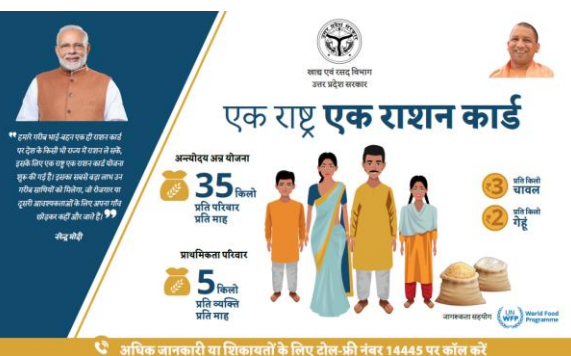




World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP India Country Brief December 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 94th out of 107 countries on the 2020 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

2020 Human Development Index Ranking:
131 out of 189

Highlights

In order to improve use of take-home rations distributed by the Government of Uttar Pradesh through the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS), WFP developed and disseminated a series of [seven cooking demonstration videos](#) amongst 4,500 government functionaries, which aim to encourage the caregivers to use the take-home rations through interesting and nutritious recipes to improve complementary feeding practices among children aged 6-24 months.

Operational Updates

Promoting Access to Food

- WFP is continuing its technical support to SAMARTH, a front-line civil society organisation who distributed food packets to more than 20,000 vulnerable households, through support with post-distribution monitoring (PDM). The PDM will also help to identify challenges faced by the vulnerable households which include those with sex workers, transgender people, migrants, and members who are chronically ill or have a disability, especially in accessing the Government's safety nets programmes.
- WFP is supporting the National Food Ministry in generating awareness on utilization of the One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) scheme by migrant workers affected by COVID-19. The ONORC is implementing national portability of food-security benefits under the Targeted Public Distribution System, where ration card holders can receive their entitlements from any Fair Price Shop across in the country. The campaign has already been rolled out in Lucknow and will eventually cover nearly 10 million beneficiaries in urban areas across nine states.

Improved Nutrition

- Through its partnership with the State Rural Livelihoods Mission, WFP has completed training of 869 women self-help group members and government officials across 18 districts in Uttar Pradesh on decentralized production of take-home rations (THR) for the ICDS.
- WFP continues to engage with the Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD) for technical support to the roll-out of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on rice fortification. With WFP support, the Secretary of the DFPD chaired a meeting with representatives from academia, manufacturers, suppliers and other stakeholders to discuss potential opportunities to scale-up distribution of fortified rice through government food-based safety nets in a sustainable manner. In Odisha, a Technical Advisory Group meeting was also held under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary, Government of Odisha, to agree on the way forward and timelines for implementation of the scheme in the state.

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Jan-Jun '21 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
20 m	10.76 m	0 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 share the end line assessment report on the fortification of mid-day meals in Varanasi District of Uttar Pradesh with the Government of Uttar Pradesh for their review and approval.
- As part of WFP's partnership with the Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO) of NITI Aayog (Planning Ministry), WFP conducted a capacity strengthening session on visual thinking for evaluation facilitation, on 11 December for DMEO staff.
- DMEO and WFP prepared a joint paper entitled '[Evaluate Schemes for Better Outcomes](#)' was published in the India Development Review on 16 December.

NGO Capacity Strengthening

- As part of NGO capacity strengthening, in partnership with SPHERE-India, WFP is supporting the development of a multi-sectoral handbook for improved sectoral coordination and response in the food and nutrition sectors.

South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC)

- WFP is continuing data collection for the Electronic Negotiable Warehouse Receipts (e-NWRs) study, likely to be completed in January 2021. Due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, it is taking longer than expected.

Gender

- A Webinar on "Decoding the Shadow Pandemic: Domestic Violence and our Response during the COVID-19 Pandemic" was organized on 10 December 2020 as the culminating event of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence. The webinar had speakers from UN Women, Martha Farrell Foundation (a gender rights organization) and SAMARTH, a front-line NGO from Uttar Pradesh.
- The WFP-supported One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) campaign that was initiated in Lucknow includes two posters on gender and inclusion – one on gender-based violence and the other on equity in food distribution within households.

Challenges

Staff continue to work from home and face only minor problems in communications and with 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