



SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

UN WFP INDIA MONTHLY BULLETIN

May 2020 Highlights

WFP and UNDP 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 COVID19 Multi Partner Trust Fund'. Together, the agencies will support the newly vulnerable to access food and livelihoods and strengthen the outreach of government's safety nets to ensure the right to food and to paid work, as mandated by the National Food Security Act (2013) and the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (2005). The proposal was approved, and each agency will receive \$1 million USD for activities to be completed by the end of 2020. WFP has shared the proposal summary with its Nodal Ministry – the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and explained the activities.

Support to Empowered Group #5 on Logistics and Food Supply Chain

WFP has been the Nodal agency for UN support to the Empowered Group #5, along with FAO and IFAD. The group shared daily reports on supply chain and logistics for food with the EG5. The daily reports collated real-time information, challenges/red flags, dynamic anecdotal data, and good practices relating to the situation during the lockdown, from their various sources in the field. The reports prompted swift action in terms of resolving bottlenecks and ensured progress made on addressing red flag issues.

In May, a review of the daily reports highlighted that the national and state governments had undertaken tremendous steps to ensure that the most vulnerable have access to essential food commodities while various orders were issued to allow the free movement of trains and trucks to carry essential commodities across the country.

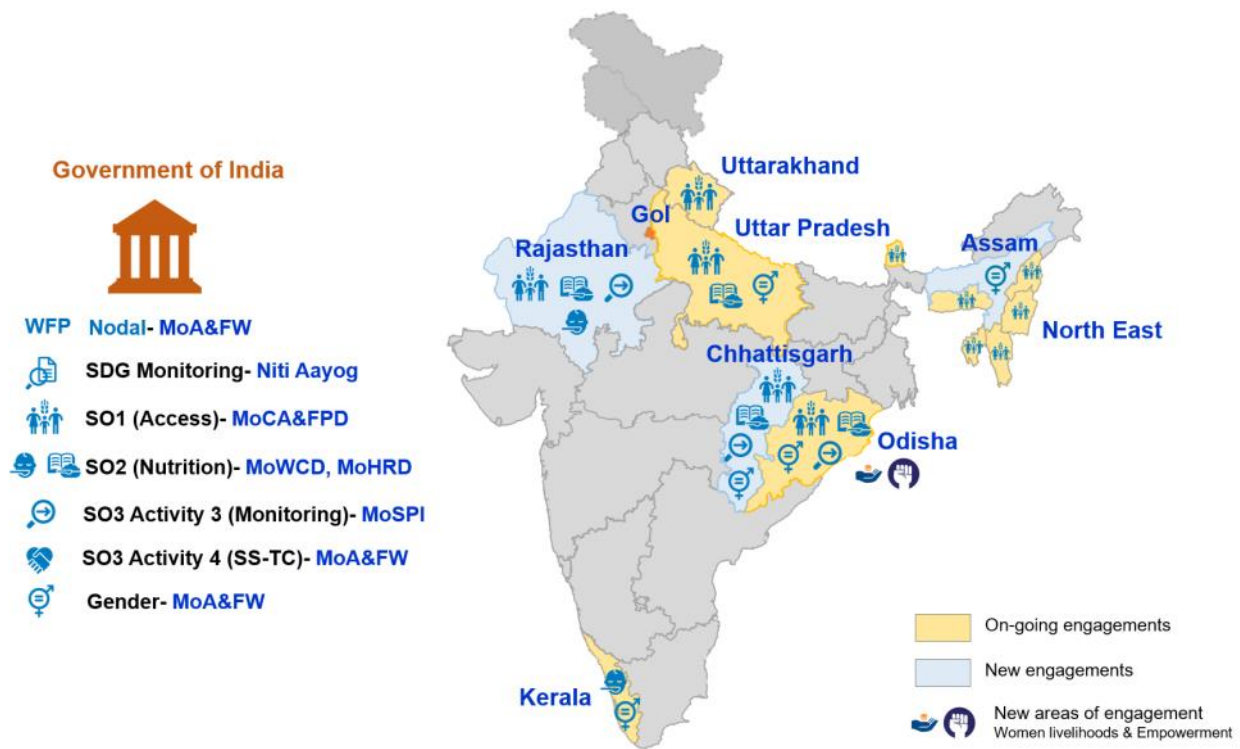
There was prompt resolution of issues, both through the intervention of EG 5 and the initiatives of the state and district

administration. There was a decrease in the overall red flag issues that reduced or were being managed at the state/district level. The situation however, remained dynamic and was being redefined by the day. There was an influx of returnee migrants moving into rural areas whose socio-economic integration posed new challenges but also offered new opportunities for their inclusion in the safety nets.

Support to the Central Government

Ministry of Commerce and Industry

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 UTs. The dashboard is still being refined but it allows users to note which commodities have had the highest increase from which location and also established state-specific basic food baskets of staples in order to monitor changes in their costs. It will be presented to the Ministry in June. Link to dashboard: <https://tabsoft.co/2YCXDaT>



Mapping WFP's work with Central and State Governments

Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD), Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution

WFP is supporting the Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD), Government of India in developing awareness materials such as banners, newspaper advertisements and radio announcement to promote ration card portability under One Nation One Ration Card. These materials will help National Food Security Act (NFSA) beneficiaries to learn how to access their entitlements in any of 20 states across the country.

