



UN WFP INDIA | COVID19 RESPONSE

April 2020 Highlights

WFP India has been responding to the COVID-19 pandemic since March, through 4 main channels by:

- supporting Empowered Group #5,
- supporting national and state governments,
- developing capacity of NGO and civil society networks,
- knowledge sharing

SUPPORT TO EMPOWERED GROUP #5 - LOGISTICS AND FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN

WFP is acting as the Nodal agency for the UN support to the Empowered Group #5, along with the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD), with the following achievements:

- In the initial meeting with the Chair of the Group, the 3 agencies agreed to provide the daily updates in the following areas:
- Real time information from states where the three agencies have presence.
- Red flags/challenges around food related supply chains
- Good practices being implemented in these states

Starting on April 4th, inputs have been collected from the state governments, district administrations and networks of NGOs and front-line workers and submitted through WFP's Country Director daily, with the highlights of key emerging issues.

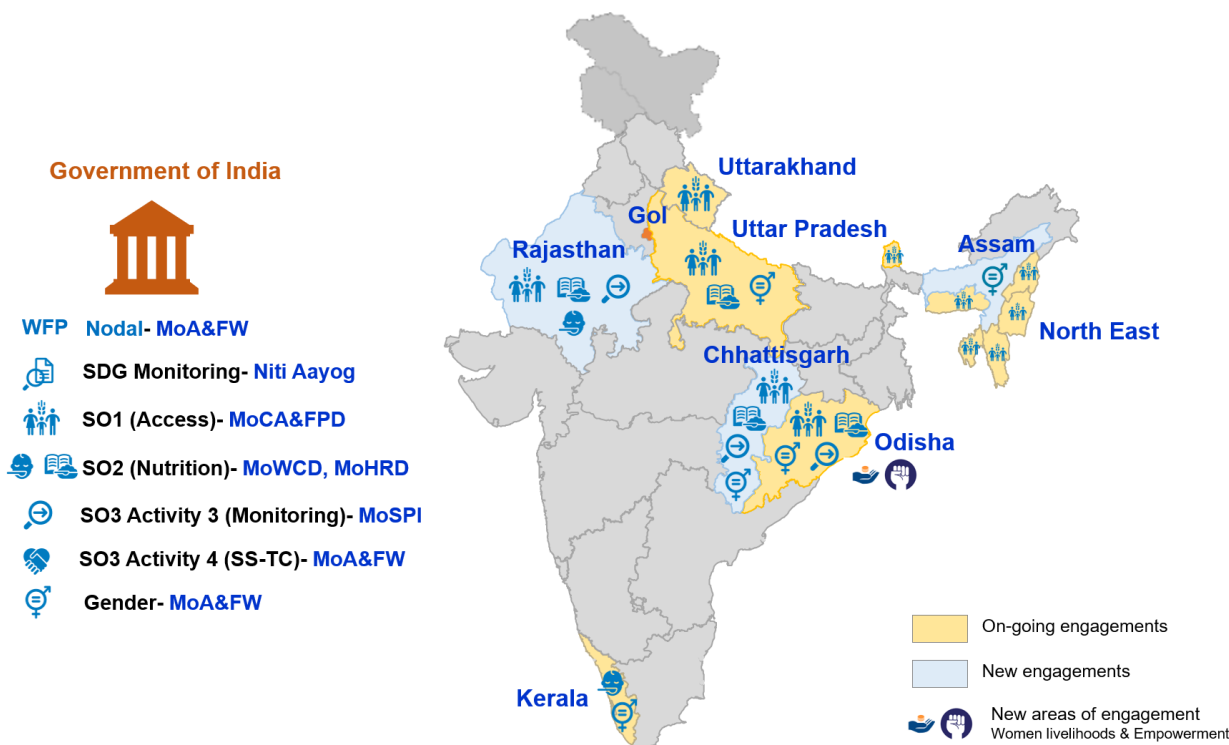
To date, action on Red Flag issues has been swift on both policy and operational levels. Main challenges are around support to migrant workers, lack of labour and packing material for transportation of food items, and Rabi harvest and Kharif sowing.

SUPPORT TO THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

[Department of Food and Public Distribution \(DFPD\), Ministry of Food](#)

On March 17th, WFP shared a list of 9 recommendations to ensure access to food for those benefiting from the TPDS. The recommendations included actions such as:

- providing advance allocations under PDS,
- additional entitlements and commodities,
- pre-positioning of stocks in all states.



Mapping our work with central and various state governments for COVID19 response

- release of grains in open market to prevent scarcity and price rise and
- temporary suspension of use of Point of Sale Devices to prevent the spread of the virus.

The Government of India (GoI) has implemented all the 9 recommendations while a few states have even gone further by including additional cash transfers or adding additional commodities to the food basket.

Monitoring adaptations of food safety nets

WFP has taken the lead to monitoring implementation of reforms to the TPDS in each state, including the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY – 5 kg additional cereals and 1 kg pulses, free of cost).

