



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

Operational Context

WFP India Country Brief October 2019



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 and best practice models for improved efficiency and nutritional effectiveness of the Government's food-based safety nets, through initiatives such as food fortification, 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

WFP launched its global cinema ad campaign called 'Feed Our Future' to inspire cinema goers around the world to take action on the issue of global hunger and malnutrition. The ad, currently playing in movie theatres in 30 countries, is being screened in UFO Moviez cinemas across India. The campaign was launched in India through a Facebook live event in Mumbai, with a panel discussion that included filmmakers, actors and nutritionists. The event was also attended by WFP's Chief Marketing Officer Corinne Woods and WFP's Representative and Country Director in India Bishow Parajuli.

Country Representatives of three Rome-based UN Agencies in India (WFP, FAO and IFAD) held a joint media sensitization workshop on World Food Day to discuss food and nutrition security from the holistic lens of a food systems approach.

Operational Updates

Protecting Access to Food

- The Ministry of Agriculture & Farmer's Welfare, Government of India (MoAFW) has requested WFP to provide technical support for enhancing food and nutrition security of women smallholder farmers. WFP has now submitted a project proposal to MoAFW, which will aim to undertake a gender assessment of rural markets. The project aims to improve food security through increased access to credit, technology, markets and value addition. Approval and funding for the proposal is pending.
- WFP continues to collaborate with the Department of Women and Child Development and Mission Shakti, Government of Odisha. Through this collaboration, WFP will support in enhancing the food security, livelihoods and market linkages of women smallholder farmers and women micro-enterprises. A Memorandum of Understanding is undergoing the approval process.
- The Government of Uttarakhand has requested WFP to provide technical support in optimization of the supply chain for the Targeted Public Distribution System. The funding for the project has been approved and a formal Letter of Agreement has been shared with the Government for approval.
- 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). The proposal is now provisionally approved for funding by the DFPD.
- WFP India Representative and Country Director met with the Chief Minister of Odisha, Shri Naveen Patnaik and senior state government officials to review WFP's present and future cooperation in the State.

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Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Nov'19-Apr'20 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
20 million	6.15 million	0.49 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.

Donors

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

Improved Nutrition

- WFP conducted a sensitization workshop and assessment of rice millers in the state of Uttar Pradesh, in October as a part of WFP's support in the implementation of the Central Sector Scheme on rice fortification. WFP is supporting the Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD), Government of India in implementing the scheme in the states of Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Kerala.
- WFP is supporting a pilot project on technology-based capacity strengthening of cooks-cum-helpers working under the Mid-Day Meal scheme, in the states of Uttar Pradesh and Orissa. A proof-of-concept was conducted this August. WFP is continuing to develop an app and training content for sensitization on improved food safety and hygiene.
- WFP continues to provide fortified commodities to school children in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. WFP has distributed 2,617 t of fortified rice in the district of Varanasi. WFP, along with implementation partners is conducting regular monitoring visits of schools to strengthen capacities for storage of fortified rice and generate awareness among the communities.
- WFP shared its experience of implementing state-wide fortification of take-home rations in Kerala at the International Consultation on 'Promoting Nutrition-Sensitive Approaches Linking Agriculture, Health & Nutrition towards malnutrition free Odisha'. This included government, civil society and international agencies from India, Bangladesh and Philippines.

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

- WFP is planning a scoping study for south-south and triangular cooperation related to food and nutrition security in early November 2019. The preparations include briefing the government counterparts and undertaking a situation analysis using secondary data.

Evidence & Results Analysis

- A study on 'Transport and Fair Price Shop Margin' was conducted by WFP. Findings of the study were shared with relevant government departments.
- WFP and Government of Odisha jointly implemented the Targeted Public Distribution System reforms project implemented in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. WFP has conducted the evaluation for the project and shared the report with the Government. Dissemination of the evaluation findings will be complete in November 2019.
- WFP, in association with Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office, NITI Aayog, has planned to strengthen national evaluation capacity. One example is WFP's provision of training for a DMEO official on EvalPro in October 2019.

Challenges

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