Ministry of Human Resource Development

WFP and UNICEF jointly drafted a set of guidelines for reopening schools and re-instituting mid-day meals, in the time of COVID-19. The guidance, which focuses on social distancing, nutrition and hygiene, was submitted to the Government of India along with states with WFP presence, for further use and dissemination.

Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO), NITI Aayog

On May 13th, WFP conducted a Webinar for Government counterparts in the Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO) of NITI Aayog on how WFP, the world's largest humanitarian organization, responds to global crises.

This webinar was part of the series being organized by DMEO for their own learning and programme adaptation during COVID.

Support to the States

Creating awareness on preventing the spread of the COVID-19 virus

In order to create awareness on preventing the spread of COVID-19, WFP prepared four animated videos that can be shared through social media and played on most mobile phones.

- Maintaining family harmony and fighting stigma: <https://bit.ly/36TL6Dq>
- Maintaining good health and nutrition for pregnant women during the COVID crisis: <https://bit.ly/2Ua76oo>
- Key prevention tips against COVID-19: <https://bit.ly/3eZOM9R>
- Addressing domestic violence in your community: <https://bit.ly/3czBILW>



Snapshot of video on 'maintaining good health and nutrition for pregnant women during the COVID crisis'

The Odia version was launched virtually on May 27th by Mr. P.K Mohapatra, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Health, Government of Odisha. These videos can be found on the following playlist: <https://bit.ly/2B2qFsg>

Later, they were launched in Hindi, via social media, and can be accessed via WFP's new YouTube Channel, and shared by many UN agencies.

One Nation, One Ration Card – National Portability in Uttar Pradesh

With WFP support, the Department of Food in Uttar Pradesh launched the **implementation of National Portability** which will allow migrants from 20 other states to avail their public distribution food entitlements from any Fair Price Shop in the state and allows U.P. migrants to the other 20 states to do the same. This function was already under development prior to the COVID crisis.

UNICEF-WHO-WFP Joint Guidance Note on Food Donations from Private Sector companies

In collaboration with UNICEF and WHO, WFP published a joint guidance note for private sector organizations that wish to donate food to vulnerable populations with a focus on nutritional value, quality and acceptability and also reiterates that no breastmilk substitutes should be provided, in line with the Infant Milk Substitutes Act (IMS).

Rice fortification in Government Safety Nets

WFP continues to support scale up of fortified rice in the food-based safety nets across several States. Mainstreaming of fortified rice in the ICDS is being supported in Dhenkanal, Gajapati in Odisha and in Kannur, Waynad and Kozhikode in Kerala. WFP continues to pursue mainstreaming fortified rice through the MDM scheme in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.

Under the Centrally sponsored pilot scheme for distribution of fortified rice, WFP continues to provide technical assistance for integration of fortified rice for

- Kondagaon- Chhattisgarh
- Malkangiri- Odisha
- Chandauli- Uttar Pradesh

Developing capacity of NGOs and Civil Society Organizations

In order to strengthen India's capacity to respond to disasters by strengthening in-country capacities on DRR, WFP established partnerships with a network of 40 NGOs in Uttar Pradesh led by SAMARTH and more than 80 NGOs led by 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 where WFP is chairing the food security and nutrition committee of the network. WFP staff have been leading sessions on food and nutrition security on SPHERE India's digital learning platform for their partners, called the COVID Academy. A session on Impact of Amphan on Food and Nutrition Security in COVID context was organized by WFP especially intended for West Bengal frontline workers.

Knowledge Sharing

Guidance Note on Gender and Protection Considerations in the context of COVID-19

A Guidance Note on "Gender and Protection Considerations in the context of COVID-19" was prepared, based on WFP's corporate guidelines. The note highlights why gender and protection considerations are important and lays down practical steps for action, such as including a 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. The note was shared with more than 150 NGOs in Uttar Pradesh, Odisha and other states who were implementing various front-line COVID responses. The note can be accessed at: <https://bit.ly/2MvLOxt>



Snapshot of our guidelines on Gender & Protection Considerations in the context of COVID-19

Capacity building of cooks-cum-helpers in Mid-day Meals programmes

WFP has developed a set of animated videos focusing on food safety and hygiene for cooks-cum-helpers working in the mid-day meals programme across the country. The videos are part of an ongoing project which includes development of a smartphone application. Currently, the videos have been released through the official WFP India social media handles, re-purposed for use and capacity building of cooks working in community kitchens especially during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The Hindi versions can be accessed from the links:

- Personal Hygiene of food handlers and cooks: <https://bit.ly/3fPlquW>
- Cleanliness of kitchen and utensils: <https://bit.ly/2T2TJpy>
- Sources/modes of food contamination: <https://bit.ly/2LqSPit>
- Procurement, Quality assurance, and storage of raw materials: <https://bit.ly/2WW9M9Z>
- Methods of cooking for retaining nutrients: <https://bit.ly/2WU06gc>
- Management of waste from the kitchens: <https://bit.ly/3dTZyxR>

The Odia version of this playlist can be found here: <https://bit.ly/2Ab6esF>



Snapshot of video on methods of cooking for retaining nutrients

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.



United Nations World Food Programme, India Country Office,
2 Poorvi Marg, New Delhi 110057, India
Phone: +91 11 4655 4000 | E-mail: WFP.NewDelhi@wfp.org
Website: www.wfp.org/countries/india | Twitter- [@UNWFP_India](https://twitter.com/UNWFP_India)