



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP India Country Brief September 2021

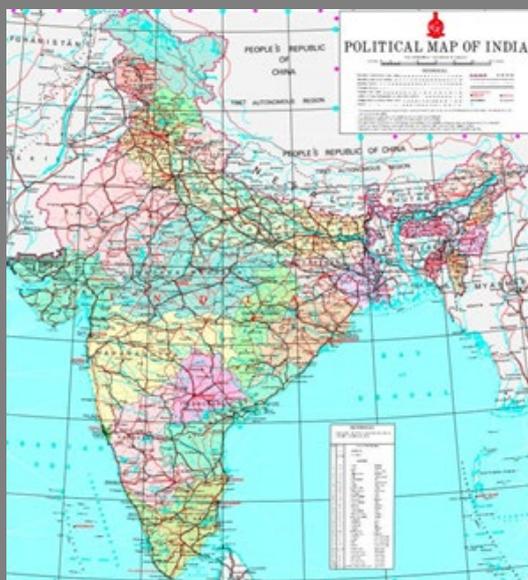


The newly installed mobile storage unit in Bargarh (Odisha).  
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## Operational Context

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

- Recently, WFP installed a mobile storage unit (MSU) in Bargarh (Odisha) as part of a pilot programme in which three MSUs were procured from UNHRD to support state governments in reducing post-harvest losses in remote areas. Further, through WFP's partnership with the Indian Institute of Technology – Delhi, the MSUs will be converted to smart warehouses which use sensors and infrared cameras to monitor temperature, humidity, presence of rodents, and stack weights, sending data to the Government's management information system for quality control.

## Operational Updates

### Ensuring Access to Food

- As part of the *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav* to commemorate India's 75 years of Independence, the Department of Food and Public Distribution released the "Compendium on Food Security Response during COVID-19 and Public Distribution System (PDS) Best Practices in some States/UTs" which WFP developed in collaboration with the Department. The Compendium highlights the response of the Department in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, including the scaled-up implementation of the national portability of the PDS, enabling beneficiaries, especially migrants, to collect their entitlements from any Fair Price Shop across the country using their existing ration card.

### Improved Nutrition

- As part of the *Poshan Maah* 2021 (Nutrition Month) celebrations, WFP and government partners delivered a webinar on fortified rice in order to inform and sensitize government staff and the general public while also addressing myths and misconceptions. Nearly 380 participants attended the live webinar, while 6,000 have viewed the recorded version.
- WFP and the Department of Food and Public Distribution in Uttar Pradesh conducted sensitization training sessions for 343 rice millers and government officials from 61 rice-producing districts in the state. This will contribute to mainstreaming fortified rice in the food-based safety nets.
- The Fifth Monitoring Report (April-June 2021) on monitoring the implementation of mid-day meals across the country shows that, despite schools being closed for summer vacations, mid-day meal entitlements (dry rations and/or food security allowances) were distributed in all states and Union Territories except one.

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**Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)**

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Oct'21-Mar'22 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>20.02 m</b>	<b>13.07 m</b>	<b>0 m</b>

**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 (M&E)**

- WFP and the Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO) of NITI Aayog jointly conducted a one-day training session for government officials of the Directorate of Evaluation Organization (DEO) of the Planning Department in Rajasthan. This was the first among the four training sessions outlined in the Implementation Work Plan this year to augment the M&E capacities of DEO officials.

**South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC)**

- As a part of mainstreaming millets as a climate resilient nutritious crop, WFP and the Odisha Millet Mission are assessing and documenting good practices and lessons learned in order to gain insight on the specifics of millets policies and key initiatives undertaken. The top-line findings will be presented to stakeholders in October 2021.

**Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction**

- The National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM)-WFP joint initiative on mapping and exchange of good practices for food security and nutrition in climate fragilities and disasters received 55 applications. Applications were reviewed by a panel of jury members who shortlisted 31 entries as the most inspiring solutions to be included in the Good Practices publication. Finalists will present their solutions in a regional workshop in November 2021.
- WFP signed an agreement with International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) for efficiently implementing climate resilient sustainable food systems approaches in India.

**Gender and Inclusion**

- WFP partnered with SPHERE India on September 1<sup>st</sup> to launch an e-learning course on "Gender, Protection and Inclusion in Food Security and Nutrition Programmes". The course provides a comprehensive rationale and guidance on practical approaches for incorporating gender, inclusion and protection in programmes that address food and nutrition related concerns, particularly in the context of COVID-19.
- WFP published a story in the Hindustan Times on [Why do women eat last? Understanding gender bias in India](#) which is based on WFP's research on intrahousehold food distribution in the state of Uttar Pradesh, and explores the gender dynamics in food access, distribution, and consumption within households.

**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.