



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP India Country Brief November 2020



Highlights

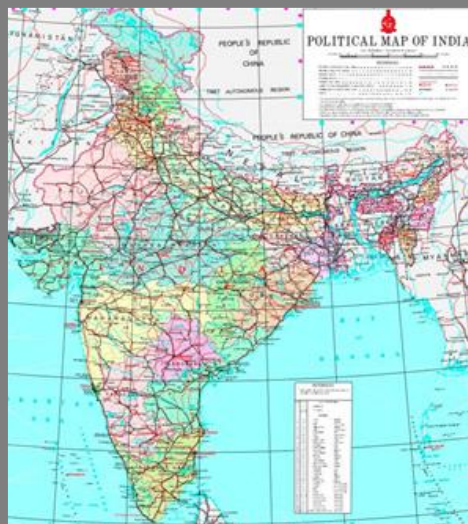
WFP launched the 16 Days of Activism to end Gender-Based Violence campaign on 25 November. The campaign is raising awareness on the increase in domestic/intimate-partner violence during the pandemic, by posting pictures of staff members holding signs to describe in 1-2 words, their feelings while at home during the lockdown. These were shared on [Twitter](#), accompanied by this [blog post](#) about the campaign.

WFP SAYS NO to GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

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

Operational Updates

Promoting Access to Food

- As part of WFP's COVID-19 response, WFP completed the provision of technical support on food distribution to SAMARTH, a frontline civil society organization which distributed food packets to more than 20,000 vulnerable households, including those with sex workers, transgender members, migrants, and members who are chronically ill or have a disability. Post-distribution monitoring will begin next month to also learn more about the challenges these marginalized groups face in accessing the Government's safety nets programmes.

Improved Nutrition

- WFP has completed setup and installation of the supplementary nutrition production unit in Malwa block, Fatehpur district in collaboration with the Uttar Pradesh State Rural Livelihood Mission. This unit will serve as a "Centre of Excellence" for establishing similar units across the state. Every month, the Malwa unit will produce more than 70 mt of fortified blended nutritious foods, reaching more than 25,000 pregnant and lactating women and young children enrolled in the Government's programme. In addition, WFP trained more than 300 government staff and members of the women-led micro-enterprises across eight districts in November.
- WFP shared its insights and experience on rice and wheat flour fortification in a forum organized by the Associated Chambers of Commerce in India, where they discussed how fortification of staple commodities is an economical way to address anemia and cognitive development related issues. WFP also participated in a panel discussion on 18 November during the Children's Week celebration, where the focus was on identifying feasible solutions to India's pressing malnutrition problem.
- The Government of Uttar Pradesh has approved WFP's partnership proposal to strengthen mid-day meals in the State, with a focus on capacity strengthening of school cooks and helpers, establishing nutri-gardens, developing and rolling out nutrition-focused social behavior change communication and technical support to scale up fortification of the food staples used in the programme.

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

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Dec'20-May'21 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
20.02 m	10.64 m	0.00 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.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- WFP has finalized the end-line report on a pilot project of the Government of Kerala and WFP, on the fortification of Nutrimix distributed under Integrated Child Development Services scheme in selected Panchayats of Wayanad, Kerala. In addition, WFP has completed the data collection for the baseline assessment of ICT-assisted training for school cooks in Dhenkanal, with the report expected in early 2021.
- WFP is continuing data analysis of the follow-up assessment on the impact of COVID-19 in Odisha, with results to be presented to the Government in December.
- WFP has begun work with the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare on a review of the distribution of subsidized pulses through the food safety nets with the objectives of assessing the benefits and satisfaction levels among beneficiaries and other stakeholders as well as to explore aspects of sustainability for continuation.

NGO Capacity Strengthening

- As a part of NGO capacity strengthening, in partnership with SPHERE-India, WFP is supporting in strengthening community feedback mechanisms of civil society organizations through Inter-Agency Groups. WFP is developing e-learning modules for strengthening food and nutrition security in the emergency response.

South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC)

- WFP began the data collection phase of the Electronic Negotiable Warehouse Receipts (e-NWRs) study in the second week of November. Due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, it is taking longer than expected and WFP is conducting data collection over the phone.

Gender & Inclusion

- WFP partnered with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to develop a facilitator's guide for conducting training on the protection of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) for implementing partners. The guide is being reviewed by members of the PSEA Network and will be presented to the UN Country Team once finalized.

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 -Partner Trust Fund
- Sodexo Food Solutions India Private limited
- WFP Trust for India
- WFP 2030 Fund