



World Food Programme

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LIVES

# WFP India Country Brief January 2019



## Operational Context

With 17 percent of the world's population and 14.8 percent of the world's undernourished population, India bears a huge burden of food insecurity (more than 195.9 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 103 (out of 119 countries) on the 2018 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 (SDG) 2 & 17.

WFP has been present in India since 1963.



Population: **1.32 billion**

2018 Human Development Index: **130 out of 189**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

## Highlights

WFP signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of India for its new Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2019-2023.

The Government of India is developing a scheme to scale-up rice fortification in 15 states, one district each, a good start towards scale-up across the government schemes.

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

## Operational Updates

- **At national level**, the new Country Strategic Plan 2019-2023, approved by Executive Board, was presented in the Country Programme Advisory Committee.
- 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 Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). WFP has received approval from the Minister on the scheme and is currently supporting the Ministry to develop operational guidelines.
- WFP is also working with partner agencies towards enhancing the levels of micronutrients for rice and wheat flour in the recently gazetted standards by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India.
- Based on the Data Analytics reports of five states on performance of TPDS, and presentation at a National Conference, the Government of India has requested WFP to analyse the data for nine additional states. Data collection has been completed in two states so far.
- **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, printing and dissemination of the materials for three pilot districts was carried out by WFP. This will be scaled up in the entire state.
- WFP undertook a scoping mission to identify key areas of collaboration with the Food Corporation of India towards bringing-in improvements in the existing supply chain network and warehouse management. An overall project proposal is also being drafted.
- As part of the Dhenkanal project in Odisha state, the civil work in six model kitchens have started. Two are already completed and in use.
- For the rice fortification project in PDS, Terms of Reference for hiring vendors for Deogarh project has been drafted and will be shared with the Government of Odisha.

**Contact info:** Pradnya Paithankar ([pradnya.paithankar@wfp.org](mailto:pradnya.paithankar@wfp.org))

**Country Director:** Dr Hameed Nuru

Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/India](http://www.wfp.org/countries/India)

## Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Feb-Jul Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
20.02 m	3.46 m	0 m

### Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food (SDG Target 2.1)

**Strategic Outcome 1: The most vulnerable people in India are better able to meet their minimum food and nutrition needs all year round.**

*Focus area: Root Cause*

**Activity 1:** Provide policy inputs, advocacy and technical assistance aimed at enhancing the efficiency, targeting, service delivery and supply chain of government programmes for improving access to food.

### Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition (SDG Target 2.2)

**Strategic Outcome 2: People at high risk of malnutrition in India, especially women, children and adolescent girls, have improved nutrition by 2025.**

*Focus area: Root Causes*

**Activity 2:** Support state and national governments in improving and integrating nutrition policies and programming, including through enhanced quality, advocacy and gender-transformative, systematic approaches.

### Strategic Result 3: Countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs (SDG Target 17.9)

**Strategic Outcome 3: National and state institutions have enhanced capacity to deliver on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 and related targets, and collaborate with regional and global partners towards the attainment of SDG 2**

*Focus area: Root Causes*

#### Activities:

- Activity 3: Strengthen institutional capacities at various levels in generating, sharing and using evidence for coordinated planning, roll-out and monitoring of actions for attaining Sustainable Development Goal 2.
- Activity 4: Facilitate the efforts of the Government of India and other countries to share food security and nutrition knowledge and expertise and provide disaster risk management services for the region.

- In the state of Kerala**, the Memorandum of Understanding between WFP and the Government of Kerala is under extension until 30 June 2019, to provide technical support in scaling up of Take Home Rations fortification and mainstreaming rice fortification in Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS).
- The Government of Kerala is considering the introduction of fortified rice through 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. Preparatory activities are on-going.

- In the state of Uttar Pradesh**, as part of WFP's partnership with the Government of Uttar Pradesh, WFP is continuing its support to TPDS end-to-end computerization (as of December 2018: 55,000/67,000 electronic Point of Sale devices have been deployed in Rural UP). The grievance redressal system is reviewed and recommendations for improvement provided.
- In collaboration with Department of Basic Education of Uttar Pradesh, WFP is implementing a project on mid-day meal fortification in Varanasi district. WFP started production and distribution of fortified rice and wheat flour as per the Government orders in December 2018. A total of 367.8 tons of fortified rice and 167.9 tons fortified wheat flour has been produced. A total of 83.8 tons of fortified rice and 43.6 tons of fortified wheat flour has been distributed for the consumption of school children in two blocks of the district. Capacity strengthening of district officials, school teachers and communities on appropriate nutrition practices is underway. A total of 13 block level workshops have been conducted and 66 batches of teachers have been trained.

## Monitoring and Evaluation

- All WFP supported projects are regularly monitored. To monitor fortified rice consumption at schools in Varanasi, necessary quality assurances and protocols are followed. As a practise, a sample-based data collection and analysis of the fortified product is conducted every month, against a set target of monitoring 80 percent of the total 1,610 schools in the project area.
- The end line evaluation of the Dhenkanal project is on-going. Preliminary results of qualitative survey were received and are being reviewed. Data collection for end line evaluation of TPDS reforms project in Bhubaneswar, Odisha is completed. Based on quantitative tools, a factsheet with various key indicators have been created.

## 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