



WFP India Country Brief May 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:
129 out of 189

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Highlights

In order to raise awareness on preventing the spread of COVID-19, WFP prepared four animated videos that can be shared online:

- [Maintaining family harmony and fighting stigma;](#)
- [Maintaining good health and nutrition for pregnant women during the COVID-19;](#)
- [Key prevention tips against COVID-19;](#)
- [Addressing domestic violence in your community.](#)

The Odia version was virtually launched on 27 May by Mr. P.K Mohapatra, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Health, Government of Odisha. They were later launched in Hindi, via social media, have been accessed via WFP's new YouTube Channel, and shared by several UN agencies.

Operational Updates

Promoting Access to Food

- WFP is supporting the Department of Food and Public Distribution in developing awareness materials such as banners, newspaper advertisements and radio announcements to promote ration card portability under the One Nation One Ration Card. These materials will help National Food Security Act (NFSA) beneficiaries in accessing their entitlements in any of 20 states across the country.
- Using regularly reported government data on 22 essential commodities from 140 locations, WFP developed a real-time dashboard to monitor changes in key commodities across all states and union territories. The dashboard allows users to understand which commodities have had the highest increase from which location and it also monitors the prices of state-specific basic food baskets. It will be presented to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in June.

Improved Nutrition

- To prepare for the re-opening of schools, WFP prepared a [guidance note](#) for school administrators, teachers, staff and cooks on how to maintain social distancing, ensure high levels of food safety and promote hygiene in the school meals programmes. The guidance note was distributed by the Ministry of Human Resource Development.
- WFP collaborated with UNICEF and WHO to prepare [guidance](#) for private sector organizations wishing to donate food items for the COVID response, including advice against providing infant milk substitutes.
- WFP has developed a set of animated videos to target school meals cooks and cooks in community kitchens responding to COVID, with a focus on food safety and hygiene as part of an ongoing social and behavioural change communication project. They have been released through WFP India's social media handles.

Evidence and Results Analysis

- WFP has now published the [report](#) on the end-line evaluation of rice fortification in the mid-day meals in Dhenkanal District of Odisha. In addition, WFP shared

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Jun'2020-Nov'20 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
20 million	8.55 million	0

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.

the preliminary findings of the end-line evaluation of rice fortification in the mid-day meals in Varanasi District of Uttar Pradesh with donors.

- WFP conducted the webinar, 'WFP-How the World's Largest Humanitarian Organisation Responds to Global Crises' for more than 40 staff in the Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO), NITI Aayog, as part of a series for their learning and programme adaptations during COVID-19.

NGO Capacity Strengthening

- In order to strengthening India's in-country capacity to respond to disasters, WFP established partnerships with a network of 40 NGOs in Uttar Pradesh led by Society for Advancement of Resourceless by Training and Handholding (SAMARTH) and 80 more NGOs led by Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA), one of the leading civil society organizations in India.
- WFP is also partnering with SPHERE India, a network of more than 200 NGOs and civil society organizations working on disaster relief operations in India, and WFP will be chairing the food security and nutrition committee of the network. SPHERE India is running a digital learning platform called the COVID Academy for their partners, and WFP staff have been leading sessions on food and nutrition security.

Gender

- Based on WFP's corporate guidelines, WFP developed and shared a [guidance note](#) on "Gender and Protection Considerations in the context of COVID-19" with more than 150 NGOs across three states. The note highlights the importance of gender and protection considerations and provides practical steps for action. For example, it includes gender and age analysis in planning a response, ensuring a gender-based violence referral pathway for the beneficiaries, and setting up a complaints and feedback mechanism.

Challenges

Staff have been working from home since 24 March 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