



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP India Country Brief February 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.

The new WFP India Country Strategic Plan, 2019–2023 with three high-level objectives has been developed to achieve SDG 2 and is well aligned with the priorities of the National Food Security Act (NFSA 2013) and ‘Poshan Abhiyaan’ – Govt. of India’s mission to make India malnutrition free.

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

The Government of India has developed and approved a pilot scheme to scale-up rice fortification through the Targeted Public Distribution System in 15 states, one district each. WFP has been providing technical assistance on fortification in India.

Cross-country learning visit on rice fortification for a delegation consisting of Government of Sri Lanka officials was facilitated by WFP.

US\$ 0 six months (March-August 2019) net WFP India funding requirements

## Operational Updates

### End hunger by protecting access to food

- Based on Data Analytics reports on the performance of TPDS and presentation at a National Conference, the Government of India (GoI) had requested WFP for its support in the analysis of data for nine states. WFP has completed the data analysis for 2 states and similar analysis is ongoing for 4 other states.
- Following WFP’s scoping mission to identify key areas of collaboration with the Food Corporation of India (FCI), a project proposal on the potential improvements in the existing supply chain network and warehouse management has been developed and submitted for approval.
- 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 February 2019: 57,500/67,000 electronic Point of Sale devices have been deployed in Rural UP). The grievance redressal system is reviewed and recommendations for improvement provided.

### Improve nutrition

- WFP has been supporting the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution in drafting the operationalization of the rice fortification in the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). WFP has also supported the development of operational guidelines for the scheme. As part of the initial steps, WFP facilitated discussions on this centrally led Scheme in Uttar Pradesh State.
- WFP shared its experience on rice fortification at the Regional Food Fortification workshop in Lucknow. WFP is also working with partner agencies towards enhancing the levels of micronutrients for rice and wheat flour as per the recently gazetted standards by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India.
- As part of the Dhenkanal project in Odisha state, the civil work in six model kitchens have started, four of them are in advanced stage of completion. Procurement of kitchen equipment’s and devices for four kitchens will start soon.

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## Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Mar-Aug Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
20.02 m	3.67 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 collaboration with Department of Basic Education of Uttar Pradesh, WFP is implementing a project on mid-day meal fortification in the schools of 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 and distributed for consumption in schools across all eight blocks of Varanasi districts. With support from the Implementing partner, WFP also conducted several trainings for the district and block level officials (586 participants in 13 workshops) and school teachers (2400 participants in 74 trainings sessions).

- For the rice fortification project in TPDS in Deogarh district of Odisha state, a meeting with Secretary Food was held to discuss the way forward on the project.
- Cascade trainings for Take Home Ration fortification scale-up have been completed in 8 districts. Government of Kerala has identified a premix supplier for scale-up.

## Support SDG implementation

- Towards improving the Sustainable Development Goal 2 monitoring in India, WFP has submitted a concept note with Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (GoI) for a collaborative work on development and testing of potential indicators on Hunger and Food Insecurity.

## Monitoring and Evaluation

- All WFP supported projects are regularly monitored. To monitor fortified rice consumption at schools in Varanasi, regular monthly school monitoring visits are being conducted by implementing partner staff. To ensure quality assurance and control, regular samples are lifted from the mill producing fortified commodities as well as a sample-based collection and analysis of the fortified products from the schools is conducted every quarter., Implementing partner supported staff monitor 80 percent of the total 1,610 schools in the project area monthly.
- Preliminary qualitative results and cost effectiveness data of two modalities of Dhenkanal pilot project was reviewed.
- Data Analysis and draft report for end line evaluation of TPDS reforms project in Bhubaneswar, Odisha state is under-way.
- A paper on Joint Evaluations was presented by WFP in the Asia Pacific Evaluation Conference in Manila, Philippines and was very well received.

## 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