



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP India Country Brief July 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 Government of India has approved a Central Sector Scheme (CSS) for rice fortification, which will facilitate its implementation in 15 states. Operational guidelines for rice fortification were released this month and acknowledged WFP both as a contributor and as a member of the Empowered Committee for the scheme operationalization.

In the Union Budget, the Government of India has earmarked funds for the CSS on rice fortification through Public Distribution System. This is a huge achievement for WFP and partners working in this area.

Operational Updates

Protecting Access to Food

- WFP is initiating a project to empower women small holder farmers in the state of Odisha. The project is a collaboration with Mission Shakti, a Government initiative working on women's empowerment through strengthening livelihoods and linkages with markets under the Department of Women and Child Development.
- As a part of the scale-up and strengthening of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) through the WFP-supported Central Project Management Unit, trainings were organized in seven north-eastern states to improve the efficiency of TPDS. Based on these trainings, an action plan for implementing reforms is being prepared by the respective states.
- WFP completed the data analytics on TPDS in seven states as part of its support the Government to undertake data driven policy decision and corrective actions.
- The WFP state teams for Uttar Pradesh (UP) and government officials visited Odisha and Chhattisgarh states to share learning on procurement policy, online payments, supply chain automation and end-to-end process of procurement and transportation.
- With support from WFP, the Department of Food and Supply of the Government of UP has successfully updated Fair Price Shop transaction records on the 'Annavitran' portal for the month of July.

Improved Nutrition

- Based on the learning from the WFP-supported pilot in Wayanad district, the State Government of Kerala has started the production and distribution of fortified 'Nutrimix' to children aged six to 36 months as part of a Take-Home Ration (THR), under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS). 1,192.5mt of fortified THR has been produced. WFP is providing technical assistance to this initiative.

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Aug'19-Jan 20 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
20 million	5.79 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.

Operational Updates continued

- A pilot project seeking to fortify school meals in the government mid-day meal programme is ongoing. A letter addressing children and their caretakers was issued by the District Collector to raise awareness by encouraging them to consume fortified mid-day meals in schools.
- As a part of 'NutriIndia' project, WFP is planning to train 175 cook-cum-helpers in both Uttar Pradesh and Odisha using an android based application. A proof of concept in five schools in both the states was completed this month. Implementation is expected to start in September 2019.

Improved use of evidence for SDG implementation

- A report on Food and Nutrition Security has been finalized for the state of Odisha and is ready for launching.

Monitoring & Evaluation

- An assessment and documentation of lessons from the Country Strategic Plan (2015-18) was undertaken and will be shared with the Government in a meeting scheduled in August 2019.

Challenges

WFP encountered 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.