

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES



UN WFP INDIA QUARTERLY BULLETIN

October-December 2020

Welcome to the quarterly bulletin of the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in India. Some of the highlights from October to December are: WFP received the Nobel Peace Prize for 2020, bringing a strong focus on hunger while humanity faced unprecedented disruption due to the COVID-19 pandemic; WFP's concluded COVID-19 response focusing on those who are at risk and often slip through the cracks of food safety with support from the United Nations COVID-19 Response and Recovery Multi-Partner Trust Fund. The One Nation One Ration Card awareness campaign saw collaboration to increase uptake of this provision among migrant workers, and the Rajasthan government signed an MoU with WFP for collaboration on food security and improving nutrition in the state.

Food is the pathway to peace

WFP was conferred the Nobel Peace Prize 2020 “for its efforts to combat hunger, for its contribution to bettering conditions for peace in conflict-affected areas, and for acting as a driving force in efforts to prevent the use of hunger as a weapon of war and conflict”.

Coming at a time when humanity faced one of its worst health, economic and humanitarian crisis, the Nobel placed a spotlight on the issue of hunger. Underscoring the risk that the Coronavirus pandemic could spiral into a hunger pandemic.

The awarding was a humbling recognition of the work of WFP staff who lay their lives on the line every day to bring food and assistance for close to 100 million hungry children, women, and men across the world. People whose lives are often brutally torn apart by instability, insecurity, and conflict.

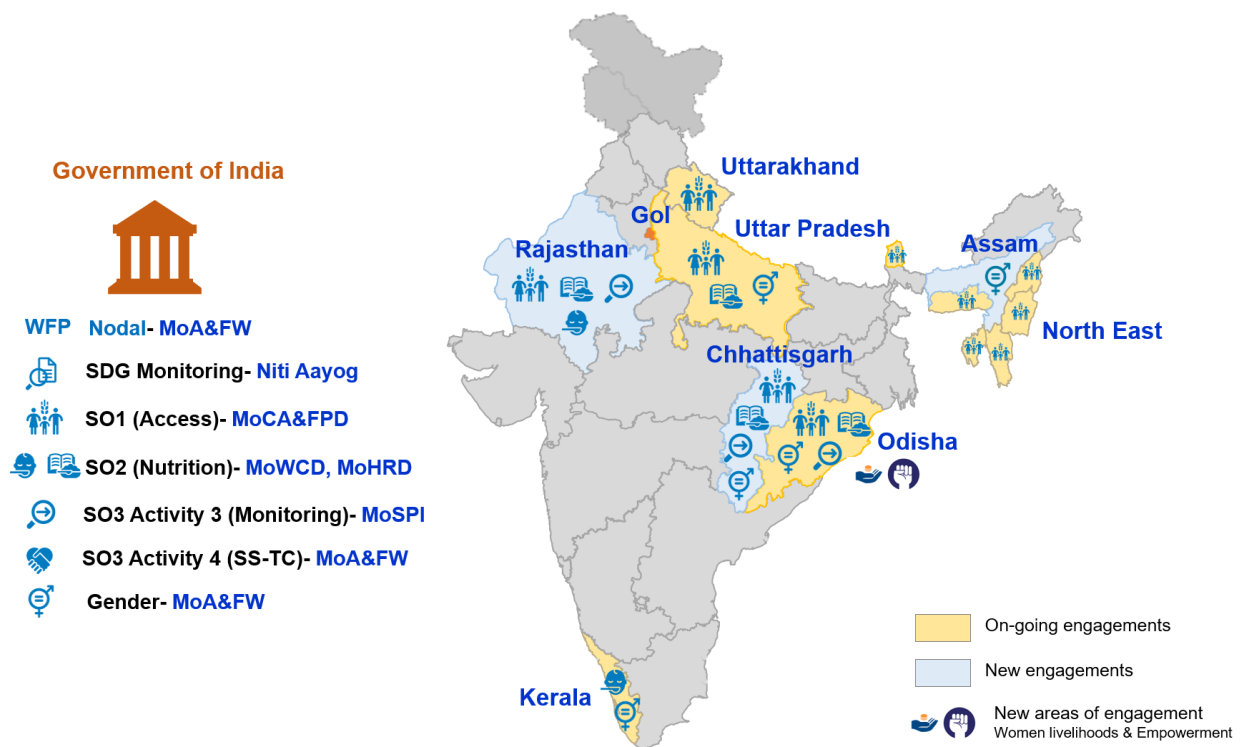
The Norwegian Nobel Committee turned the global spotlight on 690 million hungry people in the world and on the devastating consequences of conflict. Climate shocks and economic pressures have further compounded their plight. And with a global pandemic, its brutal impact on economies and communities millions more have been pushed to the brink of starvation.

