



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP India Country Brief December 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**

2017 Human Development Index: **130 out of 189**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **38.4% of children between 6-59 months**

Highlights

The new approved Country Strategic Plan (CSP) (2019-2023) was presented to the Country Programme Advisory Committee (CPAC- A Multi-Ministerial Steering Committee). WFP is in discussion with the Government of India (GoI) for signing the MoU.

WFP published a Report on the Proof of Concept for Optimization of Supply Chain of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in Dhenkanal district, Odisha.

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

Operational Updates

- **At National level**, WFP's new Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023) was presented in the Country Programme Advisory Committee (CPAC). WFP is in discussion with the Government of India (GoI) for signing the MoU.
- In collaboration with the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, WFP supported the drafting of a Central Sector Scheme on rice fortification in the TPDS. WFP is also providing Technical Support for rice fortification in select districts of Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu, Delhi and Dadra & Nagar Haveli.
- Based on the Data Analytics reports of five states and presentation at a National Conference, the GoI has requested WFP to analyse the data for nine additional states. Data for Gujarat and Karnataka has been collected and the analysis is ongoing.
- As part of the collaborative work with the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, a draft report on Food Security Analysis was developed and is under review.
- **In the state of Odisha**, based on the Awareness Strategy, Awareness Materials for TPDS in Odisha was developed. On receiving the acceptance from Government of Odisha (GoO), printing and dissemination of the materials for three pilot districts was carried out by WFP. GoO will be scaling it up in the entire state.
- A Report on the Proof of Concept for Optimization of Supply Chain of TPDS in Dhenkanal district of Odisha was published and shared with relevant stakeholders.
- As part of The Dhenkanal project in Odisha, the civil work will resume in the remaining six model kitchens out of eight. Preparations like the drafting of the Terms of Reference (ToR) for hiring vendors for Deogarh Rice fortification project is ongoing.
- **In the state of Kerala**, WFP supported pilot project on fortification of take home rations (THR) to improve micronutrient malnutrition is being scaled up by the Government of Kerala (GoK). Cascade trainings on THR fortification are on-going. 236 staff who will process fortification have also been trained till date.

Contact info: Pradnya Paithankar (pradnya.paithankar@wfp.org)

Country Director: Dr Hameed Nuru

Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/India

Country Strategic Plan (2015-2018)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Jan-Jun Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
22.21 m	7.14 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 GoK is considering the introduction of fortified rice through Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) in Kannur district, a district covered under National Nutrition Mission (NNM). A preliminary site assessment for the installation of fortification blending unit was undertaken with technical support from WFP.

- In the state of Uttar Pradesh**, as part of WFP's partnership with the Government of Uttar Pradesh (GoUP), WFP is continuing its support to TPDS end-to-end computerization (as of December 2018, 38,000/67,000 electronic Point of Sale devices have been deployed in Rural UP). 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. WFP has started production and distribution of fortified rice and wheat flour as per the Government orders since December 2018. Training of a group of master trainers were completed. Capacity Building of district officials, school teachers and communities on appropriate nutrition practices is being undertaken.

- In other states**, WFP visited Madhya Pradesh to discuss the scope of partnership (technical assistance) with the government in the areas of warehouse management, supply chain optimization and streamlining of the TPDS.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- All WFP supported projects are regularly monitored. To monitor fortified rice consumption at schools in Varanasi, necessary quality assurances, protocols and a target of monitoring visits of 80 percent of the 1,610 schools are regularly met.
- The endline evaluation of the Dhenkanal project is ongoing. Preliminary results of qualitative survey were received and are being reviewed. Data collection for endline evaluation of TPDS reforms project in Bhubaneswar, Odisha is ongoing.
- Endline for Wayanad Project and baseline for mid-day meals fortification in Varanasi have been completed.

Challenges

- Capacity development requires stability in government postings to WFP's partnership projects. Frequent transfers among government officials 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