



# WFP India Country Brief

April 2018

## Operational Context

With 17.3 percent of the world's population and 23.4 percent of world's undernourished population, India bears a huge burden of food insecurity (more than 190 million people). Despite recent improvements in the nutritional status of children, the rates are well below acceptable levels. Micronutrient deficiencies are very high and India ranks 100 (out of 119 countries) on the 2017 Global Hunger Index. Recent economic growth, grain production, and existing food safety nets enable WFP to play a catalytic role.

WFP's work providing technical assistance for improved efficiency and nutritional effectiveness of the Government's food-based safety nets is aligned with the priorities of the National Food Security Act (NFSA 2013) and Sustainable Development Goals 2 & 17.

WFP has been present in India since 1963.



Population: **1.32 billion**

2016 Human Development Index:  
**131 out of 188**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **38.7% of children between 6-59 months**

**Main Photo**

Credit: WFP  
Caption: WFP supports the Government in its school feeding programme in Gajapati, Odisha

## Highlights

WFP provides technical assistance to Government of India safety-nets reaching **800 million** people.

In April, about 200 tons of rice fortified with vitamins & minerals was distributed to **129,485 school children** with WFP's support in the state of Odisha.

In Kerala, WFP is supporting **3,156** children aged 6 to 36 months with fortified take home rations through government schemes.

**US\$1.58 m** six months (May-October 2018) net funding requirements, representing 40.5% of total. The funds have been resourced.

## Operational Updates

- As part reforms under the National Food Security Act 2013, WFP supports the Central Programme Management Unit (CPMU) to develop training modules on best practices for District Supply Officers across India. Training was provided to five North-Eastern states by the CPMU members, and all states across India will be covered in the next two months.
- WFP is formulating its next Country Strategic Plan (2019-23) based on extensive review and national frameworks to support the Government of India's work towards zero hunger and the Sustainable Development Goals enshrined in the 2030 Agenda. A series of consultations and meetings were organized with various stakeholders. A national consultation is planned in May in collaboration with the Government.
- At national level a Country Programme Advisory Committee (CPAC) - an apex body that steers WFP's work in India, met in April 2018 and discussed the proposed Country Strategic Plan (2019-23) for WFP in India. The Committee has provided concurrence to the Concept Note and work around development of the details is ongoing.
- In Dhenkanal district of Odisha, WFP reached 129,485 school children aged 6-14 years by fortifying the school meals provided by the government with minerals and vitamins. WFP conducted 301 street plays, 220 puppet shows for improved knowledge on micro-nutrient deficiencies and role of fortification. State government has agreed to scale-up fortification of rice to 15 districts using their resources following success of the Gajapati iron fortification of Rice project - now run entirely by the state government.
- WFP has been working towards the transformation of the TPDS in Odisha state. The reform ranged from beneficiary identification, digitization of the beneficiary database, supply chain management, Fair Price Shop automation and institution of a robust grievance redressal mechanism. Support continued in April.

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- A report on Supply Chain optimization was prepared and shared with Odisha Department of Food and Public Distribution.
- In Kerala state, WFP is focusing on reducing micronutrient malnutrition in children below three years of age by adding minerals and vitamins to Take-Home Rations (THR) provided through the Integrated Child Development Services. In Wayanad district, a women's group has been trained to produce fortified Take-Home Rations for about 3,516 children each month. Since the beginning of this project till this month, 178 tons of fortified THR has been produced and distributed. The Government of Kerala intends to scale-up the project in all districts of Kerala using their own resources. Procurement process for hiring of vendors for scale-up in Wayanad has been initiated, WFP is supporting the same.
- As part of WFP's partnership with the government of Uttar Pradesh, a request for proposal for electronic point of sale devices for rural fair price shops was published and vendor selection process started. WFP also has an agreement for implementing a fortification project for school meals in Varanasi district, preparatory activities are ongoing. WFP's Children's Design Competition will be conducted as the first activity for introducing WFP in Varanasi.
- Work towards development of National Food Security Atlas is progressing well with Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. Odisha's Food Security Atlas draft is ready for review by experts. Likely to be released early next quarter.

## Challenges

- Changes in government staff, complex bureaucracy and long clearance procedures at times have a negative bearing on timelines and budgets.
- The challenging funding environment also poses difficulties for the achievement of WFP's objectives. Thus, with limited funding from traditional donors, funding has to be sourced from the Government and the Indian private sector.

## Donors

Government of India, Yum! TECK and Sodexo, General Mills



## WFP India Activities

The efficiency of food based national safety-nets is improved to support the efforts of the Government of India to deliver Zero Hunger and National Food Security Act targets.

- Improvement of TPDS programme through technological solutions and improved service delivery systems.
- Piloting Best Practice Model of the TPDS Food Basket.

### SO 1

- Piloting the use of ePOS (Biometric enabled authentication) for Public Distribution System in urban areas

WFP collaborates with the states of Odisha, Kerala and Uttar Pradesh to scale up reforms, building on the experiences of an earlier pilot and a nationwide study undertaken to develop "best practice solutions" for improved efficiency. Through these initiatives, WFP is indirectly reaching 215.8 million people assisted by the NFSA in the states of Kerala, Odisha and Uttar Pradesh.

The food baskets of National Safety-nets are improved to enhance their nutritional impact

- Support to improve the Food Supply Chain of the Integrated Child Development Services
- Study of ICDS Take Home Ration for First 1,000 days Initiative and Advocate for Models for Piloting
- Advocate for Scaling-up Fortification Initiatives and diet diversification to reduce anaemia among children

### SO 2

- Advocating for the linkages between health and nutrition

WFP supports various pilot initiatives to demonstrate operational models that can deliver impact at scale in the government feeding programme. These projects are being implemented in both Kerala and Odisha with potential for state-wide scale-up while policy advocacy is conducted at the national level with relevant government stakeholders.

The Government's system for food security analysis, monitoring performance against agreed targets and undertaking needs-based research is made more effective.

- Partnering with governments to improve systems for food security analysis and monitoring through Food Security Atlases at National and state level
- Strengthening M&E systems for Zero Hunger
- Support to SDG roll-out

### SO 3

Collaboration with the Ministry of Statistics and programme implementation at the national level and with the Department of Planning and Convergence in Odisha will facilitate the institutionalization of such analysis and its use for decision-making.

The Contribution of the Government of India to global food and nutrition security is enhanced through increased knowledge sharing and South-South Cooperation.

- Contribute to knowledge sharing within and outside India through establishing a Centre of Excellence (CENEX)

### SO 4

Following the signing of a letter of intent to establish a Centre of Excellence in India, and a subsequent visit to the Brazil Centre of Excellence by a high level government delegation, a proposal for establishing such a centre in India was drawn up and submitted. However, this may not be pursued by the government at this point in time.