



WFP India Country Brief April 2021

World Food Programme

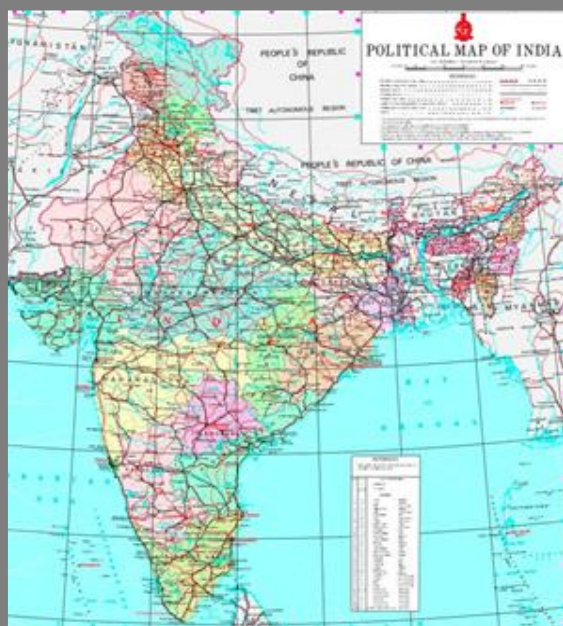
SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



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.

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 also is working to strengthen capacity of national NGOs in the areas of food security and nutrition and supports sharing of India's success through South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC).



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

Situational Update

- In March and April, more than 8 million new cases of COVID-19 were reported, overwhelming medical and healthcare infrastructure.
- India has not yet imposed a national lockdown, but dozens of states, including Delhi, are under strict lockdown. Although the country has administered at least 150 million vaccine doses, its rate of inoculation has fallen sharply in recent days.
- To mitigate the impact of the pandemic on food security, the [central government has extended the Prime Minister's food security scheme for the poor](#) which entitles beneficiaries under the national Food Security Act to an additional 5kg/person/month of rice or wheat.
- Despite working from home since March 2020, around one-third of WFP staff or their family members have contracted COVID-19; all have lost loved ones to the pandemic. While country capacity strengthening activities continue, some field activities are restricted, and many government counterparts are not available either due to illness or a shift of priorities towards the medical response.
- WFP is assessing the situation closely with government stakeholders, UN partners, and CSOs/NGOs, preparing for the recovery phase when food security and nutrition will likely gain a stronger focus.

Operational Updates

Promoting Access to Food

- WFP is providing support to the Government through a joint awareness campaign with the Ministry of Food on the One Nation One Ration Card (national mobility to access government safety nets from any location in the country). WFP has supported logo design, writing tag lines, and preparing quizzes through MyGov which is a citizen engagement platform founded by the Government of India.
- WFP demonstrated the complete solution of the 'Annapurti' automated grain dispensing machine for senior officials of the Government, who approved this for deployment to seven Fair Price Shops in urban areas with large populations of migrant workers. This will enable these populations to access their monthly entitlements at any time of day or night, as beneficiaries of the Government's Targeted Public Distribution System.

Improved Nutrition

- In Uttar Pradesh, local women's micro-enterprises have produced about 34 mt of fortified supplementary blended take home rations (THR) which will be distributed to more than 50,000 Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) beneficiaries in Unnao and Fatehpur districts. In Odisha, production trials on the revised THR recipes have been completed, and feedback on product was gathered through tasting sessions. Surging cases of COVID-19 are delaying project implementation.

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	May-Dec'21 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
20.02 m	12.34 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 signed a partnership agreement with Varanasi District Administration to roll out a comprehensive approach to address nutrition issues among school children. This will include technical support for the inclusion of fortified rice in the Mid-Day Meals (MDM) programme, establishing nutri-gardens, strengthening capacity of school cooks and school-based social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) activities.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- WFP began work to support the Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO), NITI Aayog in planning a comprehensive review of the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013, which is the government policy that makes food an entitlement and under which the three food-based safety nets are being implemented. The review aims to provide critical evidence to augment the effectiveness of NFSA legislation in achieving Zero Hunger in India by 2030.

Gender and Inclusion

- On 27 April the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, entitled "WFP and Indigenous Peoples: Generating Evidence for Action", was organized by the WFP Emergencies and Transitions Unit. At the virtual event, a representative from WFP's India Country Office presented findings from the study of food security among tribal populations in Rajasthan, focusing on the barriers and challenges they face in accessing the Government's food safety nets, as well as some recommendations to improve their access.

South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC)

- WFP signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Odisha to create regional and global policy dialogues around millets as a climate-adaptable cereal for nutrition security. The partnership will be implemented with the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment, Odisha Millets Mission. It is aligned with the resolution that was recently adopted by the United Nations General Assembly which declares 2023 as the International Year of Millets.
- The draft report on the assessment and documentation of the Electronic Negotiable Warehouse Receipts (e-NWRs) was shared in the fourth meeting of the Technical Advisory Group who are providing recommendations to finalise the report next month.

NGO Capacity Strengthening

- In partnership with the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), WFP organized five regional consultations on 'Mainstreaming Food and Nutrition Security in the Emergency, Preparedness and Response package' of the Indian government. WFP launched a capacity needs assessment to determine training needs for professionals at various levels.

Donors

- The Government of India; Associated Data Processing, Inc.; Cargill; DSM; Ericsson India Global Services; General Mills Foundation; Stop Hunger Foundation; Sodexo Food Solutions India Private limited; WFP Trust for India; WFP 2030 Fund; WFP Innovation Accelerator; and Individual donors via WFP SharetheMeal and wfp.org