



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP India Country Brief July 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 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

- On July 14<sup>th</sup>, WFP launched the prototype of *Annapurti*, WFP's automated multi-grain dispensing machine, at a Fair Price Shop in Haryana in collaboration with the Department of Food and Public Distribution and the Government of Haryana. *Annapurti* was developed by WFP using their extensive experience in working with the Government's Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) operations and applying engineering and innovation in order to reduce leakages and wastage and to enhance accuracy. With this pilot, WFP aims to understand the acceptance and scope of further enhancement of the machine which will support its advocacy for a nationwide scale-up, with a focus on use by migrant populations.

## Operational Updates

### Improved Nutrition

- With an overall objective to improve health and nutrition outcomes among school age children in India, WFP India led the development of the Network for School Health and Nutrition, with partners such as UNICEF, UNESCO, the World Bank, MS Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation (KSCF), the Global Child Nutrition Foundation (GCNF), and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). At the first meeting where the group discussed the structure and operational aspects of the Network, WFP was chosen as the Secretariat for the first two years.
- WFP continues to provide Technical support for Decentralized Production of Take-Home Rations (THR) in Uttar Pradesh, Odisha and Rajasthan. In Uttar Pradesh, 182 mt of THR has been produced and 420 Anganwadi workers have been trained on the new recipes and improved counselling skills. In Rajasthan, WFP met with the Minister of Women and Child Development to agree on way forward for implementation of the project.
- In Odisha, the Chief Minister launched the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for distribution of fortified rice through the Targeted Public Distribution System on 29<sup>th</sup> July. With technical support from WFP, around 200 rice millers have established blending facilities in the state. In Uttar Pradesh, 26 rice millers have been trained on improved quality control and quality assurance measures for production and distribution of fortified rice under TPDS in Chandauli district.

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## Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Aug'21- Jan'22 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
20 m	12,82 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 presented the processes, methods, and findings of the evaluation of a joint project of WFP and the Government of Odisha on fortification of rice distributed under mid-day meals in Dhenkanal in a workshop organized by the Department of Food and Public Distribution. The main objective was to sensitize other States in the programme to undertake evaluation.
- WFP completed a capacity and needs assessment of the Directorate of Evaluation Organisation (DEO) of the Planning Department, Government of Rajasthan. As a follow-up, WFP presented the findings of the capacity assessment at a consultative meeting on strengthening evaluation capacities, which focused on cross learning around best practices for state-led evaluations which included the Rajasthan Planning Department, DMEO-NITI Aayog and the Karnataka Evaluation Authority (KEA),

## Gender and Inclusion

- WFP shared the report of the study on Tribal Food Security and Vulnerability in Rajasthan with the Departments of Food and Tribal Area Development of the state who provided inputs to enhance the analysis and develop pilot proposals based on the study recommendations.

## 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).

## Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction

- The State Department of Agriculture organised a stakeholder meeting on 23 July for its partnership with WFP and the University of Reading on 'Improved Food Security for Smallholder Farmers using Climate Services'. The meeting included the Indian Meteorological Department, University of Agriculture and Technology, Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA) and various other Departments to review and reflect on potential alignment and capacity strengthening efforts.
- In collaboration with the Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR), WFP organized a side event on 'Bolstering local actions to enhance climate resilience', in the Asia Pacific Climate Week 2021.

## 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