



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

Quarterly Bulletin

UN WFP India | April-June 2021

This edition of the Quarterly Bulletin for WFP in India covers a period marked by the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. It showcases WFP response to the surge, update on a new partnership with the Government of Odisha; ongoing support to the One Nation One Ration Card campaign; improving the functioning of the Targeted Public Distribution System; enhancing nutrition through Take Home Ration production units that empower the women in the community; awareness campaigns on safe food distribution, prevention of gender-based violence given the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. *Scroll down for more.*

RESPONDING TO COVID-19 WITH FOCUS ON FOOD AND NUTRITION

The second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic overwhelmed India in the April-June quarter. Most states went into lockdowns or preventive restrictions, impacting the livelihood and food situation of the poor and marginalised already reeling under the impact of the first wave.

The Government of India responded swiftly by announcing adaptations to the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) that routinely provides highly subsidized food grains to two-thirds of the population (813 million people). These included advance allocations, longer hours for the Fair Price Shops, additional rations at no cost, and specific provisions for migrants.

WFP in India continues to align its existing programmes and seek new partnerships to respond to the fallouts of the pandemic on food and nutritional security.

June 2021

Several high-level engagements were initiated with development, corporate and private partners to explore short and long-term responses with WFP on the food and nutritional needs with the worsening of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. These were well received and WFP hopes for concrete partnerships going forward.

WFP continues to extend technical support to the Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD) and Food Corporation of India (FCI) for scale-up and distribution of fortified rice under Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and Mid-day Meal (MDM) schemes across the country.

WFP continues to support states and National Governments to improve their COVID-19 response by filling the critical evidence gaps.

The NITI Aayog, a public policy think tank of the Government of India, has recognised WFP's support and contribution around specific government schemes, particularly around nutrition and evidence generation for analysis and monitoring.

WFP interventions focused on working through existing government systems and structures, targeted supplemental support for pregnant and lactating women and young children, strengthening the capacity of civil society networks to focus on vulnerable communities to meet food needs through local NGOs and community organizations, and ongoing assessment of the food security situation and establishment of a monitoring mechanism to help plan a response and ensure that no one is left behind.

Improving Nutrition

SUPPORTING STATE LIVELIHOOD MISSION TO STRENGTHEN NUTRITION

The Uttar Pradesh State Rural Livelihoods Mission and WFP are partnering on the production of age-appropriate, energy-dense supplementary foods. Two Take-Home Ration (THR) production units in Unnao and Fatehpur, operated by women Self Help Groups, have distributed 150 mt of THR to 75,000 children pregnant and lactating women. The model is localised and anchored in the community, with the women's groups leading the micro-enterprises. WFP has also facilitated the training of 256 Anganwadi workers in these districts who are responsible for the distribution.

ENHANCING NUTRITION AMONG VARANASI SCHOOL CHILDREN

A partnership agreement has been signed between the Varanasi District Administration and WFP to roll out a comprehensive programme to address nutrition issues among school children. The activities include technical support for the inclusion of fortified rice in the MDM program, establishing Nutri-gardens, strengthening the capacity of school cooks, and school-based social and behaviour change communication activities.

TRACKING ICDS AND MDM SCHEMES DURING COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic and the ensuing second wave have led to the closure of schools and the mother child health nutrition centres across the country, thereby bringing about a change in the delivery of services. WFP has been tracking the state-level responses in implementing the food component of the [Integrated Child Development Services](#) and the [Mid Day Meal schemes](#). The Quarterly Reports for 2021 have been appreciated by Union Ministries and Development Partners.



Access to Food

ONE NATION ONE RATION CARD CAMPAIGN



An immersive campaign was rolled out on social media in May to generate visibility of the Government's One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) scheme by crowdsourcing design for a logo and tagline. The campaign generated strong traction heightened by a series of quizzes around the scheme. Nearly 16,000 entries are under evaluation.

WFP continues its collaboration with the Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution in generating awareness on increasing the uptake of the ONORC scheme by migrant workers impacted by COVID-19.

INNOVATION: RETAIL PRICES & FOOD BASKET PRICE DASHBOARD

To enable the Government and stakeholders to monitor changes in prices of key commodities which can fluctuate due to the impact of COVID-19 on production and transportation, WFP has developed a dashboard for monitoring and analysis of the retail prices of food commodities.

The dashboard uses the retail prices of commodities captured daily by the Price Monitoring Division of the Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

The primary objective of the dashboard is to create a food basket consisting of the preferred cereals, pulses, and edible oil by each state and analysing the variation in the prices of the food basket.

The dashboard enables the stakeholders to: Rank states based on the increase in the prices of commodities; Identifying the commodities across India that will see the highest price increase; the Geographical view by states and centers on the variations in prices.

[Interact with the dashboard](#)

ODISHA AND WFP JOIN HANDS ON EMPOWERING WOMEN THROUGH STRENGTHENED LIVELIHOODS

Leveraging the power of collective, WFP and Odisha government have joined hands to work with the Women's Self-Help Groups to improve household food and nutrition security.

