



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

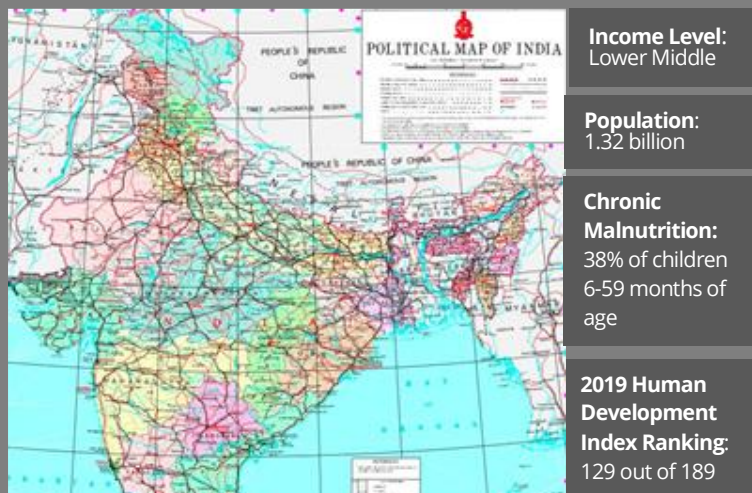
## WFP India Country Brief August 2020



### 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 102<sup>nd</sup> 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.



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## Highlights

Working with the Global Child Nutrition Foundation, Akshaya Patra, IPE Global and MS Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF), WFP organized a two-part **interactive webinar series around school meals during COVID-19**. The first seminar took place on 28 August and focused on impact of COVID-19 on school meals and governments' responses to meet the nutritional requirements of the children during school closures. The keynote speaker was Dr. Don Bundy, Professor of Epidemiology and Development at London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

### Operational Updates

#### Promoting Access to Food

- WFP is working to build the capacity of national civil society organisations in the preparation, planning and implementation of humanitarian food assistance under the UN COVID-19 Multi Partner Trust Fund. Besides providing support on procurement and warehouse planning, WFP guided national NGO, SAMARTH, in establishing beneficiary identification criteria – including a profiling format to identify vulnerable groups based on age, gender, disability, migrant status, chronic ailments, etc. Working together, WFP and SAMARTH also developed COVID-specific [guidelines and checklists](#) to plan for and select food distribution sites focusing on safety, access and comfort to all, staggered timings to prevent crowding and establishing procedures for reporting gender-based violence.

#### Improved Nutrition

- WFP completed its pilot on rice fortification used in the Government's Mid-day Meals scheme in Varanasi District, Uttar Pradesh. Since December 2018, 4,145 mt of fortified rice has been produced and fed to 300,000 school children. The end-line evaluation is being finalized and discussions for handover of the project to the Government are ongoing.
- Following a request from the Uttar Pradesh State Rural Livelihoods Mission, WFP has prepared a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for providing technical assistance to state government and women's self-help groups to produce fortified blended food for use in the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme. The project will establish 204 production units in 18 districts with WFP managing two 'model' demonstration units in Unnao and Fatehpur districts. When finished, more than 3.3 million young children and pregnant and lactating women will benefit from the project.
- In collaboration with the Global Health Strategies, a company that leverages communications and advocacy

## Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Sep'20- Feb'21 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
20.02 m	9.64 m	0.09 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.

to help organizations bring comprehensive change to international health and development, WFP shared its experience in implementing nutrition interventions in Uttar Pradesh through high-level consultations with the Health Minister of Uttar Pradesh and with State Government officials.

## Monitoring and Evaluation

- At the first webinar under the newly established 'Conversation Series' of the Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO) of the planning ministry, NITI Aayog, WFP presented the findings of and led a discussion on the 'Joint Rapid Needs Assessment in Odisha' at a COVID-19 webinar which was attended by more than 100 evaluation and research specialists from national and state government, academic institutions, the UN and specialized agencies such as 3-IE, J-PAL and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.
- Preparations for the follow-up rapid assessment on the impact of COVID-19 in Odisha were finalized, including sampling, tools, training materials and funding. Training and data collection will commence in September.

## NGO Capacity Strengthening

- Based on the findings of the online Capacity Needs Assessment of national NGOs and Civil Society Organisations, WFP and SPHERE India are analysing findings to developing training modules for the e-learning system.
- WFP and SPHERE-India led Inter-Agency Group meetings in seven states to discuss and validate the state-specific recommended food baskets for emergency response, which WFP developed in collaboration with SPHERE-India food and nutrition sector committee.

## South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC)

- WFP's proposal to study India's electronic negotiable warehouse receipt systems as a potential South-South Cooperation exchange was approved under the South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC)-COVID Opportunity Fund. The Technical Advisory Group had its first meeting to launch the work, it was chaired by Dr. Ashok Dalwai, Chairman, Empowered Body, Doubling Farmers Income (DFI), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

## 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.