



# WFP India Country Brief June 2021

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

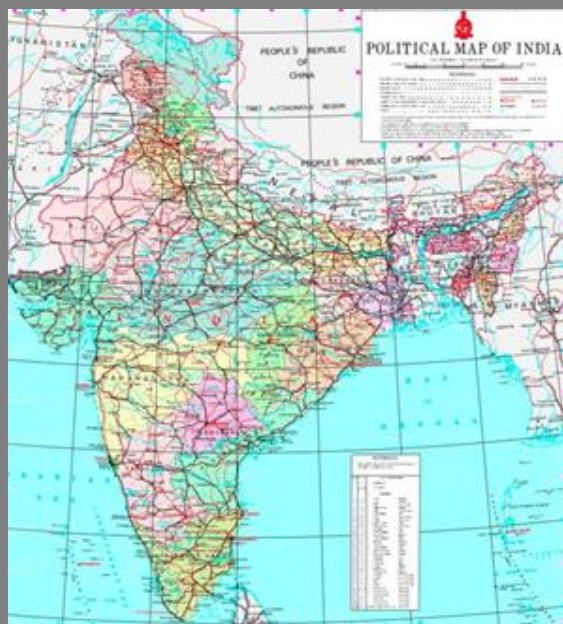


Women smallholder farmers working in their field in Odisha ©WFP/Ankit Sood

## 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 94<sup>th</sup> 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

## Highlights

WFP signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Mission Shakti, the Government of Odisha's Department of Women's Empowerment, in order to strengthen the livelihoods of women's self-help groups and women smallholder farmers in the state. Under this partnership, WFP will provide technical assistance to enhance Mission Shakti's management and coordination of these groups, train women on empowerment and financial literacy, and improve aggregation and market linkages for their products. At scale, the programme is expected to reach 700,000 women's self-help groups comprising around 7 million women in rural and urban areas.

## Operational Updates

### Promoting Access to Food

- One of the main challenges for the Government of India and others responding to the second wave of COVID-19 is the limited availability of real-time information on hotspots around the country that require action from Government and front-line workers. In collaboration with the Department of Food and Public Distribution, WFP has developed a real-time tracking system to generate actionable information on food security, health, livelihoods using crowdsourcing from various government and non-government stakeholders in the field. The system will map hotspots across the country and link to the price monitoring dashboard developed by WFP in response to the first wave of COVID-19, in order to also flag unusual increases in the prices of key commodities.

### Improved Nutrition

- The Government has recently approved the social media products on fortified rice which were developed by WFP in Hindi and English and focus on themes including the rice fortification process and nutritional value of fortified rice. With these social media contents, WFP aims to increase awareness and acceptability of fortified rice, to dispel myths and misconceptions, and to educate people on nutritional benefits of consuming fortified rice. The products will soon be uploaded on the government's social media platforms and will also be publicized by WFP's social media handles.
- WFP continues to provide technical assistance for nutritional improvement of fortified supplementary take-home rations (THR) provided to mothers and young children through the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) programme across the country. With NITI Aayog, a public policy think tank, WFP is documenting best practices of States and Union Territories on various aspects of THRs; while in Uttar Pradesh, WFP is providing technical support to THR production units in two districts which have produced 160 mt of improved THR to ICDS beneficiaries. In Odisha, WFP is in process of setting up THR production units in Khurda and Kendrapara districts.

Contact information : [wfp.newdelhi@wfp.org](mailto:wfp.newdelhi@wfp.org)

Country Director: Bishow Parajuli

Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/India](http://www.wfp.org/countries/India)

## Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Jul - Dec'21 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
20 m	12.57 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 supported the Odisha Inter Agency Group (IAG) in a rapid assessment of communities most affected by Cyclone Yaas. IAG partners collected the data from the cyclone-affected areas while WFP analysed the data and prepared a report that highlights immediate relief and longer-term recovery needs at the village level.
- The Strategy Paper on Strengthening National Evaluation Capacities, which was prepared by the Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO) with support from WFP has been approved by the NITI Aayog. The strategy paper sets the vision, mission, and targets to be achieved by DMEO by 2030.
- WFP made a presentation on *SDG 2 and Malnutrition Challenges in Rajasthan* in the Planning Department of the Government of Rajasthan on the occasion of National Statistics Day.
- WFP is leading an assessment of the monitoring and evaluation capacity and needs of the staff in the Government of Rajasthan's Directorate of Evaluation Organization (DEO) which will help WFP to develop and implement a training package to strengthen their capacity.

## Gender and Inclusion

- In compliance with the UN Inter-Agency Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Network, WFP initiated a PSEA Risk Assessment exercise.

## South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC)

- The Technical Advisory Group approved the report on the Assessment & Documentation of the Electronic Negotiable Warehouse Receipts System (e-NWRS). A series of knowledge products to illustrate the best practices will be produced to share with countries interested in this topic and can lead to more formal SSCT engagement.

## Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction

- In partnership with the National Institute of Disaster Management, WFP launched the Map & Exchange Good Practices (MEGP) Initiative for Food Security and Nutrition in Climate Fragilities and Disasters, which will foster support for good practices for replication and scale-up.
- WFP, the All India Disaster Mitigation Institute and SPHERE India, organised a webinar to launch the initiative on the State of Humanitarian Systems (SoHS) in India, with the objective of understanding the perspectives of the stakeholders and to seek inputs in making the study more comprehensive.

## Donors

- Associated Data Processing; Bank of America Charitable Foundation; Cargill, Inc.; Citrix Systems, Inc.; Ericsson India Global Services; General Mills Foundation; General Mills, Inc.; Individual donors to Share the Meal & WFP.org; Nutrition International; Sodexo Food Solutions, India Private Ltd.; Stop Hunger Foundation; WFP Trust for India; WFP Innovation Accelerator; WFP 2030 Fund