



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

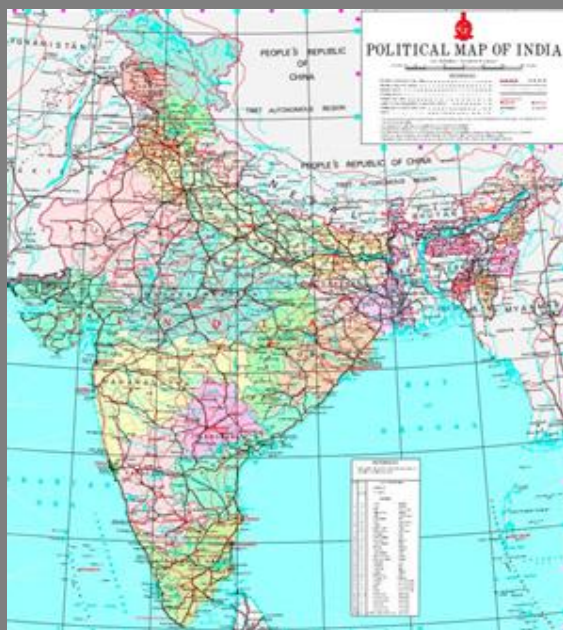
# WFP India Country Brief January 2020



## 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.



Income Level:  
Lower Middle

Population:  
1.32 billion

Chronic  
Malnutrition:  
38% of children  
6-59 months of

2019 Human  
Development  
Index Ranking:  
129 out of 189

## Highlights

WFP facilitated an inter-state learning visit of senior officials from the Government of Rajasthan to Kerala to learn about their decentralized production of fortified take-home rations (THR). Across India, THR is distributed to young children, under the Integrated Child Development Services scheme of the Government of India. WFP will begin working with the Government of Rajasthan in a number of areas, including production of THR, in 2020.

The second round of data collection to assess women's self-help groups in Odisha was completed by WFP and the Mission Shakti, Directorate of Women's Self-Help Groups, Government of Odisha. The findings on women's access to finance, markets and income generating activities will provide the basis of WFP's work with Mission Shakti over the next four years. This work will aim to improve the food security of more than 7 million households.

## Operational Updates

### Promoting Access to Food

- The solution designing phase for the Grain ATM project has now been completed, based on which, WFP has requested for a proposal to develop the solution. The Grain ATM is an innovative multicommodity dispensing machine that would provide access to full entitlement for beneficiaries of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) safety net and is funded through the Innovation Accelerator Sprint Programme.
- Based on the recommendations of the WFP mission in December 2019, the Government of Uttarakhand accorded administrative approval for WFP collaboration. WFP has been requested to extend technical support in optimizing the supply chain of the TPDS to reduce transportation costs while ensuring continuous availability of grains. WFP has also been requested to pilot the use of mobile storage units as an alternate mechanism for grain storage in areas frequented by natural disasters.
- WFP has been actively supporting the transformation and automation of the TPDS that provides access to food to nearly 800 million beneficiaries each month, across India. To document the practices leading to efficiency gains and to develop a tool for cross learning, the Department of Food and Public Distribution, Government of India and WFP are jointly publishing a compendium of best practices selected from across the country.

### Improved Nutrition

- WFP organized a session on 'fortification as a strategy to reduce anaemia and micronutrient deficiencies' at the Annual Indian Association of Preventive and Social Medicine Conference in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. Panellists included members from WFP, the National Institute of Nutrition in Hyderabad, and the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India.

## Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Feb-Jul 2020 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
20 million	6.04 million	0.46 million

### 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.

- Fortification of rice in the mid-day meals in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh continues with WFP producing 3,200 MT and supporting community awareness activities in 1,136 schools in January. WFP is now preparing for the end line evaluation data collection which will commence in February.
- The Government of Chhattisgarh has agreed to work with WFP to implement a holistic set of nutrition activities across the state. These will emphasize nutritional enhancement of the take home rations in the integrated child development scheme (ICDS), as well as fortification of rice in the public distribution system under the [Central Sector Scheme on rice fortification](#).
- In Kannur district of Kerala, WFP produced 28.3 MT of fortified rice for use in the ICDS, reaching 13,000 children aged 3-6 years in Anganwadi centres, which are child health care centres found in all rural areas of India. WFP also sensitized Anganwadi workers on the production and use of fortified rice. In addition, WFP's monitoring of this fortified rice found no acceptability issues.

### South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC)

- WFP and the Chhattisgarh State Center for Climate Change have exchanged a letter of intent to collaborate on the climate change agenda. WFP will extend technical support in finalizing the State Action Plan on Climate Change (SAPCC).

### Evidence & Results Analysis

- WFP participated in the development partners' meeting organized by the Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO) in NITI Aayog and will sign the statement of intent with DMEO next month.
- WFP initiated an independent impact evaluation of the ICT-enabled training tool for cooks and helpers in the government mid-day meals programmes in Varanasi (UP) and Dhenkanal (Odisha).

### Donors

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