



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP India Country Brief July 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**

2015 Human Development Index: **131 out of 188**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

Highlights

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

Micro-nutrient fortification is included as an element under the National Nutrition Mission. WFP has been advocating for it.

WFP India's operations are fully funded for the next six months thanks to a strong partnership with the Government of India.

Operational Updates

- The Country Strategic Plan (2019-23), approved in principle by the GoI, was posted for presentation at WFP's November 2018 Executive Board.
- WFP's report on 'mainstreaming fortified rice in India, a costing analysis', was instrumental in mainstreaming commitment of the GoI for roll-out of fortified rice through NFSA schemes in the 115 "Aspirational districts" – these are the districts identified for special interventions.
- The Central Project Management Unit supported by WFP completed a training of district supplies officers for all the states on best practices in Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). Support is being provided for planning an awareness campaign for better uptake of the services. Inputs were provided for incentivization policy being formulated by GoI for better performance of PDS.
- At national level, with ratification from the Technical Advisory Committee, work is progressing well on development of a Food Security Atlas in collaboration with the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- In Dhenkanal district of Odisha, in July 2018 government school meals were fortified with minerals and vitamins for 129,485 school children aged 6-14 years. WFP conducted 310 street plays, and other communication activities. Model kitchens in two schools in Dhenkanal were inaugurated on 03 July.
- WFP initiated preparatory work for a transparency portal in partnerships with Ericsson. A request for proposals for hiring vendors will be launched.
- The food security atlas developed as a part of institutionalization within the state government of Odisha is in final stages of printing. A group of secretaries from all key departments reviewed and endorsed the analysis and recommendation. The same is planned to be released next month followed by a SDG-2 strategic planning workshop based on the findings.

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Country Strategic Plan (2015-2018)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Aug - Jan Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
25.5 m	6.77 m	0 m

Strategic Result 1: Access to food

Strategic Outcome #: Enhanced efficiency of national food safety-nets to deliver targets of SDG2 and National Food Security Act (NFSA)

Focus area: Root Cause

Activities:

- Improvement of TPDS programme through technological solutions and improved service delivery systems.
- Piloting Best Practice Model of the TPDS Food Basket.
- Piloting the use of ePOS (Biometric enabled authentication) for Public Distribution System in urban areas

Strategic Result 2: End malnutrition

Strategic Outcome #: The food baskets of national safety-nets are improved to enhance their nutritional impact

Focus area: Root Causes

Activities:

- 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
- Advocating for the linkages between health and nutrition

Strategic Result 3: Developing countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs

Strategic Outcome #: Government systems undertake food security analysis and performance monitoring

Focus area: Root Causes

Activities:

- 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

Strategic Result 4: Sharing of knowledge, expertise and technology strengthen global partnership support to country efforts to achieve the SDGs

Strategic Outcome #: Enhanced contribution of Government of India (GoI) to global food and nutrition security through increased knowledge sharing and south-south cooperation

Focus area: Root Causes

Activities:

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

However, this may not be pursued by the government at this point in time.

- In Kerala, the pilot project on fortification of take home rations (THR) to improve micronutrient malnutrition among children below three years of age through the Integrated Child Development Services is coming to an end. An end evaluation to assess the performance of the project on previously benchmarked indicators is being conducted. Subsequently, the project is being handed over to the Government of Kerala (GoK) and scaled-up across all districts in the state using state resources.
- Support to Kerala on end-to-end computerization has been concluded. The state is undertaking the state-wide roll-out on its own.
- As part of WFP's partnership with the Government of Uttar Pradesh (GoUP), WFP is continuing support to TPDS end to end computerization. The grievance redressal system is reviewed and recommendations for improvement provided.
- WFP supports the Department of Basic Education, Government of Uttar Pradesh in piloting mid-day meal fortification in Varanasi district. The micronutrient composition and project evaluation methodology are approved by the Technical Advisory Group Committee. Hiring of partners is currently in process. A children's design competition was successfully conducted in May.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The monitoring of field activities is being undertaken regularly. End evaluation of project on fortification of THR in Wayanad in collaboration with Kozhikode Medical College is underway.

Challenges

- Capacity development requires stability in government postings to WFP's partnership projects. Frequent transfers among government officials linked to WFP's projects have posed challenges to the project timelines.
- Providing technical assistance to the government warrants long term commitment. With little scope for funding from traditional donors; it is to be sourced from the Indian Government and the private sector.

Donors

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