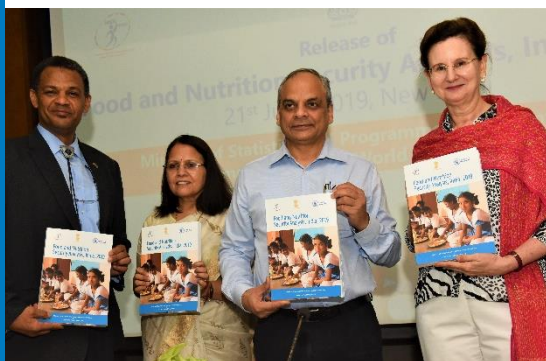




World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP India Country Brief June 2019



Operational Context

While India has made tremendous progress over the last few decades in food grain production and a reduction in malnutrition rates, it 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 ensure 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

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India, in collaboration with WFP, launched the Food and Nutrition Security Analysis Report in New Delhi on 21st June 2019. Analysis of food and nutrition has been institutionalized within the Government system, with this report.

The Gender Resource Centre at the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare, Government of India, and WFP are considering partnering to conduct a gender assessment of some of the Ministry's initiatives to link women farmers (especially smallholders), to markets. The assessment will look at the extent to which women farmers utilize rural local agricultural markets, the challenges that they face and how benefits from the markets can be optimized.

Operational Updates

Protecting Access to Food

- As a part of its support to the Government in strengthening the food safety nets, WFP facilitated a training workshop for 112 participants on Fair Price Shop (the retail shops that sell rations at subsidized cost to the eligible beneficiaries of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Supply Chain Automation in the states of Assam and Manipur, in collaboration with the Government's Department of Food and Public Distribution.
- To support the Government to undertake data driven policy decision and corrective actions, WFP completed the data analytics of the TPDS of 6 states.
- The Government of India has requested that WFP undertake an assessment of commissions and transportation rates of Fair Price Shop, that would support the development of national policy. WFP has initiated the assessment and has shared the tools for secondary data collection with the Department of Food and Public Distribution.
- To ensure that entitlements under TPDS are provided to the rightful beneficiaries, WFP supported the Government of Uttar Pradesh in the deployment of Point of Sale (PoS) devices across all TPDS shops in the state. Since deployment, more than 80 percent of beneficiary transactions have been authenticated. WFP will continue to support the State Government to integrate the PoS devices with the supply chain system.

Improved Nutrition

- Based on the learning from the WFP-supported pilot in Wayanad district, the State Government of Kerala has started to produce and distribute fortified Nutrimix for distribution to children through the Integrated Child Development Services. WFP is providing technical assistance to this initiative.
- Under the 'NutriIndia' project, WFP plans to train Cook-Cum-Helpers (CCHs) in Uttar Pradesh and Odisha. CCHs are

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

| Total Requirement (in USD) | Allocated Contributions (in USD) | July-Dec. Net Funding Requirements (in USD) |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| 20 million | 5.46 million | 0 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 Causes

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.

employed to cook meals at schools under the Government's Mid-Day-Meals scheme. A total of 175 CCHs will be trained through this initiative. Proof of Concept for using Android tablet-based learning has been completed in five schools of the project area. Hiring of an agency for developing audio-visual content and a mobile application is ongoing.

- An MoU has been signed between the Department of Women & Child Development of the Government of Kerala and WFP to initiate rice fortification on a pilot basis in Kannur district. WFP has completed preparatory work, including the installation of blending equipment, on-site assessments for setting up of the equipment, hiring of labs for quality assurance and the procurement of Fortified Rice Kernels. Development of Information Education and Communication material is ongoing and Standard Operating Procedures have been drafted.
- In the Dhenkanal district of Odisha, the development of seven model kitchens for schools has been completed. These model kitchens will soon be handed over to the state Government for replication in other schools.
- WFP is supporting the operationalization of the Central Sector Scheme on rice fortification through the Public Distribution System in the states of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, and Madhya Pradesh.

Support for SDG implementation

- To support the monitoring of progress towards achieving the targets under SDG 2, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) and WFP conducted an analysis of food and nutrition security information, mainly from government surveys. This report was released by the Secretary of MoSPI in June 2019, the Secretary mentioned that after this baseline report, an update will be brought out when the next datasets are released.

Monitoring & Evaluation

- Two evaluations in Odisha State, one of TPDS reforms and the other of the rice fortification project for the Mid-Day Meals programme in Dhenkanal, have been completed. The reports will be published in the coming months.
- A review of lessons learned from the Country Strategic Plan 2015-2018 is being finalised. Its findings will be presented to the Government in early August.

Challenges

- WFP has experienced operational delays in some project areas on account of bureaucratic changes.

Donors

Donors to WFP India in 2019 include the Government of India, General Mills Foundation, Ericsson and the WFP 2030 Fund.