



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP India Country Brief March 2019



Operational Context

While making tremendous progress over the last few decades in food grain production and reduction in malnutrition rates, India continues to bear a huge burden of food and nutrition insecurity, ranking 103th out of 119 countries on the 2018 Global Hunger Index. Despite recent improvements in the nutritional status of children, malnutrition rates are well below acceptable levels, with large number of people, especially women and children, suffering from micronutrient deficiencies. The Indian Government has undertaken many reforms in the existing social safety nets to better deliver on nutrition and food security to accelerate progress towards achievement of targets under SDG 2.

WFP is working in India as a catalyst by providing technical assistance for improved efficiency and nutritional effectiveness of the Government's food-based safety nets, in alignment with the priorities of the National Food Security Act (NFSA 2013) as well as SDGs 2 and 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% of children 6-59 months of age.**

Highlights

WFP and FAO will work with the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, Government of India, to identify data gaps and develop methodologies for food and nutrition security indicators to monitor progress towards Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 in the country.

WFP handed over the Secretariat for POSHTIK to the Global Allianz for Improved Nutrition (GAIN). Since 2015, WFP has advocated with government and development partners of the POSHTIK network for food fortification in publicly sponsored schemes.

Operational Updates

Protecting Access to Food

- As part of its partnership with the Government of Uttar Pradesh, WFP is continuing its support for end-to-end computerization of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). As of March 2019, nearly 60,000 (87 percent of the plan) electronic point-of-sale devices have been deployed in rural areas and 12,000 (100 percent) in urban areas.
- Thanks to the digitization of the TPDS value chain, real-time data on the food distribution system is now available. Based on WFP's analysis of such data, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution approved a national policy on the Integrated Management for Public Distribution System (IMPDS) for implementation of a data analytics-based system across the country. To support states in implementation of this policy, WFP is undertaking data analysis for nine states, and has completed analysis for five states as of March 2019.

Improve Nutrition

- WFP is supporting the Government of Odisha in establishing sustainable models for fortification of mid-day meals in Dhenkanal District. As part of the project, civil work for six model kitchens is ongoing, and four kitchens are at the advanced stage of completion.
- WFP recently handed over the Secretariat of POSHTIK – a network of government and development partners working on food fortification in India – to the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN). Holding its secretariat from 2015 to 2019, WFP has worked towards developing the network as a Technical Resource and Expert Group, leading advocacy on food fortification in the country.
- The pilot project for fortification of take-home rations under the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) in Wayanad District of Kerala was completed and successfully handed over to the Department of Women and Child Development, Government of Kerala, for scale-up across the State. Cascading training sessions for scale-up have been conducted, covering 720 Kudumbashree members, with technical support from WFP.

Main
Photo

Credit: Neha Sabharwal, WFP India
Caption: Preparation of Mid-Day Meal with fortified wheat flour, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Apr-Sep Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
20 million	4.2 million	0.235 million

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

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.

- The Government of India has developed and approved a pilot scheme to scale-up rice fortification through the TPDS in one district each of 15 states. WFP has been providing technical assistance to the Government in this initiative.

Support SDG implementation

- Together with FAO and the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, WFP is working towards identification of the data gaps and developing the methodologies for tier I and tier II indicators for SDG monitoring. Both WFP and FAO will help the Ministry to draft terms of reference to empanel expert group for formulating and supporting the testing of food and nutrition security indicators.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Preliminary qualitative results and cost effectiveness data of two modalities of the Dhenkanal pilot project were reviewed. The draft findings of the evaluation will be presented to the state government for validation, before the evaluation agency will prepare the report.
- The draft Food & Nutrition Security (FNS) Analysis of India has been submitted to the Secretary of the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation.

Challenges

- Parliamentary election dates have been declared by the Government of India, and an election code of conduct has been put in force. The 2019 Lok Sabha elections will begin on 11 April and will be held over seven phases.
- Capacity development requires stability in government postings that are crucial to WFP's projects. Frequent transfers among government officials have posed challenges to the project timelines.
- Capacity strengthening to the Government of India requires a long-term commitment as indicated in WFP's recently approved Country Strategic Plan. The main sources of funding are the Government and the private sector. The funding base needs to be expanded to allow for more work in communication and coordination.

Donors

Donors to WFP India in 2019 include: Government of India, Sodexo, General Mills Foundation, MasterCard and Ericsson