



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP India Country Brief January 2021



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

Last year, WFP purchased three mobile storage units (MSU) to pilot their use in remote areas in two states to reduce storage losses and allow the Government to store grains for use in the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). WFP installed India's first MSU in Uttarakhand which will be used by the Government to store food for nearly 300,000 TPDS beneficiaries. Through WFP's partnership with the Indian Institute of Technology - Delhi the MSUs are being converted to smart warehouses which use sensors and infrared cameras to monitor temperature, humidity, presence of rodents, and stack weights, sending data to the Government's management information system for quality control.

Operational Updates

Promoting Access to Food

- WFP is supporting the National Food Ministry in generating awareness on the utilization of the One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) scheme by migrant workers. The ONORC is implementing national portability of food-security benefits under the TPDS where ration card holders can receive their entitlements from any Fair Price Shop across the country. The campaign started in four states and will eventually cover nearly 10 million beneficiaries in urban areas across nine states.

Improved Nutrition

- On 9 January, the Government of Uttar Pradesh launched the pilot of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme to produce and distribute fortified rice in the TPDS in the state. WFP is providing technical support to this project which will produce and distribute nearly 40,000 mt of fortified rice for more than 1.4 million TPDS beneficiaries this year. WFP also provided training and technical guidance to the 25 private sector rice millers producing for the project.
- WFP finalized the installation of the take-home ration (THR) production facility in Unnao District, Uttar Pradesh which will be operational from mid-February. This pilot facility will produce fortified nutritious take home rations to 12,000 young children and pregnant and lactating women through the government's Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme in the neighbouring communities. WFP also supports the project by developing appropriate labelling guidance for the THR packages with key infant and young child feeding guidance.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- WFP completed the baseline data collection for the assessment of ICT-enabled training for cooks-cum-helper in five schools of Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.
- WFP organised a hybrid annual reporting and planning retreat using a central broadcast centre and an external expert for facilitation and team building, with much of the country office staff participating remotely.

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Aug- Jan'21 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
20 m	8.55 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.

- WFP is completing the analysis of the post-distribution monitoring (PDM) survey carried out by national NGO SAMARTH, following the distribution of food packets to vulnerable and marginalized groups in Lucknow, to measure satisfaction and use of the food received which was part of their COVID-19 response. The survey also captured beneficiaries' awareness of and challenges in accessing the Government's food-based safety nets.

South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC)

- WFP has completed the data collection for the study to document the resilience of the government's Electronic Negotiable Warehouse Receipts (e-NWR) system and the wider commodity market ecosystem to the impact of the nation-wide COVID-19 lockdowns. Once the report is completed, the learnings will be shared to other countries under the SSTC umbrella.

Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management

- The National Institute for Disaster Management and WFP have finalised a joint detailed plan of action and are organizing a series of webinars for policy makers, programme managers and academic institutions for mainstreaming food and nutrition security in the disaster risk management strategies in India. The January discussions and presentations were around 'Sustainable Future and Climate Change: Insights from Adaptation Gap Report 2020'.

Gender

- In early January, WFP's NGO partner in Lucknow, SAMARTH, began data collection for the study on the Gender Dynamics of Intra-household Food Access and Consumption in Uttar Pradesh. The study, covering 1,000 households in three districts will map the intra-household pattern of food distribution and consumption by age and sex of members, while assessing their use and reliance on government food-based safety nets and the impact of COVID-19 on intra-household food distribution and individual food security.

Challenges

Staff continue to work from home and face only minor problems in communications and with work-life balance.

Donors

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- DSM
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