



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP India Country Brief August 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 103<sup>th</sup> 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.



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 Kerala announced the state-wide scale up of the production of fortified 'Nutrimix' and its distribution to children aged six to 36 months as part of a Take-Home Ration, based on WFP's pilot project in Wayanad District. The announcement took place at the inauguration of 'Poshan Abhiyan' (Nutrition Mission), which was attended by the Chief Minister, Shri Pinarayi Vijayan, the Minister of Women and Child Development of the Government of India, Smriti Irani and WFP India's Deputy Country Director.

## Operational Updates

### Protecting Access to Food

- In order to ensure that the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) provides the intended beneficiaries with their entitlements, the Department of Food and Public Distribution of the Government of India has shared an advisory with all states to link Aadhaar (Unique Identification Number) with ration cards. In line with this, WFP has supported a training session in Karnataka on e-KYC (Know Your Client).
- Based on the request by the Government of India to help strengthen the TPDS supply chain, WFP initiated an assessment for intra-state transportation and Fair Price Shop commissions.

### Improved Nutrition

- In collaboration with Public Health Foundation of India, WFP has conducted a study on Take Home Rations (THR) which are distributed to children aged 6 to 36 months and pregnant and lactating mothers across the States and Union Territories of India. The study showed variations on quality and content of the various THRs by state which will provide insight towards ways to improve them in the future.
- WFP began to work with the Government of Chattisgarh State to support its rollout of the Centre Sector Scheme on rice fortification. This follows a request from the Department of Food and Public Distribution of the Government of India.
- In support of the Midday Meals programme, WFP is developing an app to train Cook-Cum-Helpers in schools in the Chhapra block of Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. In August, WFP conducted a 'Proof of Concept' exercise in five schools within the project area.
- The Government of India will celebrate 'National Nutrition Month' in September. WFP is taking this opportunity to disseminate nutrition messages by

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**Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)**

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Sep'19-Feb20 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
20 million	6.04 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.

setting up Nutrition Kiosks in Varanasi to promote awareness about fortified Midday Meals and health and to promote nutritious practices within the community.

**Improved use of evidence for SDG implementation/ South-South cooperation**

- WFP is supporting the cross-learning of good practices in food security and nutrition. As part of this, the Government of Bangladesh has planned to visit India to learn more about its journey on school meals, while the Government of Sri Lanka has invited a representative from the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India to share their experience on fortification at the first South East Asia Regional Group meeting.

**Monitoring & Evaluation**

- The end-line evaluation of the pilot project on the Fortification of Midday Meals in Dhenkanal has been completed and the report has been shared with the State Department of School and Mass Education in Odisha.
- The report on the end-line evaluation of the end-to-end computerization of TPDS in Bhubaneswar District of Odisha will be disseminated in October.
- The final evaluation report of the project on fortification of school meals in Varanasi has been initiated.

**Challenges**

WFP encountered operational delays in some project areas because of staff changes in government at National and State levels.

**Donors**

WFP's donors in 2019 include the Government of India, General Mills Foundation, Ericsson and the WFP 2030 Fund.