



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP India Country Brief September 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 the Sustainable Development Goal (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

In the State of Odisha, WFP is entering into an agreement with Mission Shakti, the State Government's Directorate for Women's Self-Help Groups (WSHGs). WFP will support in strengthening the capacities of WSHGs on livelihoods, empowerment and nutrition. There are 600,000 WSHGs, covering about 7 million women across the State.

On 25 September, in a joint ceremony with Ericsson India, WFP and Government of Odisha representatives, WFP handed over the completed report for the project 'Proving ICT based solutions for improving food security to Government of Odisha' to its key stakeholders. Funded by Ericsson India, the project was initiated in 2018 to enhance and integrate the Targeted Public Distribution System's supply chain in Odisha using ICT solutions. Two days earlier, on 23 September, Ericsson India won the 6th CSR impact award for the use of ICT for the same project. The ceremony was attended by WFP Representative and Country Director, Mr. Bishow Parajuli.

Operational Updates

Protecting Access to Food

- The Ministry of Agriculture has requested WFP to provide technical support in enhancing food security of women smallholder farmers, through better access to credit, technology, markets and value addition. WFP has submitted a project proposal to the ministry for a gender assessment of rural markets, which is now awaiting approval and funding.
- WFP has initiated a collaboration with the Department of Women and Child Development and Mission Shakti, Government of Odisha, to enhance the food security, livelihoods and market linkages of women smallholder farmers and women microenterprises. A Memorandum of Understanding is undergoing the approval process of the Government of Odisha. Funding for the project has been secured through the private sector.
- WFP received a request from the State Government of Uttarakhand to provide technical assistance to optimise the supply chain of its Targeted Public Distribution Supply Chain. The funding for the project has been approved, and WFP is preparing a formal Letter of Agreement.
- A few months ago, a proposal for supporting improvements in the supply chain and warehousing operations of the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and Central Warehousing Corporation was submitted to the Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD) which has now been provisionally approved for funding by the Ministry.

Improved Nutrition

- The Department of Food and Public Distribution has requested WFP to support the implementation of the

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Oct'19-Mar'20 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
20 million	6.04 million	0.41 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.

Central Sector Scheme on rice fortification in Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Kerala.

- WFP attended a workshop organized by the Department of Food and Public Distribution, Government of Maharashtra, to learn more about distribution of fortified rice through the Public Distribution System.
- WFP is supporting a pilot on the roll-out of a technology-based capacity strengthening tool targeting cooks-cum-helpers working under the Mid-Day Meal scheme in Uttar Pradesh and Orissa. WFP conducted a proof-of-concept in August and is currently developing the training content which is focused on hygiene and nutrition, amongst other topics.
- September was 'National Nutrition Month or *Poshan Maah*. WFP took this opportunity to disseminate nutrition messages by setting up kiosks in Varanasi District in Uttar Pradesh, in order create awareness within the community around fortified mid-day meals and health and nutritious practices.

Improved use of evidence for SDG implementation/ South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC)

- Under the umbrella of SSTC, WFP India facilitated a learning visit for senior government officials and WFP staff from Bangladesh. The delegation was led by the Government of Bangladesh's Education Minister, HE Zakir Hossen. The objective of the visit was to help the Government of Bangladesh to design and implement their national school feeding programmes by learning from India's experience.

Monitoring & Evaluation

- The proof-of-concept for technology-based learning was tested in five schools of Uttar Pradesh and Odisha. The assessment report has been submitted to the governments of both states.
- WFP assessed the Targeted Public Distribution System Transparency Portal or Management Information System with Data Analytics in the State of Odisha and submitted the assessment report to the donor, Ericsson India.
- WFP is planning a workshop in October with the Department of Monitoring, Evaluation and Operations to define a joint strategy in support of national capacity strengthening for evaluation, specifically, for NITI Aayog, the Government's national planning body.

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.