



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP India Country Brief August 2021



Prime Minister Narendra Modi announcing the mandatory fortification of rice under various government schemes. © Prime Minister's Office.

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

Highlights

- Saying malnutrition poses “major obstacles” in the development of women and children, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced during his Independence Day speech on August 15th that the fortification of rice distributed under various government schemes, including the Public Distribution System (PDS) and mid-day meals in schools would be mandatory by 2024. WFP has been leading the work on rice fortification in the country for several years and the announcement was indeed historic and will certainly contribute to the reduction of micronutrient malnutrition, especially for the nearly 1 billion most vulnerable people who are targeted by these programmes.

Operational Updates

Ensuring Access to Food

- Using the retail commodity price data from the Price Monitoring Division of the Department of Consumer Affairs in New Delhi, WFP developed a Management Information System (MIS) that allows users to easily analyse and monitor changes in commodity prices by type and location. The dashboard is in the process of being handed over to the Department and can be found [at this link](#).
- More than 1 mt of food grains have been distributed using WFP's Annapurta (automated grain dispensing machine) which is being piloted in one Fair Price Shop in Haryana state, targeting beneficiaries of the Government's COVID-19 response scheme which provides 5 kgs of grains per person, each month. WFP will be piloting another Grain ATM in Odisha next month.
- For the Government of Rajasthan, WFP has developed a GPS-enabled tracking system for monitoring the movement of food grains from warehouses to Fair Price Shops using mobile devices. The system will be piloted in Alwar District next month.

Improved Nutrition

- WFP recently rolled out the Food Safety and Hygiene application for school cooks in Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh) and Dhenkanal (Odisha) districts. This included the distribution of android tablets to school representatives. The application will be used by school cooks and helpers in 350 schools in these states during the pilot phase.
- WFP supported decentralized take home ration (THR) production units in Uttar Pradesh continue to regularly produce fortified blended foods and distribute THR among beneficiaries covered under the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS).

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Sep'21- Feb'22 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
20.02 m	13.07 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.

The unit members were recently felicitated by Hon. Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh and presented them with their earnings for the first month of production.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- WFP completed the initial assessment of the pilots of the training application for school cooks and helpers in Varanasi and Dhenkanal. The assessment aimed to establish baseline on the Knowledge, Attitude and Practices among the target group around nutrition, food safety, hygiene and use of technology.
- On August 24th, WFP organised a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) Inception Meeting which was chaired by the Secretary of Planning, Government of Rajasthan and focused on updating TAG members on the joint partnership and presented the Terms of Reference for their support and participation.

South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC)

- On August 27th, WFP and Odisha Millets Mission (OMM) held a one-day workshop in Bhubaneswar where more than 40 participants discussed thematic areas of improving millet production and its value chain, increasing consumption, use of technology in millet value chain, reviving millet as a climate resilient crop, mainstreaming millet in the safety-nets and gender and inclusion in millet value chain.

Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction

- In collaboration with the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), WFP launched the Map and Exchange Good Practices (MEGP) initiative which plans to provide a co-learning and networking platform for humanitarian practitioners and innovators working on food and nutrition security and to provide feedback and motivation for replication and scale-up.

Gender and Inclusion

- WFP published an Opinion Piece by the Gender and Inclusion office, entitled [International Youth Day 2021: Young People Must Play A Role In Healing The Planet And Food Systems](#), on the occasion of International Youth Day 2021. The article focused on the need to expand youth engagement in the food system while also addressing gender inequity to ensure women's leadership and empowerment.

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