



WFP India

Country Brief

April 2020

World Food Programme


SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



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 and, in response to COVID-19, have done even more to address the increased socio-economic needs due to lockdowns and social distancing.

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. WFP has been supporting the government in their COVID-19 response since mid-March.



Income Level: Lower Middle
Population: 1.32 billion
Chronic Malnutrition: 38% of children 6-59 months of age
2019 Human Development Index Ranking:

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Highlights

WFP and the United Nations Development Programme (UNPD) prepared a joint proposal entitled **"India's Response to COVID-19: Inclusive and scalable social protection system for immediate and sustained food, nutrition and livelihood security"** for the UN COVID-19 Multi Partner Trust Fund. Together the agencies will support the newly vulnerable to access food and livelihoods and strengthen the outreach of government safety nets to ensure the right to food and to paid work. The proposal was approved in May 2020, and each agency will receive US\$ 1 million.

Jan Aapurti is a mobile application developed by WFP in association with the Government of Uttarakhand, which connects 12 million people to registered retailers in the state, thus providing access to doorstep delivery of essential commodities during the lockdown. The app also provides information on accessing government entitlements and on preventing the spread of COVID-19.

Operational Updates

Promoting Access to Food

- WFP developed a price monitoring dashboard for 22 essential commodities across India. Using regularly reported government data, the dashboard covers 140 locations and indicates daily which prices have had the highest percent increase. WFP will soon roll-out state-specific food basket price monitoring on the dashboard.
- With WFP support, the Department of Food in Uttar Pradesh launched the **implementation of National Portability** which will allow migrants from 16 other states to avail their public distribution food entitlements from any Fair Price Shop in the state. It also allows Uttar Pradesh migrants in the other 16 states to do the same. This function was already under development prior to the COVID-19 crisis.

Improved Nutrition

- WFP conducted a session on supporting food security and nutrition during the COVID-19 pandemic for the Sphere India COVID-19 Academy, which is a joint initiative of UNICEF, the World Health Organization (WHO), HCL Foundation and Sphere India. This session aimed to strengthen the capacity of frontline workers of civil society organisations.
- WFP continues to monitor the state and union territory adaptations to the implementation of take home rations and mid-day meals. WFP shared a report with recommendations to Ministries and partners.
- WFP developed [standard operating procedures](#) on food safety and hygiene, targeting the kitchen staff of community kitchens that are feeding vulnerable people. This was then disseminated to more than 2,000 frontline NGOs and civil society organisations for the national COVID-19 response.

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	May 2020-October 20 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
20.02 million	7.09 million	0.00 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.

- UNICEF and WFP released a joint statement to clarify agency work around food and nutrition responses during the COVID-19 response.

Evidence and Results Analysis

- Recruitment of a staff to second to the Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO) in NITI Aayog was completed. The WFP staff member will work with the team in developing a national evaluation policy, capacity strengthening and joint evaluations around food security and nutrition.

Disaster Risk Management

- WFP has initiated a partnership with SPHERE-India for the immediate COVID-19 response under the Multi-Partner Trust Fund and for longer term work in strengthening national humanitarian response capacity. WFP also formed a strategic partnership with a local NGO in Uttar Pradesh to use their network for capacity strengthening and communications, with an initial focus around the current crisis.

Gender

- Using its global guidance on safe food distributions, WFP prepared a [guidance note](#) which highlights considerations of protection, community engagement, distribution planning, and safety of frontline workers in the context of COVID-19, benefitting more than 150 NGOs and civil society organisations in Uttar Pradesh and Odisha.

Challenges

Staff have been working from home since March 24th which has presented only minor problems in communications and work-life balance.

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
- Secretary General's Multi-Partner Trust Fund
- Sodexo Technical Services
- WFP Trust for India
- WFP 2030 Fund