WFP works closely with government, organisations, and private sector partners whose passion for helping the hungry and vulnerable equals ours. The award, therefore, marked recognition of all the stakeholders and partners who work towards the goal of #ZeroHunger.

The overwhelming support and outpouring of solidarity allowed WFP India to engage at several platforms that included media, academia, and institutions on the issue of hunger and malnutrition through a solution-oriented narrative.

Acceptance speech by WFP Executive Director David Beasley: <http://bit.ly/3dNmDFk>





Mapping WFP's work with Central and State Governments

COVID-19 response, leave no one behind

Continuing with a strategic and multi-stakeholder intervention, WFP, in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme, reached out to some of most vulnerable and excluded communities to mitigate the devastating socio-economic impact of COVID-19. Supporting the efforts led by the Government of India and State Governments, and working in collaboration with civil society, private sector and UN partners, UNDP and WFP leveraged each other's work.

WFP extended technical support to create capacity of a state-level partner organisation in Lucknow to develop an inclusive process, inform and reach out to social groups, including migrants, with one-time food distribution. The intervention reached out to 108,000 vulnerable people, including 4,500 migrant households, more than 1,000 male and female sex worker households, 250 households with disabled persons. The outreach also focused on women and survivors of gender-based violence.

To ensure access to food, WFP built the capacity of a national NGO to plan for and implement food distribution to vulnerable groups, created awareness of Government schemes for migrant workers, introduced mobile storage units for two state governments, and developed a mobile app to support delivery of food to people during lockdown and to link farmers to Government procurement systems.

The intervention was supported from UN COVID-19 Response and Recovery Multi-Partner Trust Fund.

Portability to strengthen access to food safety nets

The One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) programme, a Public Distribution System portability scheme, for enabling people to access food grains as per National Food Security Act, 2013, any part of in the country is arguably the need of the hour as highlighted by the migration during the preventive lockdowns related to COVID-19. Despite it being a potential gamechanger, the uptake by the targeted beneficiaries has been low.

Under overall guidance and in collaboration with the Department of Food and Public Distribution, Government of India, State Governments, WFP is working on several fronts to increase the utilisation of national portability facility among migrant labours by addressing issues of awareness and other barriers, thus effectively strengthening access to food safety nets.

WFP is undertaking a high-intensity publicity campaign about ONORC in select cities with high load of stranded inter-state migrant labour. This is based on understanding key communication and access barriers and formulate recommendations for scaling-up the campaign.

The campaign has already been rolled out in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, and will eventually cover nearly 10 million beneficiaries in urban areas across nine states.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/3pUxekb>



An elderly woman in Lucknow who received one-time food assistance from WFP supported state-level NGO partner. Reaching the unreached households who were unable to access food safety net has been a priority.



A ration shop with One Nation One Ration Card poster to create awareness on portability to enable beneficiaries to continue accessing food regardless of their location.



School students receiving fortified rice as cooked hot Mid-day Meal.

Enhancing nutrition through rice fortification

Rice fortification has been gaining strong traction for delivering micronutrients since 65 percent of Indians consume rice and rice also constitutes a significant percentage of the grains distributed and cooked under the government social security nets. WFP India is currently providing technical support in the roll-out and implementation of the Centrally Sponsored Pilot Scheme on fortified rice and its distribution under the Public Distribution System (PDS) scheme in Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, Chhattisgarh, and Odisha.

