



World Food Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

## WFP India Country Brief September 2018



### Operational Context

With 17 percent of the world's population and 23 percent of the 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 capacity building and technical assistance to Government of India (GoI) safety-nets reaching 800 million people.

Following the severe floods in Kerala, WFP is participating in the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) conducted jointly by the UN and the Government of Kerala in September.

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

### Operational Updates

- The WFP India Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023), approved in principle by the Government, is posted for presentation at WFP's November 2018 Executive Board.
- In collaboration with the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, WFP organized a workshop on 14 September for mainstreaming fortified rice in the Public Distribution System (PDS). The meeting was attended by key representatives of the national and state governments, private sector and academia. WFP is providing technical support for rice fortification in select districts of Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu, Delhi and Dadra & Nagar Haveli.
- The WFP-supported Central Project Management Unit contributed to the planning awareness and Information Education & Communication (IEC) campaign for the Ministry of Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution for improved uptake by the beneficiaries. It will help empower beneficiaries, support Fair Price Shop operators in delivering services, and strengthen governance, thereby contributing to food security.
- WFP submitted a detailed scope of work for implementing a data analytics-based Management Information System for Targeted Public Distribution System in state and central government. It includes key system requirements and list of priority monitoring values, analysis, analytics and KPI based alerts.
- At national level, the analysis for Food Security Atlas of India is progressing well in collaboration with the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- In September, 313 tons of rice were fortified with minerals and vitamins and 215 tons were distributed among children aged 6-14 years as hot cooked meals in the schools of Dhenkanal district of Odisha.
- WFP has submitted a draft MoU to the Government of Odisha for the distribution of fortified rice in PDS in Deogarh district.
- WFP initiated preparatory work for a transparency portal in partnerships with Ericsson. A request for proposals for hiring vendors is shared with the state government. Preparations for setting the baseline are currently ongoing.

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## Country Strategic Plan (2015-2018)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Oct18 – Mar19 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
22.21 m	9.78 m	0 m

### Strategic Result 1: Access to food

#### Strategic Outcome 1: 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 2: 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 3: 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 4: 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.

- The Food Security Atlas developed as a part of institutionalization within the state government of Odisha is likely to be released in September 2018 and will be followed by a SDG 2 strategic planning workshop based on the findings.
- In Kerala, the pilot project on fortification of take home rations (THR) to improve micronutrient malnutrition is being scaled up by the Government of Kerala (GoK) under the supportive supervision of WFP. For the state-wide scale up, hiring of vendors is on-going and training of Master trainers shall be conducted in the first week of October 2018.
- With resumption in the production and distribution of fortified THR in Kerala after the floods, 9 tons of fortified THR has been produced in September 2018. The end-line evaluation is currently on-hold because of the floods and is proposed to be conducted in November 2018.
- The Government is considering introduction of fortified rice through Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) in Kannur district which is one of the districts under NNM.
- Kerala experienced exceptional floods with huge losses of life and property. WFP participated in the joint UN and GoK PDNA as the lead for food security and nutrition sector together with health sector.
- 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 in collaboration with Department of Basic Education, GoUP is implementing a project on mid-day meal fortification in Varanasi district. Baseline evaluation for the project is currently ongoing. The project implementation is expected to start from mid-October-18.

## Monitoring and Evaluation

- Field activities are regularly monitored. The end evaluation of the project on fortification of THR in Wayanad in collaboration with Kozhikode Medical College is stalled due to floods. The endline evaluation of Dhenkanal project and baseline for mid-day meals fortification in Varanasi are ongoing.

## 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.