



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP India Country Brief December 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 102<sup>nd</sup> out of 117 countries on the 2019 Global Hunger Index. Despite recent improvements in the nutritional status of children, the prevalence of malnutrition is well above acceptable levels, and with large number of people, especially women and children, with micronutrient deficiency disorders. The Government of India has undertaken many reforms to their food-based safety nets to better ensure nutrition and food security to accelerate progress towards achievement of their targets under Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2.

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has been working in partnership with the Government of India for more than 50 years to contribute to its efforts to achieve food and nutrition security. WFP is currently doing this by demonstrating scalable pilots and best practices, providing specialized knowledge and international experience for effective implementation of food safety nets and supporting evidence-based analysis.



2019 Human Development Index  
**129 out of 189**

Chronic malnutrition: **38% of children 6-59 months of age.**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Population: **1.32 billion**

## Highlights

WFP released its report on the "[Review of Take-Home Rations \(THR\) distributed under the Integrated Child Development Services \(ICDS\) scheme](#)". The study reviewed the various components of the THR from production to nutritional composition, quality control and packaging. It provided guidance on how each component could be further strengthened for improving infant and young child feeding practices.

WFP conducted a study on intra-household food distribution and consumption in two districts of Uttar Pradesh. A state level dissemination workshop of the study with Government, development partners and academics was organized in Lucknow on 27 December. The final report is expected by the end of January 2020. This study was supported by WFP's Regional Gender Unit.

## Operational Updates

### Protecting Access to Food

- WFP's Innovation Accelerator approved funding for the Grain ATM project in India through their Sprint Programme. The project will design, develop and pilot an automated multicommodity dispensing solution. The beneficiaries of the Government's targeted food safety net programme will have access to the Grain ATM which will ensure full time access to their entitlements.
- WFP has prepared a formal letter of agreement with the Government of Uttarakhand to provide technical support for supply chain optimization of their public distribution system. In support of this work, WFP completed a situation mapping assessment with representatives from WFP's regional bureau and headquarters.
- The Department of Food and Public Distribution has approved a proposal by WFP 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 is continuing to support seamless implementation of rice fortification into the mid-day meals in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. Each month, 3,100 mt of fortified rice is now being produced and distributed, while partners are continuing to raise community awareness on key nutrition and health practices through one-on-one interviews and focus group discussions.
- The prototype for an ICT-based intervention under the Government's mid-day meals scheme is ready. The mobile application will improve food safety and hygiene practices among cook-cum-helpers in schools and will be piloted in selected geographies in Uttar Pradesh and Odisha next month.
- Through its support to the Government in the implementation of the Central Sector Scheme on rice fortification for the public distribution system, WFP is

## Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Jan-Jun'20 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>20 million</b>	<b>6.04 million</b>	<b>0.26 million</b>

### Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food (SDG 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 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 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 state programme monitoring units in Odisha and Uttar Pradesh. WFP completed assessment of 23 participating rice millers in Malkangiri, Odisha.

- WFP established a rice fortification unit in Kannur, Kerala, which will produce fortified rice for distribution through the integrated child development service scheme. The unit is fully automated and has produced 14.6 mt of fortified rice thus far.

## Evidence & Results Analysis

- WFP disseminated the findings of the [decentralized evaluation](#) of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) reform project in Odisha with the Government and community at a two-day workshop in Bhubaneswar.
- WFP is continuing to define new partnerships to support national evaluation capacity. As part of these efforts, WFP met with the Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO) of NITI Aayog to finalize the statement of intent which focuses on national evaluation policy development, capacity strengthening and enhancing a knowledge network.
- WFP undertook a three-day planning meeting with all its staff to set the strategic direction for its programmes for 2020 and beyond.

## Challenges

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

## Donors

Donors in 2019 include:

- 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