through the CSP 2019-2023, WFP seeks to support India towards achieving SDG 2 targets by 2030 by capitalizing on WFP's investment, through three strategic outcomes and four activities aligned to strategic results 1.2 and 5 under WFP's Strategic Plan (2017-2021) and SDG 2 and 17.

Strategic Outcome 1

The most vulnerable people in India are better able to meet their minimum food and nutrition needs all year round

Activity 1: Provide policy inputs, advocacy and technical assistance to enhance the efficiency, targeting, service delivery and supply chain of government programmes to improve access to food.

Strategic Outcome 2

People with a high risk of malnutrition, especially women, children, and adolescent girls, in India have improved nutrition by 2025

Activity 2: Support state and national governments to improve and integrate nutrition policy and programming, including enhanced quality, advocacy, gender transformative and systematized approaches.

Strategic Outcome 3

National and state institutions have enhanced capacity to deliver on SDG 2 and key related targets and collaborate with regional and global partners towards SDG 2

Activity 3: Facilitate institutional capacity at various levels to generate, share and use evidence for coordinated SDG 2 planning, roll-out, and monitoring.

Activity 4: Facilitate Government of India and other countries to share food security and nutrition knowledge and expertise and to provide disaster risk management services for the region.



PROCESS

A series of consultative processes were followed to articulate the CSP 2019-2023. These included:

Internal Meetings

After a review of the existing framework, internal meetings were held to develop line of sight in consultation with national, regional and global WFP staff.

Meetings with State and National Level Stakeholders

Based on the SDG 2 Road Map Framework- a document initiated by WFP and articulated by the premier Government of India think tank Research and Information Systems for Developing Countries (RIS), with support of NITI Aayog - a situational analysis was developed and shared through meetings at national and state level with seven key ministries, private sector, civil society and other stakeholders.

Stakeholder Workshops

Consultative workshops were held in the state of Orissa and New Delhi with key stakeholders including the government officials, development partners, private sector, UN agencies and other experts to share the inputs from various meetings and consultations and a framework for CSP 2019-2023 was put in place.

SDG 2 Road Map Framework

As a part of the process for abstracting and evolving the Country Strategic Plan 2019-23, a Roadmap Framework for achieving SDG 2 in a time-bound manner was developed by analyzing the food and nutrition security situation of the country; evaluating the policy and programmatic responses aimed at improving food and nutrition security; identifying the gaps and finally providing key recommendations for consideration and action for accelerating progress towards SDG 2.

Through in-depth desk review of the available literature on the subject and using various data sources for the analysis purpose. The team while working on the report has also interacted with a large number of stakeholders including officers of the central and state governments at their headquarters and the field level functionaries implementing the concerned programmes.

SDG 2 ROAD MAP FRAMEWORK



RIS
Research and Information System
for Developing Countries
विकासशील देशों की अनुसंधान एवं सूचना प्रणाली

WFP's Country Strategic Plan 2019-23 seeks to fast-track India's progress towards the achievement of SDG 2 by accelerating momentum, especially in areas where there is scope for improvement. These opportunities have been identified through the SDG 2 Roadmap Framework, situational analysis and assessment of the prototype CSP 2015-18 and the UNSDF framework as well as through intensive consultation with government, civil society, private sector and other development partners. The CSP 2019-23 also draws its basis from the current policy landscape which the country is experiencing with the renewed impetus on improvement of nutritional status, especially of women and children, through initiatives such as the POSHAN Abhiyan, Anemia Mukht Bharat (Anemia Free India campaign) and Swachh Bharat (Clean India campaign) executed at central and state levels, aligned with the national prioritisation and implementation of the National Nutrition Strategy

Some of the key resources that provided support in the development of the CSP are as follows:

- **Country Strategic Review 2014** by MS Swaminathan Research Foundation: setting the pace for the CSP 2015-18. Subsequently a Country Strategic Review was undertaken in 2018 by the Public Health Foundation of India, setting the pace for the CSP 2019-23.
- **The Mid-Term Review of the CSP 2015-2018:** which confirmed WFP's strategic alignment with India's needs and priorities and being on track with implementation. WFP was deemed to have effectively managed the transition from food delivery to technical assistance, established itself as a critical and trusted partner in providing technical assistance, and made efficient use of limited resources.
- **Lessons learned from the prototype Country Strategic Plan 2015-18:** focused on capacity strengthening to achieve food and nutrition security as per the objectives of India's National Food Security Act 2013 and global targets. WFP's orientation was modified by enhancing strategic engagement, acquiring necessary technical expertise, aligning the office structure functions to the objectives of CSP and introducing global experiences and insights.
- **Lessons from other UN agencies in India:** working on livelihoods, poverty alleviation and health – especially Rome based agencies (FAO, IFAD); UNICEF, UNDP and UNWOMEN.
- **WFP Gender Policy 2015; Gender Assessment Guide 2016; INCO Gender Action Plan.**
- **Recommendations of the synthesis of operation evaluations 2013-17 for Asia and the Pacific:** Especially enhanced focus on communication for behaviour change, improving the evidence base by investing in studies and research and capacities on nutrition, gender and targeting.
- **Strategic plan 2017-21 of the Coalition for Food and Nutrition Security India:** serves as a platform advocating for improved nutrition policies and programs in India, including policy reform, convergent action, prioritization of the 100 days approach, climate smart nutrition sensitive agriculture, role of women and adolescent girls, and the right to food and nutrition.

WFP also referred to a series of other documents and resources including the **Three Year National Agenda 2017-20 of NITI Aayog, India's Voluntary National Review of SDGs** that reports progress on Goals 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 14 and 17, **Proceedings of the National Conference on Sustainable Development Goals:** and critical documents from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS) and International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).