



World Food Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

# WFP India

## Country Brief

February 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:**

## Highlights

On 12 February, WFP signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Food and Civil Supplies Department, Government of Uttarakhand, in Dehradun. Through the MoU, which runs through 2023, WFP will provide technical support in supply chain optimization of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and piloting the use of mobile storage units as an alternate mechanism for grain storage in areas frequented by natural disasters.

A Statement of Intent was signed between the Director General of the Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office of NITI Aayog, Government of India, and WFP, on 14 February. The partnership is focused on strengthening national evaluation capacity in areas such as national evaluation policy development, joint evaluations and research in areas of food and nutrition security.

## Operational Updates

### Promoting Access to Food

- WFP finalized a study on intrastate transportation and fair price shop (FPS) dealer margins and submitted it to the Department of Food and Public Distribution. This will help them in revising the existing norms of the transportation costs and FPS commissions, thus improving the viability of transporters and FPS owners.

### Improved Nutrition

- The Government of Kerala, with support from WFP and the Global Child Nutrition Forum, organized a workshop on 27-28 February to share best practices in the implementation of mid-day meals (school feeding) for southern states. Representatives from Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Goa, Lakshadweep and Telangana participated.
- At the request of the central government, WFP is providing technical support to the state governments of Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Kerala and Chhattisgarh in rolling out the Central Sector Scheme (CCS) on fortifying rice distributed through the public distribution system. These states are at different stages of preparedness; fortified rice should be rolled out in Chandauli, Uttar Pradesh and Malkangiri, Odisha by mid-April.
- With the support of WFP, 68,290 school children in Varanasi district of Uttar Pradesh received health education sessions at school. To date, a total of 3,700 mt of fortified rice has been produced and distributed through the mid-day-meal scheme in Varanasi with 432 mt in February alone.
- In response to a call to action by WFP and UNICEF Executive Directors on achieving more in 2020 and

## Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Mar-Aug2020 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
20 million	6.14 million	0.51 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.

beyond, WFP and UNICEF developed a joint work plan which focuses on the prevention of malnutrition and school feeding.

- WFP held meetings with the state governments in Odisha and Uttar Pradesh to get their inputs for the development of training content for WFP's app to improve food safety and hygiene of cooks-cum-helpers working under the mid-day meal scheme.

### Evidence and Results Analysis

- In early February, the Government of Odisha launched the "Food and Nutrition Security in Odisha" report which was developed by WFP in association with the Planning and Convergence Department, Government of Odisha. The report will serve as baseline for measuring the state's progress towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal 2 (zero hunger) targets in Odisha.
- WFP began work on the end-line assessment on the fortification of mid-day meals in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.
- WFP, led by its gender officer, finalized a survey which was conducted on intrahousehold food access and consumption in two communities in Uttar Pradesh in December 2019.

### Disaster Risk Management

- On 25 February, WFP participated as a knowledge partner of the National Institute of Disaster Management in a National Conference on Coastal Disaster Risk Reduction, in New Delhi. Under Activity 4, WFP is engaging with the national level disaster risk management institutions for strengthening capacities within and outside the country.

### 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