WFP continues to engage with the Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD) for technical support for 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.

WFP collaborated with the Government of Chhattisgarh to launch the Centrally Sponsored Pilot Scheme for distribution of fortified rice through the Government's Targeted Public Distribution System in the Kondagaon

District. The pilot scheme will provide fortified rice to 500,000 TPDS beneficiaries.

WFP is working with the Chief Secretary of Meghalaya State (Northeast) to develop a strategy for introduction and distribution of fortified rice in the state.

WFP has developed information, education and communication materials intended to raise awareness on use and consumption of fortified rice, adapted across 11 regional languages for 15 states. The materials will support the Department of Food and Public Distribution's scale-up of including fortified rice in the ICDS and the Mid-day meals (MDM) programmes.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/3uFIQeD>





A screen shot from an instruction video for preparing Take Home Ration.

Improving nutrition and uptake of Take-Home Ration in Uttar Pradesh

Continuing with a landmark MoU signed with the Uttar Pradesh State Rural Livelihood Mission in the presence of the Hon'ble Chief Minister and collaboration with the Department of Women & Child Development (DWCD), WFP is continuing to work on improving the quality and uptake of nutrition through the Take Home Ration (THK).

Within the six services under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), the most common service that children receive is the supplementary nutrition provided as THR between 6-36 months of age, pregnant/lactating women, and as hot cooked meals to children between 3-6 years of age.

DWCD in collaboration with the Uttar Pradesh State Rural Livelihood Mission will produce the supplementary nutrition products through a decentralised and community driven process in 204 blocks across 18 districts improving the quality of the supplementary nutrition products provided through ICDS. This will be scaled up across the state.

WFP has completed setup and installation of the supplementary nutrition production unit in Malwa block. This unit will serve as a 'Centre of Excellence' for establishing similar units across the state. Every month, the 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.

Capacity building of women's self-help groups is an integral part of the intervention around THR. These include training on financial literacy, principles of nutrition and production. In addition, 254 government staff from eight project districts have trained recently.

WFP also 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.

Watch the videos; <http://bit.ly/3uGvJKc>
Read more : <https://bit.ly/3idQ7uQ>



One of the flyers developed for Social Behaviour Change Campaigns around nutrition.



Chief Minister of Rajasthan Ashok Gehlot and the WFP Country Director in India Bishow Parajuli at the signing of MoU.

Enhancing access to nutrition in Rajasthan

WFP and the Government of Rajasthan signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on achieving food security and improved nutrition in the state to make significant progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 2. This cooperation will target people at high risk of malnutrition, especially women, children, and adolescent girls, to have improved nutrition by 2025.

The MoU was signed on 29th October at Jaipur, in the presence of the Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Ashok Gehlot, and the WFP Country Director in India, Bishow Parajuli.

The Chief Minister in his speech highlighted India's 50-year long partnership with WFP, adding: "The programme has received the prestigious Nobel Peace Prize, and this shows its importance. With WFP's technical expertise, the benefit of the food security schemes will be effectively delivered to all the needy people in the state."

The MoU will be effective between 2020-2023, with a focus on supporting improved food and nutrition amongst vulnerable populations in the state, especially children and women. WFP is also working with the state's Department of Women and Child Development, to improve the nutritional value and quality of take-home rations in Rajasthan.

Read more: <https://bit.ly/3oISARC>

Campaign against Gender Based Violence

WFP believes a hunger-free world is not possible without gender equality and access to food by all vulnerable populations. Gender is a cross-cutting and integral part of WFP's programming and advocacy approach.

Participating in 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, international campaign to challenge violence against women and girls, WFP undertook a range of activities and advocacy engagements to highlight the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on increase in violence against women.

Weaving in the messaging of 'The Shadow Pandemic: Violence against women during COVID-19', WFP undertook a social media campaign from 25th November -International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women - until 10 December, culmination on the Human Rights Day with a webinar.

