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 102nd 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.

Operational Updates

Promoting Access to Food

- WFP has developed a prototype of the first GrainATM and will test this in Fair Price Shops in the greater Delhi region. The GrainATM will replace the manual multi commodity grain dispensing machine, which will increase weighing efficiency. Fair Price Shops are responsible for selling grains under the Targeted Public Distribution System at the prices recommended by the Government.

- In collaboration with the Ministry of Food, WFP is developing an e-learning platform that will be used to strengthen the capacity of government officials within the ministry for implementation of the Targeted Public Distribution System. The project is funded by the private sector through their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds.

Improved Nutrition

- WFP recently shared its experience and lessons learned on rice fortification at the 64th Annual National Conference of Indian Public Health Associations (IPHACON 2020) and at the ASSOCHAM Conference which was organised for industry partners for improving nutrition.

- WFP developed information, education and communication (IEC) materials for raising awareness on fortified rice. These materials were used in WFP-led capacity strengthening sessions for the rice millers producing fortified rice in Malkangiri, Odisha. WFP also conducted validation trials for the newly-installed blending equipment at participating rice mills.

- WFP submitted the handover plan for the fortified rice pilot of Mid-day Meals in Varanasi district, Uttar Pradesh, to the District Administration who will then run the project with their own resources. After handover, WFP will continue advocacy for the scale-up of rice fortification in school meals.

- The rollout of rice fortification in the Integrated Child

Highlights

On 16 March WFP India shared a list of nine recommendations with the Ministry of Food on how to adapt the Targeted Public Distribution System to meet increased needs associated with COVID-19. Within two weeks, eight of the recommendations were implemented. WFP is currently monitoring State government adaptations to the three food-based safety nets to ensure entitlements reach beneficiaries during the lockdown.

At the request of the State Government of Uttarakhand, WFP is developing and deploying a mobile app expected to reach 12 million people, through which they can access information about their entitlements and register for missing items, which will then be delivered to their homes. The app will also include information on the prevention of COVID-19.
WFP Country Strategy

### Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirement (in USD)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
<th>Apr-Sep 20 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20.02 million</td>
<td>7.09 million</td>
<td>0.00 million</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### 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.

### Evidence and Results Analysis

- **WFP held a state level strategy planning workshop on 6 March in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, where state and district officials met to discuss the results of the WFP-led study on food and nutrition security in the state, with the aim to identify policy and programme responses to the findings.**
- **WFP finalized data collection for the end line assessment of the fortification of Mid-day Meals in Varanasi.**
- **WFP conducted a training and advocacy session on the ‘Right to Food’ for staff members of Canon India Private Limited. This is part of WFP’s efforts to generate awareness among the private sector on issues related to food security in India.**
- **Led by its gender officer, WFP begun planning for a study on the socio-cultural determinants of gender differentials on the nutritional status of boys and girls in Varanasi district of Uttar Pradesh.**

### Climate change

- Efforts to collaborate and mobilize resources for a regional response to climate change are on-going.

### Challenges

WFP in India tested the working from home modality for two days on the week of 16 March which helped to address connectivity issues and then began working from home full-time starting 23 March.

### Donors

- The Government of India
- Associated Data Processing, Inc.
- Cargill
- DSM
- Ericsson India Global Services
- General Mills Foundation
- Jubilant Bhartia Foundation
- Stop Hunger Foundation
- UPS
- Sodexo Technical Services
- WFP Trust for India
- WFP 2030 Fund

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Prime Minister’s Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations (PM-CARES) Fund was established in India. It is a dedicated national fund with the primary objective of providing relief to those affected by COVID and other disasters. There are special conditions for CSR contributions to the fund and, as such, many corporate funds for the COVID-19 response will be channelled through this fund for the near future. However, WFP has prepared some concept notes on the COVID-19 response which have been shared with interested private sector companies.