



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

## WFP India Country Brief October 2021

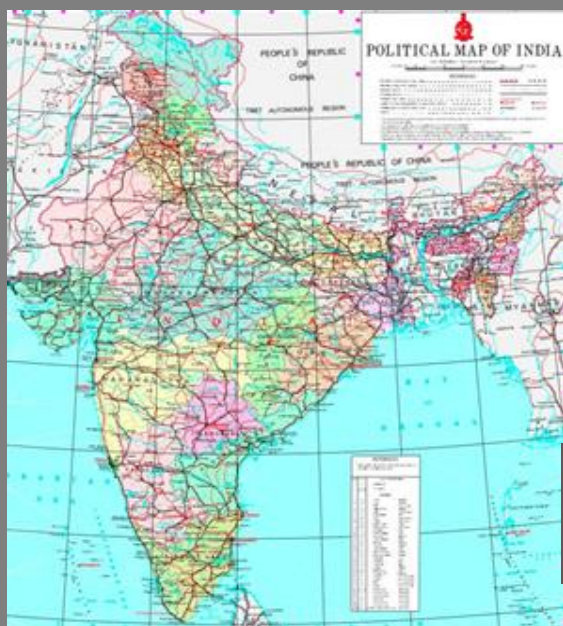


Madhu, 28, works at the WFP supported Take Home Ration production unit in Malwan block, Fatehpur. This is her first paid work. © WFP/Parvinder Singh

### 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 staff visited the take home ration (THR) production unit in Fatehpur, Uttar Pradesh, in early October where they interacted with members of the women-led microenterprise leading the production. The production is supported by WFP in partnership with the Uttar Pradesh State Rural Livelihoods Mission. The objective of the visit was to understand how the project has empowered them and changed their lives and document the initiative as an example of a gender transformative approach. A case study is being prepared and will be available next month.

### Operational Updates

#### Ensuring Access to Food

- As part of WFP's support to the Government of Rajasthan to improve the efficiency of the Targeted Public Distribution System, WFP developed a GPS-enabled tracking system for monitoring and analysing the movement of food grains between warehouses and Fair Price Shops. The solution piloted in Alwar District will be rolled out in phased manner to support tracking of approximately 2.79 million mt of grains every year.

#### Improved Nutrition

- WFP organized a capacity building session for 126 Government officials and staff working on the PM-POSHAN scheme in Uttar Pradesh, which is aimed at improving nutritional status of school-going children. The session focused on increasing their knowledge and understanding of the benefits and common myths and misconceptions around fortified rice.
- WFP continues to provide technical assistance to women's microenterprises to support the decentralized production of nutritious take-home rations (THR) in Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, and Rajasthan. In Uttar Pradesh, 400 mt of THRs have been distributed to beneficiaries under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme.

#### Monitoring and Evaluation

- Data collection of the baseline evaluation of a pilot project for local production of fortified THR in Jaipur District of Rajasthan is completed.
- WFP is supporting the Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO), NITI Aayog to institutionalize monitoring and evaluation (M&E) as part of the government administrative training. WFP and DMEO have jointly drafted the national M&E curriculum and evaluator competencies for government officers at senior and middle

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## Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Nov'21-Apr'22 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
20.02 m	13.09 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.

management, and for research staff, which have been approved by DMEO and shared with the government for implementation across administrative training institutes.

- Through WFP's support to the Government of Rajasthan to monitor SDG 2 in the state and at sub-district level, 26 of the 36 indicators recommended by WFP have been approved by the Chief Secretary and incorporated in the District Indicator Framework released in October 2021 by the Planning Department.

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

- WFP prepared the draft assessment and documentation of good practices and lessons learned report and submitted it to the Odisha Millets Mission for their feedback. The top line findings shall be presented to stakeholders in a validation workshop in November 2021. Dialogues are initiated at national level to support millet mainstreaming as climate responsive nutritious crop.

### Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction

- The National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) and WFP are organising a virtual [Regional Conference on Food Security and Nutrition in Climate Fragilities and Disasters](#) from November 30 to December 2. The Mapping and Exchange Good Practices event identified 31 inspiring solutions in food and nutrition security from the submissions with the best-case stories to be presented at the conference.
- The baseline assessment for development of a 'Secure Fishing' application for vulnerable fishing communities in Odisha is completed and a technical agency has been hired to develop the application.
- As a run-up to the COP26, WFP India presented India's two projects highlighting the use of climate services for increased resilience and adaptation at a side event of the international conference "Adaptation Futures".

### Gender and Inclusion

- About fifty stakeholders from the Government and Non-Government participated in a consultation in Lucknow on October 8<sup>th</sup> where WFP shared the preliminary findings from the study on *Gender Dynamics of Intrahousehold Food Access and Consumption in Uttar Pradesh* and facilitated discussions on areas of further analysis, recommendations, and strategic utilization of the evidence.

### Donors

- Associated Data Processing; Bank of America Charitable Foundation; Cargill, Inc.; Citrix Systems, Inc.; Ericsson India Global Services; General Mills Foundation; General Mills, Inc.; Global Development Group NZ; 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.