



World Food Programme



WFP India

COVID Situation Report # 1

August 2020

HIGHLIGHTS of WFP's COVID RESPONSE

- Around 600 million TPDS beneficiaries are aware of their entitlements through One Nation, One Ration Card.
- 80 million migrants are aware of their entitlements under *Atama Nirbhar* (Self-Reliant India)
- WFP's COVID awareness videos have been viewed by more than 50,000 households in three languages.
- More than 2,000 frontline NGOs and Civil Society Organisations have increased knowledge and understanding on food safety and hygiene in community kitchens.

SITUATION UPDATE

- A paradoxical situation of high new cases and high recovery rates being reported in the country, with many states facing the second wave of infections.
- The pandemic has resulted in the worst economic slump in four decades. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) predicts a 4.5 percent decrease in GDP this year. The unemployment rates rose to 27.1 percent in May due to COVID and lockdown measures, pushing almost 114 million out of jobs, which significantly impacted their ability to purchase food. The recovery in employment rates has begun post-May with easing of lockdowns and series of economic recovery measures announced by the Government.
- Natural disasters, such as floods in Assam, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka and Maharashtra, have further impacted millions of people in terms of shelter, livelihoods and access to food and health services.

ONE NATION ONE RATION CARD

Lift your ration under NFSA from any shop of your convenience in the Country!

This facility is currently enabled for NFSA card holders in 20 States/UTs

20 States/UTs

Andhra Pradesh	Bihar	Dadra & N. Haveli and Daman & Diu
Haryana	Himachal Pradesh	Goa
Jharkhand	Karnataka	Kerala
Maharashtra	Mizoram	Odisha
Rajasthan	Sikkim	Telangana
		Tripura
Uttar Pradesh		

To avail the benefits follow these simple steps:

- Visit PoS enabled Ration shop during shop working hours
- Share Aadhaar number or Aadhaar seeded ration card number
- Undergo Aadhaar based biometric authentication at the shop
- Receive your NFSA food grain quota

AAY: 35 kg per family per month

PHH: 5 kg per person per month

5 kg per kg rice
1 kg per kg wheat
1 kg per kg coarse grain

You will receive food grains (i.e. Rice, Wheat and Coarse grains) as per existing policy in the State where you are lifting foodgrains

Contact nearest Panchayat/ municipality office or Food & Civil supplies department for more details

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA RESPONSE

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in unprecedented health and socio-economic crises that is jeopardizing India's tremendous gains in poverty reduction and improving access to food and nutrition for 1.3 billion people. In order to contain its spread and manage grave health risks, a country-wide lock down was announced on 24th March. The Government of India also took proactive action to prevent new infections, provide treatment, support economic relief and ensure delivery of basic services and essential commodities.

- The government formed 11 inter-ministerial Empowered Groups to oversee India's response.
- A USD 22.5 billion relief package, including insurance for frontline health workers, increased subsidies for food grains, and cash transfers for the poor, vulnerable women and daily wage earners.
- An additional 5 Kg (rice or wheat) per person, and inclusion of 1 kg pulses per household per month, free of cost, for all the 800 million TPDS beneficiaries from March through November
- 5 Kg (rice or wheat) per person per month, free of cost to nearly 80 million migrants that are not covered under any food security scheme.

WFP's COVID RESPONSE IN INDIA

WFP's work on COVID has the goals of reaching those who are most in need with food and livelihoods assistance to enable them to cope, while also supporting the right to food and right to work as legislated in the National Food Security Act (2013). WFP's partnership with the Department of Food has focused on increasing awareness of the Government's food responses to the COVID crisis, such as for ONORC, PMGKY and ANB.

The work supports National and State level (Kerala, Odisha, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh) responses to COVID-19, facilitating collaboration between Government, civil society, private sector, UN and other development partners. Partnerships with the private sector are helping to leverage additional financing for scale-up, while innovations and digital tools are being applied to facilitate and expand the reach of solutions to the most vulnerable and marginalized individuals, families and communities.

ADDRESSING MALNUTRITION

- 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: bit.ly/3eLnrIT
- 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: bit.ly/3fRuffI



Snapshot of one of the Hindi-videos on COVID19 Prevention

SOCIAL & BEHAVIOUR CHANGE COMMUNICATION

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

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

The Odia version was virtually launched in 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 and also through the social media websites of the Department of Women and Child Development, National Nutrition Mission, in Kerala: bit.ly/31aQmSv

GENDER AND PROTECTION

In April, WFP prepared a Guidance Note on "Gender and Protection Considerations in the context of COVID-19", 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.