The WFP Nutrition team has also been tracking the state's actions towards implementing the MDM and food components under ICDS in line with the National Food Security Act, 2013 which has shown that most states are finding effective and creative solutions to ensure the right to food for vulnerable groups.

SUPPORT TO THE STATES

Uttarakhand, partnering with the Department of Food

Awareness through IEC: WFP prepared radio jingles and audio messages on timing of operations of shops, safety measures for

COVID, helpline numbers and discouraging panic buying for the state government.

Jan Aapurti App: To facilitate the home delivery of the essential commodities to all the citizens of the state, WFP has developed a mobile application that allows households to order groceries from nearby open market retailers for home delivery.

Poster for the new Jan Aapurti app created in partnership with Government of Uttarakhand

Uttar Pradesh, partnering with the Department of Food, and NGO frontline workers

The WFP team seconded to the Department of Food have led the implementation of **National Portability of TPDS** which went live on 1st May. Through this system, migrants from 16 other states can now avail their PDS entitlements from any Fair Price Shop in U.P. and similarly migrants of U.P. to the other 16 states can do the same. The team has also been supporting the monitoring the movement and distribution of food grains under the TPDS.

In the wake of rising reports of incidents of gender-based violence post-lockdown, a guidance Note for NGOs on gender and protection is also being prepared for sharing across the NGO network in the state.

Odisha, Strategic Partnering for COVID response

WFP along with other UN agencies and the World Bank developed a multi sectoral response strategy for the Government, covering food systems (including production and access), nutrition and disaster risk reduction, including a survey of 250 households using mobile phones for data collection under the aegis of Inter Agency Group (IAG), Odisha. WFP will be supporting W&CD Department for **local production of nutritious foods** for the Take-home ration, under ICDS.

ACTIVITIES WITH DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

One UN COVID Action

WFP is working closely with UN Agencies and Resident Coordinator's Office to ensure a coordinated response to COVID-19 and are developing guidance on accessing essential nutrition services. A platform for information exchange on food insecurity to facilitate an early action is in discussion.

Civil-society interactions

WFP is supporting the Food and Nutrition Sector committee of SPHERE India who are working at the grass roots level and coordinating with the local and state level governments to ensure delivery of services.

WFP is introducing a mobile application to obtain information promptly and strengthening of coordination amongst NGOs and front-line workers and feedback to Empower Group 5.

SHARING KNOWLEDGE

Animated Social Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) Material

WFP is developing 4 short animated videos in local languages (Hindi, Oriya and Malayalam) to raise awareness on: COVID-19 prevention; Maintaining health and nutrition during the pandemic and Community harmony and positive reinforcement of good practices (incorporating Gender and inclusion).

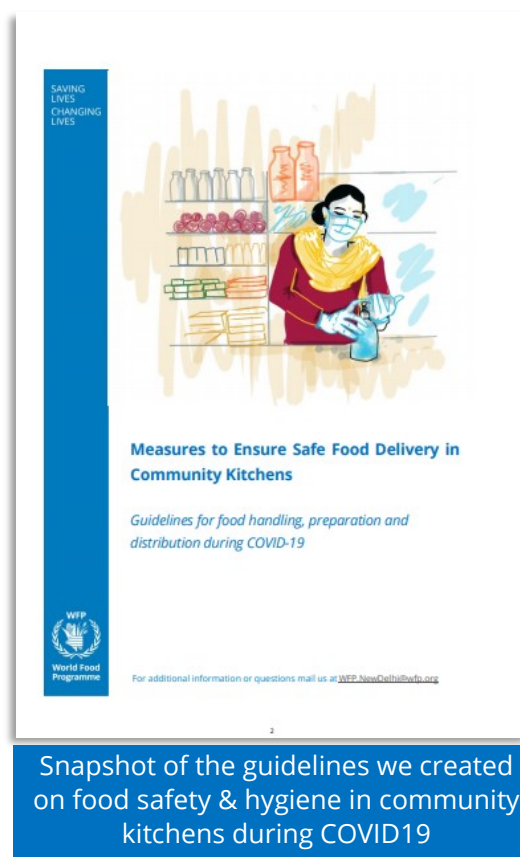


Snapshot of one of the 4 animated videos being created as SBCC material in context of COVID19

Adapting WFP Global Guidance for India

A guidance note on how to organize food distributions in context of the pandemic was prepared and shared with various Civil Society Organisations and NGO networks engaged in feeding vulnerable groups, including migrants. These notes are being shared on our website.

Global guidelines on food safety and hygiene in context of COVID19, were also adapted and disseminated to NGOs running community kitchens. Similarly, on-line training modules have also been prepared to build capacity for NGO staff running community kitchens. Complementary posters with key food safety messages are currently under development.



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.

Globally, WFP works in more than 83 countries, reaching 86.7 million people. As the world's largest humanitarian organization, WFP is taking the global lead on the COVID-19 logistics and supply chain including air transport. WFP is also the global co-lead on the food security cluster and actively involved in the global nutrition response. While continuing their work in improving access to food, better nutrition, building evidence and facilitating the sharing of learning across countries, WFP India's work in the COVID crisis is outlined in this bulletin.



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