The webinar titled '*Decoding the Shadow Pandemic: Domestic Violence and our Response during the COVID-19 Pandemic*' had speakers from UN Women, Martha Farrell Foundation (a gender rights organization) a front-line NGO from Uttar Pradesh.

A blog, titled '*From India in solidarity: Ending the 'shadow pandemic' of violence against women*' around the issue and campaign was also published to mark the campaign.

Read more: <https://bit.ly/2Md8h5O>

Knowledge Sharing

Evidence and impact generation is an important area of work for WFP in India as it serves to improve policy formulation and its efficient implementation.

Some of the progress around this area in the reporting quarter includes:

Finalisation of 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, data collection for the baseline assessment of ICT-assisted training for school cooks in Dhenkanal has also been completed.

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.

On assessment of pulses distribution through food safety nets, 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.



Banner for WFP Webinar hosted on 16 Days of Activism.



Posters displayed at ration shops as part of One Nation One Ration Card awareness campaign.

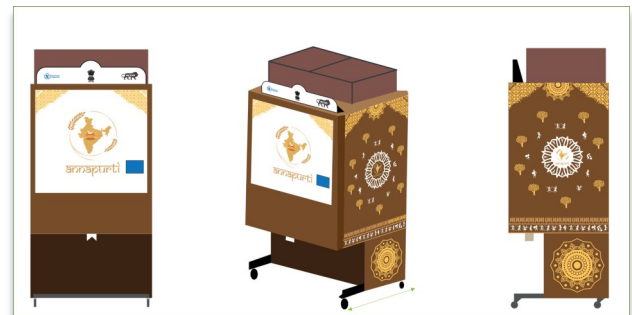
WFP's COVID-19 Response

WFP has been responding to the COVID-19 pandemic in India through direct engagement and strengthening its ongoing programmes on reducing hunger and malnutrition as access to food safety nets is critical in the current situation.

WFP's response has been at national and state level (Kerala, Odisha, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh) marked by collaboration between Government, civil society, private sector, UN, and other development partners. Partnerships with the private sector are helping to leverage additional financing for scaleup, 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.

WFP has been focusing on 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).

Read consolidated update on WFP's COVID-19 response: <https://bit.ly/3bRzGmA>



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



‘Might be useful to provide money to mothers to buy vegetables... so that it helps expand local production’

"It is practically difficult to include many food items... There is this staple food — rice and wheat or pulses — and then there is a programme like mid-day meal to provide hot cooked meals to children at schools. And there is this special intervention of ICDS," says Bishow P. arajuli

Nobel Peace Prize winner WFP’s India link: PDS reforms, rice ATMs

A collage of snapshots of opinion pieces and interviews by WFP and partners.

Outreach

With the Nobel Peace Prize being conferred, WFP in India actively engaged in highlighting the agenda of Zero Hunger and strategies that hold promise through partnership and leadership of the India government. Some of these opportunities related to the World Food Day and COVID-19 pandemic.

To mark the World Food Day 2020, a joint Op-ed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and WFP, India heads of the Rome Based Agencies (RBAs) was published in a leading national daily on the ‘[Road to zero hunger by 2030](#)’.

Another highlight for this period was TEDx Gateway talk by Mr. Bishow Parajuli, Representative & Country Director for the United Nations World Food Programme Food in India, on ‘[Climate Change and Hunger: Safeguarding the Future](#)’.

Mr. Parajuli was also interviewed by India’s official radio broadcaster, the All India Radio for an in-depth conversation on hunger and food security, focused on India’s progress and the global learnings. The [broadcast](#) was part of a special series on India and UN to mark 75th year anniversary of UN.

WFP also participated in several strategic conversations and platforms. These included panel discussion by Observer Research Foundation on ‘[The future of Food: Reimagining resilient food systems in a post-pandemic world](#)’. WFP was also invited at a special online lecture at National Institute of Science Education and Research (NISER), Bhubaneswar.

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.



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