



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP India Country Brief November 2018

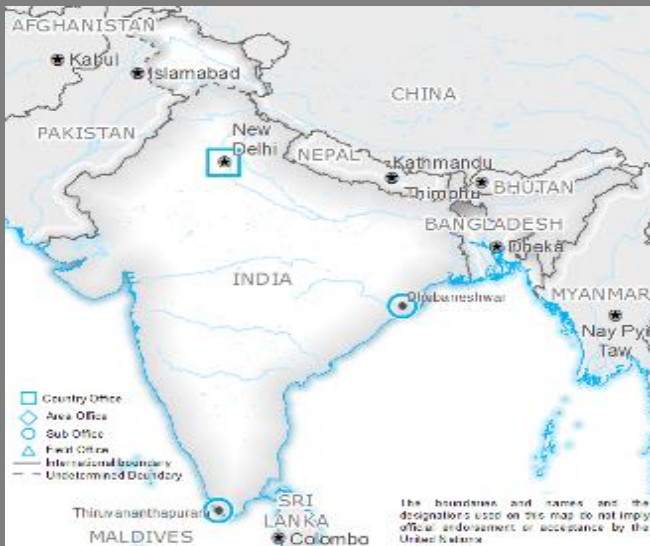


## Operational Context

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

The WFP Executive Board approved the India Country Strategic Plan 2019-2023. WFP will sign an agreement with the Government of India soon.

The Department of Women and Child Development of the Government of Kerala has recognised the take-home ration fortification project supported by WFP as a best practice.

WFP India’s operations are funded for the next six months.

## Operational Updates

- The WFP Executive Board has approved the India Country Strategic Plan 2019-2023. WFP will present the plan in the Country Programme Advisory Committee to facilitate signing the agreement with the Government of India. It builds on WFP’s previous work to address Access, Ending malnutrition and Capacity Building/ Knowledge sharing.
- In collaboration with the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (MoCA, F&PD), WFP is supporting the development of a draft sector scheme on rice fortification through the Public Distribution System. WFP is providing technical support for rice fortification in select districts of Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu, Delhi and Dadra & Nagar Haveli.
- WFP has developed awareness materials for TPDS in Odisha, based on an awareness strategy. The Government of Odisha has formally accepted the materials and WFP is supporting the printing of material for three pilot districts, which the Government will scale up for the entire state.
- Based on the report on data analytics for five states and presentation at a National Conference, the Government asked WFP to analyse the data for additional 12 states.
- WFP supported the visit of an Inter-ministerial delegation from Nepal to India to learn and understand from India about the implementation of the mid-day meal scheme.
- Draft findings of food security analysis being developed with Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation are ready to be presented to the government.
- The Food Security Atlas developed as a part of institutionalization within the state government of Odisha is scheduled to be released this year.
- In Odisha, Dhenkanal project, the Civil work in the remaining six model kitchens out of eight will start soon. Data collection of end-line evaluation of the project is completed. MoU of WFP in collaboration with the Government of Odisha for the distribution of fortified rice in Public Distribution System (PDS) in Deogarh district is finalized. Discussion on its way forward is on-going.

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## Country Strategic Plan (2015-2018)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Dec-May 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 pilot project on fortification of take home rations (THR) to improve micronutrient malnutrition is being scaled up by the Government of Kerala (GoK) with oversight of WFP. Cascade trainings on THR fortification are on-going and till date 156 Kudumshree (KDM) staff have been trained on the same. The end-line evaluation will resume from December 2018.

- THR fortification project has been recognized as the first initiative under the best practices category by Department of Women and Child Development, Government of Kerala.
- The Government is considering introduction of fortified rice through Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) in Kannur district which is one of the districts under National Nutrition Mission (NNM).
- As part of WFP's partnership with the Government of Uttar Pradesh (GoUP), WFP is continuing support to TPDS end-to-end computerization (28,000/67,000 ePOS deployed for Rural UP). The grievance redressal system is reviewed and recommendations for improvement provided.
- WFP in collaboration with Department of Basic Education, Government of Uttar Pradesh (GoUP) is implementing a project on mid-day meal fortification in Varanasi district. Baseline evaluation for the project has been completed, and vendors are on-board. WFP will start production and distribution of fortified rice and wheat flour as per the allocation orders received from the Govt. from Dec-18. WFP will conduct capacity building of district officials, school teachers and communities on appropriate nutrition practices. Necessary quality assurances and protocols are in place.

## 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 Collage is stalled due to floods. The endline evaluation of the 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.

## Donors

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