



UN WFP INDIA COVID-19 BULLETIN

Highlights from COVID-19 response | December 2020

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 signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Uttar Pradesh State Rural Livelihood Mission in the presence of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh. Under the MoU, WFP will provide technical assistance for the setting up of Supplementary nutrition production units in 18 districts for supply of nutritious and quality assured food to the beneficiaries of the Integrated Child Development Services scheme. This effort will ensure availability of nutritious foods to 33 lakh beneficiaries whilst generating livelihood opportunities for approximately 4000 women: bit.ly/36igjSx
- 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

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:



Snapshot of one of the Hindi-videos on COVID19 Prevention

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
- As part of its COVID response, in September and August, WFP guided SAMARTH, in establishing beneficiary identification criteria including a profiling format to identify vulnerable groups based on age, gender, disability, migrant status, chronic ailments, etc. **1026 such vulnerable house-**

holds of transgender, female and male sex workers, migrants, disabled and chronically ill, comprising about a fourth of the total 4011 households, were covered in the



Snapshot of Lucknow’s food distribution by SAMARTH

Vulnerable population who received food kits	34,440 people
Dry ration food kits distributed	8,200

Stats for food distribution activity

first round of food distribution.

ENSURING ACCESS TO FOOD

IEC materials including 15 awareness collaterals have been developed to create awareness of the Government’s One Nation One Ration Card scheme among migrants impacted by COVID and enable them to access additional entitlements under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). These materials have been approved and disseminated to 24 States

20 States/UTs

Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Telangana, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh

ONE NATION ONE RATION CARD
PDS beneficiaries in 20 States now have choice to avail their ration under NFSA from ration shops in any of the 20 States/UTs.

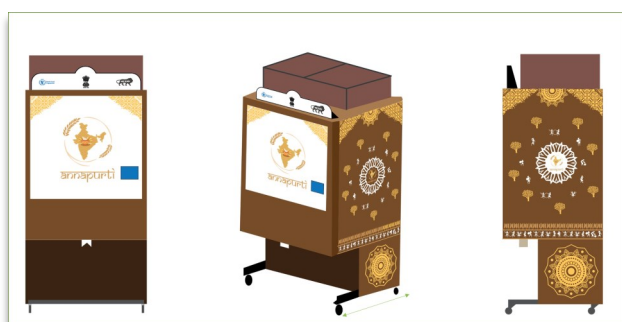
Process flow:
1. Visit PDS enabled Ration shop during shop working hours.
2. Share Aadhaar number or Aaidhar seeded ration card number.
3. Undergo Aadhaar based biometric authentication at the shop.
4. Receive your NFSA food grain quota.

Entitlements:
• AAY : 35 kg per family per month
• PHH : 5 kg per person per month
• per kg rice
• per kg wheat
• per kg coarse grain

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

Advocacy material created for DoFD

- 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 post² 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 (UNPD) 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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