



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Country India Country Brief November 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 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

- With funding from the 2030 Fund, WFP carried out a scoping study on South-South and Triangular Cooperation opportunities in the country, with support from WFP's regional office and headquarters.
- WFP facilitated a study tour for a high-level delegation from the Government of India to Costa Rica to learn about different ways to address gaps in India's food fortification programme.
- WFP hosted an informal consultation with various policy makers, practitioners, academics and think tanks on how to adjust programming to help the Government accelerate progress towards achieving SDG targets before 2030.

WFP SAYS NO to GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

Operational Updates

Protecting Access to Food

- WFP has partnered with Mission Shakti, Department of Women and Child Development, Government of Odisha for enhancing the food security, livelihoods and market linkages of women smallholder farmers and women micro-enterprises in the state. WFP's funding portion for the project has been secured through the private sector while the Government of Odisha will cover its own costs.
- The Government of Uttarakhand (GoUK) has requested for WFP to provide technical support in optimizing the supply chain of the Targeted Public Distribution System. The funding for the project has been approved and WFP has shared a formal Letter of Agreement with GoUK for approval. WFP will complete an assessment mission for situation mapping in Uttarakhand in December with support from WFP's Asia regional bureau and Headquarters.
- The Department of Food and Public Distribution has approved a proposal to support improvements in the supply chain and warehousing operations of the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and Central Warehousing Corporation. Funding has been secured through the private sector.

Improved Nutrition

- WFP has been supporting rice fortification for mid-day meals in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, with 2,700 mt of rice fortified so far in 2019. In November, WFP reached 54,800 people with nutrition and health education sessions and games at the community level.
- A technology-based capacity strengthening tool is being developed for cooks-cum-helpers working under the Mid-Day Meal scheme in Uttar Pradesh and Orissa. The content focuses on food safety and hygiene and is

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Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Dec'19-May'20 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
20 million	6.16 million	0.61 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.

Evidence and Research

- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has approved the 2019 National Food and Nutrition Security Analysis report, which was launched jointly with WFP in June. The [report is available](#) on their website.
- WFP has finalized the report on the end-line evaluation on the fortification of mid-day meals in Dhenkanal District, Odisha and has now shared it with the State Government.

South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC)

- WFP facilitated a study tour of a high-level delegation from the Government of India to Costa Rica to learn more about their national food fortification programme. They found the following best practices would be worthy of replication after contextualization: (i) Formation of a National Commission of Micronutrients representing a cross-sector of stakeholders; (ii) Food fortification standards in Costa Rica propose higher required levels of micronutrients as well as some additional micronutrients not included in standards in India; (iii) Setting up of a command and control centre for monitoring the roll out of fortified foods; and (iv) Working with representatives of associations of the rice millers.
- WFP also facilitated a visit for a delegation of government officials from the Department of Women and Child Development and Mission Shakti, in Orissa to the state of Kerala to observe the implementation of state-wide take-home ration fortification. Kerala's take-home ration programme was initiated and supported by WFP.

Challenges

There have been some delays in finalising the MoU with the State of Rajasthan which was initiated in August. However, the CO is finalising letters of authorization for individual activities and the MoU will be signed in early 2020.

Donors

- The Government of India
- Cargill
- DSM
- General Mills Foundation
- Jubilant Bhartia Foundation
- Stop Hunger Foundation
- United Postal Services (UPS)
- WFP 2030 Fund
- WFP Trust for India
 - Ericsson India Global Services
 - Sodexo Technical Services