



WFP India

Country Brief

June 2020

World Food Programme

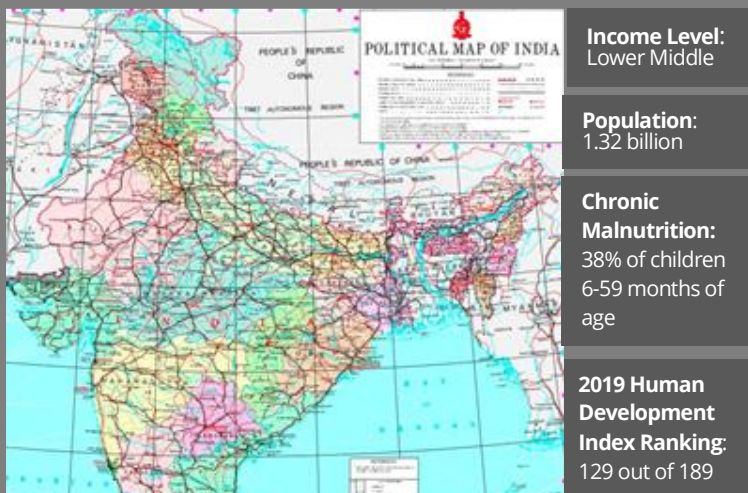
SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



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.



Highlights

On 18 June, WFP and the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi signed a strategic [partnership](#) to jointly develop sustainable models and innovative solutions that can be replicated across the country to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Government's food-based safety nets. WFP will use advanced analytics and operational research to develop practical solutions that will support long term strategic planning of procurement, storage and movement of food grains within the supply chain.

Operational Updates

Promoting Access to Food

- In partnership with Mission Shakti, Government of Odisha, WFP published the '[Assessment of Women Self-Help Groups and Women Smallholder Farmers in Odisha](#)'. The findings are now being used to define the specific areas of technical assistance and capacity strengthening for nearly 7 million women in the 700,000 women self-help groups in the state, by enabling them to access financial assistance, capacity strengthening and market linkages to enhance their livelihoods and incomes.

Improved Nutrition

- In collaboration with the Department of Women and Child Development in Uttar Pradesh, WFP is supporting the development of new recipes for locally produced fortified blended take-home rations which are distributed to more than 16 million young children and pregnant and lactating women (PLW) through the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) safety net across the state. WFP is also discussing plans to set-up decentralized production units for fortified blended foods.
- In Kerala, the Department of Women and Child Development has committed to continue the WFP-initiated project on rice fortification in Thaliparamba, using their own funds. The scale-up plan will be initiated soon with the support of the National Nutrition Mission in Kerala.
- The [animated videos](#) developed by WFP have been widely disseminated through the WFP India social media platforms and also through the social media websites of the Department of Women and Child Development, National Nutrition Mission, in Kerala.
- WFP developed several policy, advocacy and knowledge products in June, including:
 - A joint WFP-IFPRI [blog post](#) was published which focused on the current status of the school meals programme in the time of COVID-19, and the various implementation adaptations which were launched across the country. The blog also

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Jul - Dec'20 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
20 m	8.55 m	0.35 m

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.

discussed potential impacts of these adaptations on nutrition and food security.

- In an [article](#) published in Outlook Poshan, the Heads of Agencies from WFP, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) jointly shared insights on six key areas of focus for the Government of India to take in order to ensure that the nutrition needs of vulnerable women and children are not compromised by COVID-19.
- WFP, IFPRI and Tata Trusts jointly published [an article](#) on "Integrating complementary food supplements at scale into national nutrition programmes: Insights from India", which discusses the gaps in the current supplementary nutrition programme implemented by the ICDS scheme, and suggests key recommendations for its improvement.

Evidence and Results Analysis

- WFP recently [finalised](#) 'A Detailed Analysis of Food and Nutrition Sector during COVID-19' which captured the impact of COVID-19 on food and nutrition security during the early days of the lockdown in Odisha and as a result, the Government has requested a follow-up study in July to measure the impact of their actions to address the increased food and nutrition needs.
- A WFP staff has been seconded to the Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO), NITI Aayog of Government of India who will work with the team on strengthening the national monitoring and evaluation capacities.

NGO Capacity Strengthening

- The WFP partnership with SPHERE-India has been strengthened through a Memorandum of Understanding with the aim of strengthening humanitarian response capacities around food and nutrition security in India. The immediate actions targeting the COVID-19 response will include strengthening capacities of frontline workers on key food and nutrition interventions and using SPHERE-India's network of partners to monitor the situation of economic migrants in real time.

Challenges

Staff continue to work from home and face 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