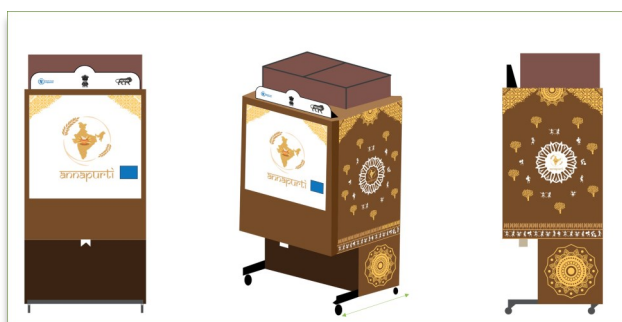
The note was shared with more than 150 NGOs in Uttar Pradesh, Odisha and other states who were implementing various front-line COVID responses. The note can be accessed at: bit.ly/2MvLOxt



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

ENSURING ACCESS TO FOOD

- WFP designed and developed an [automatic grain dispensing machine](#), *Annapurti* (Hindi for 'providing food'). Well-received by the Department of Food and Public Distribution, Government of India, which has now authorized pilots of *Annapurti* in five locations, through Fair Price Shops in August, in partnership with WFP. This solution has become even more relevant during the COVID-19 crisis, as it allows beneficiaries to avail their entitlements accurately and at the time of the choice, thereby allowing for social distancing with minimal human contact.
- WFP is piloting the use of Mobile Storage Units (MSU) with State Governments of Odisha and Uttarakhand to mitigate the gap between increased food distribution during COVID-19 crisis and limited availability of covered space for storage of food grains by increasing storage capacities through the use of MSUs, which are used by WFP globally. In order to promote 'made in India' and for sustainability of the project, WFP is engaging local manufacturers to produce MSUs for the pilot. A note on the MSU pilot can be accessed here: bit.ly/3iEfs8Y



Annapurti— An automated multi-commodity grain dispensing machine

EVIDENCE AND RESEARCH

- In May, WFP 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. The report was well received by the Government of Odisha, and they included it in the repository of COVID-19 information management for the state. The report can be accessed here: bit.ly/2BB13Wp
- The Government also requested WFP to conduct a follow-up assessment of food and livelihood security which will have an additional focus on subsistence farmers, daily wage earners and returnee migrants in rural areas and urban slums which will begin in August.

COVID19 AWARENESS VIDEOS

Created and shared by WFP

Malayalam	20,000+ views Via Facebook, shared by Women and Child Development Department and the National Nutrition Mission in Kerala.
Hindi	1,500+ views WFP India's Hindi version of the videos and playlist
Odiya	30,000 views Distributed by Government frontline workers, via GoO and shared further within the state

JAN AAPURTI APP

Connecting retailers, ration shops and beneficiaries developed for Government of Uttarakhand, launched in May.

Access it here: bit.ly/2ZWgL5C

Number of downloads	20,000
Number of Retailers listed	100

SNAPSHOT OF ANNA PURTI FACT SHEET

# of commodities that can be dispensed	2
Built-in storage capacity	200 Kgs to 500 Kgs
Dispensing speed	25 Kgs in 1.3 minutes
Accuracy of weight	+100 grams for 70 Kg
Power consumption	0.6 KWh

NGO CAPACITY STRENGTHENING

- As a first step of strengthening the capacity of Civil Society Organisations and national NGOs in food and nutrition security, an online capacity needs assessment was developed and launched, in partnership with SPHERE India.
- A proposal for undertaking study on Electronic Negotiable Warehouse Receipt system as a potential South-South Cooperation exchange was approved under the WFP SSTC-COVID Opportunity Fund. This exercise will be conducted in India as a field demonstration for learning from neighbouring countries. Government approval and leadership has been obtained.
- Through a competitive process, SAMARTH, an NGO based in Lucknow, was selected for capacity strengthening to lead the process for procurement, targeting, distribution and monitoring of food packets to vulnerable households not covered by the Government safety nets, beginning in August.

PARTNERSHIPS

- WFP served as 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. This support lasted for more than 60 consecutive days, concluding in early June.
- 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.

- 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 discussed potential impacts of these adaptations on nutrition and food security: bit.ly/3dpx2Eq
- 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: bit.ly/3dTm3Dp

RESOURCING

In April, WFP and the United Nations Development Programme (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 COVID-19 Multi Partner Trust Fund.

Together the agencies are supporting 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 and each agency received US\$ 1 million. FAO is also partnering to carry out research on resilience of agriculture supply chains during COVID.

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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