



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
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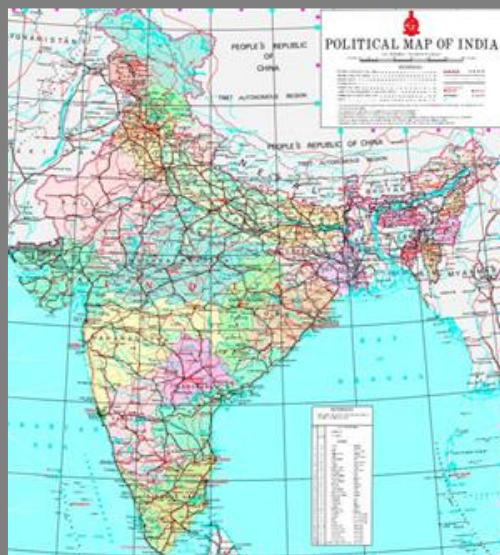
WFP India Country Brief September 2020



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 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.



Income Level:
Lower Middle

Population:
1.32 billion

Chronic Malnutrition:
38% of children
6-59 months of age

2019 Human Development Index Ranking:
129 out of 189

Contact information : wfp.newdelhi@wfp.org
Country Director: Bishow Parajuli
Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/India

Highlights

On 8 September in a virtual ceremony, WFP and the Government of Uttar Pradesh signed a Memorandum of Understanding where WFP will partner with the State Rural Livelihoods Mission to provide technical support to women's self-help groups. WFP will support these groups to produce nutritious, age-appropriate and quality assured supplementary nutrition products for young children and pregnant and lactating women, to be distributed through the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme for 18 districts in India's most populous state.

Operational Updates

Promoting Access to Food

- With technical support from WFP, SAMARTH, a front-line civil society organization, has already identified and registered 14,000 vulnerable households and distributed dry ration kits to 8,200, including households with transgender, female and male sex workers, as well as migrants, disabled and chronically ill members.
- Under its collaboration with the Government to increase awareness of the expansion of food-based safety nets entitlements for the COVID-19 response, WFP has developed [15 products](#) such as billboards, banners, posters, pamphlets and radio spots to better inform their beneficiaries, especially migrants, on the Government's One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) scheme, which allows beneficiaries to access their subsidized food grain entitlements from any Fair Price Shop in the country. The Government approved the materials and disseminated them to 24 States while the audio spots are being played across multiple radio channels around the country.

Improved Nutrition

- In response to a request by the Secretary of the Department of Food and Public Distribution, WFP conducted sensitization sessions for the Rice Millers Associations in Punjab (28 September) and Haryana (29 September) which are the two major producers of rice in the country, to promote rice fortification for the Government's Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and Mid-day Meals programmes.
- As part of Poshan Maah (Nutrition Month) celebrations organized by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, WFP was involved in multiple sessions to sensitize participants from the Government, academia, NGOs, and community-based organizations across the country, on malnutrition and its implications. WFP co-led [sessions](#) with the Institute of Food Security on 14 September and with the Food Corporation of India (FCI) on 21 September.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- WFP finalised the [Management Response](#) for the decentralized evaluation on the Fortification of Mid-day Meals in Dhenkanal, Odisha and submitted to WFP's Office of Evaluation.

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Oct'20 - Mar'21 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
20.02 m	9.55 m	0.21 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.

- WFP finalised and disseminated a [communication video](#) highlighting the process and findings of the decentralized evaluation of the Targeted Public Distribution System in Odisha.
- WFP led the virtual training sessions for enumerators for the follow-up [assessment](#) on the impact of COVID-19 in Odisha. Data collection began immediately after training and is expected to be completed by mid-October.

Gender and Inclusion

- WFP has finalized a concept note on an assessment of food security among the tribal population in Rajasthan, which focuses on individual intra-household distribution and consumption, barriers and opportunities in accessing Government food-based safety nets and the effects of climate change on the unique livelihoods of tribal communities. The work is being supported by WFP's Global Indigenous Peoples Advisor.
- WFP is planning a follow up assessment of intra-household food distribution and consumption among poor households in Uttar Pradesh. Covering 1,000 households in three districts, the assessment will look at the role of gendered social norms in influencing the distribution of food between family members in a household, and how that impacts their food security.

NGO Capacity Strengthening

- WFP has completed the capacity needs assessment of national NGOs and civil society organizations and will use this to develop training modules for the e-learning system.

South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC)

- WFP is continuing work on the study of India's electronic warehouse e-receipt systems with the hiring of a lead expert under the guidance of the Technical Advisory Group.
- WFP signed a Statement of Intent with the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) on 25 September where WFP and NIDM will work together to mainstream food and nutrition security in the national disaster management strategies.

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, Secretary General's Multi-Partner Trust Fund, Sodexo Food Solutions India Private Limited, WFP Trust for India, WFP 2030 Fund, WFP Emerging Donor Matching Fund.

Individual Donors through Share the Meal.