"Sustainable livelihoods lead to improved household food and nutritional security and ultimately result in holistic empowerment of women. This collaboration will support Women's Self-Help Groups (WSHGs) by providing technical assistance and capacity development, directly contributing to long-term food security and developing a replicable model," said Ms. Sujata R Karthikeyan, Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Department of Mission Shakti, Odisha Government, at a virtual ceremony on June 23.

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 seven million women in rural and urban areas.

[Read more](#)

Thanks to our donors: Stop Hunger Foundation, Sodexo Food Solutions India Private Limited, Ericsson India Global Services, Associated Data Processing, Individual donors to Share The Meal, General Mills Foundation, General Mills Inc, Cargill Inc, Nutrition International, Individual donors at WFP.org, Citrix Systems Inc Bank of America Charitable Foundation, WFP Trust for India, WFP Innovation Accelerator, WFP 2030 Fund.

Evidence, Impact & Capacity Building

PARTNERSHIP WITH DMEO

WFP India Country Office facilitated the Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office's (DMEO) participation in the EvaluVision panel organized by WFP Bangkok Regional Bureau in the gLOCAL week and developed a blog co-written with DMEO highlighting the approaches to using EvaluVision in India.

COLLABORATION WITH GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN

A research report on "Food Security and Sustainable Livelihoods in Rajasthan: A gender and inclusion assessment" was prepared by WFP in partnership with the Government of Rajasthan. It was initiated for supporting the state Government's efforts to improve the nutrition, food, and livelihood security of two vulnerable tribes, the Bheel and Sahariya, with evidence-based, actionable recommendations that are specific and responsive to their unique socio-cultural context. Some of the recommendation that emerged are:

- Enhance tribal populations' access to Government's food safety nets programmes and address the barriers in accessing and utilizing these entitlements.
- Address gender inequity in access, consumption, and utilization of food within tribal households.
- Mitigate the effect of climate change on the unique livelihoods of tribal communities.
- Enhance food security and nutrition

CREATING CAPACITY

With the National Institute of Disaster Management, WFP organised five regional consultations on 'Mainstreaming Food and Nutrition Security in the Emergency, Preparedness and Response package' of the Indian government. WFP has also launched a capacity needs assessment to determine training needs for professionals at various levels.

United Nations World Food Programme

India Country Office

2 Poorvi Marg, New Delhi 110057, India

Phone: +91 11 4655 4000 | E-mail: WFP.NewDelhi@wfp.org

Twitter: @UNWFP_India | www.wfp.org/countries/india

Outreach



World Environment Day

Over 80 percent of the world's food-insecure live in degraded environments exposed to storms, floods, and drought.

Bishow Parajuli
United Nations World Food Programme
Representative and Country Director to India

#SwachhSeSwasth | ndtv.com/swasthindia



An Opinion Piece by Country Director Bishow Parajuli was published in NDTV on the World Environment Day. It generated plenty of discussion on social media. [Read](#)

PMGKAY, India's Covid relief programme, praised by UN wing: Official

Union food secretary Sudhanshu Pandey said the WFP has conveyed to the government that it would like to undertake a case study of the scheme so that other emerging economies could benefit from its design and implementation.

By Zia Haq, Hindustan Times, New Delhi
UPDATED ON JUN 24, 2021 04:40 AM IST



WFP praises PMGKAY. To undertake case study under the scheme [Read](#)

Direct link between malnutrition, diseases: UN's WFP India official

'Malnutrition is lethal in combination with infectious diseases'

NEW DELHI: Underlining that there is a direct link between malnutrition and diseases, India country director of UN World Food Programme Bishow Parajuli suggested safeguarding and promoting access to nutritious, safe, and affordable diets and investing in improving maternal and child nutrition to protect children's right to nutrition in the COVID-19 pandemic.

India has been battling high prevalence of malnutrition among its population, especially children, with National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-4 (2015-16) data showing that 35.7 per cent



Bishow Parajuli

wasted in the country. Even NFHS-5 which was conducted in 22 states and union territories presented a grim scenario and showed a rise in

director said malnutrition is particularly lethal in combination with infectious diseases such as ARI, malaria, measles, diarrhoeal diseases – the major killer diseases affecting children.

Responding to a question if malnutrition can become a comorbidity for children infected with COVID-19, he said in general, there is a direct link between malnutrition and diseases like coronavirus disease.

"Malnutrition can make a person more susceptible to infection through a lowered immune response, and infection further contributes

deteriorating nutritional status. It is known that malnutrition magnifies the effect of disease and a malnourished person has more severe disease episodes, more complications, and spends more time ill for each episode," he said.

There have been speculations that the third wave of COVID-19 may impact children more. However, the available evidence show that children are as much affected as adults.

"It is, however, important that parents and caregivers of children get vaccinated so that they act as a protective ring around the children till such

Mr. Bishow Parajuli's interview on the link between malnutrition and diseases was carried extensively across news media in print and online. [Read](#)

Photo page 1: Beneficiaries receiving ration in Odisha during the the second phase of the COVID-19 lockdown | WFP

Photo page 3: School children receiving fortified Mid-Day Meal in Varanasi, UP | WFP/Neha