



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP India Country Brief December 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 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

On 21 December, the Prime Minister of India laid the foundation stone for 202 decentralized take-home ration production units across 43 districts of Uttar Pradesh. WFP is the technical partner to the state government for this initiative, which will support women's micro-enterprises across the state to produce and provide age-appropriate fortified blended foods for young children and pregnant and lactating women. WFP has already established model production units in two districts of the state.

Operational Updates

Ensuring Access to Food

- On 30 December, WFP launched the second Annapurta (automated grain dispensing machine) at a Fair Price Shop in Odisha state, in collaboration with the Department of Food and Public Distribution. This follows the first pilot, which was conducted in Haryana state in September 2021. The Annapurta was approved by the Federal Government in July of 2021 and WFP has received multiple requests for pilots across urban areas in the country.
- WFP has been supporting the Government of Uttarakhand to optimize their intrastate transport network for movement of food grains for the public distribution system. On 3 December the Government of Uttarakhand notified WFP that they have implemented the first round of optimization results which reduced their transportation costs by 76 percent. Initial trends also indicate a reduction of distance travelled by 18-25 percent.

Improved Nutrition

- WFP and the Food Safety Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) organized the "Eat Right Mela" in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh to commemorate the country's 75th anniversary of independence. Attended by nearly 3,000 people, the event included a walkathon to create awareness on fortified rice among local communities and tasting of different foods prepared with fortified rice. WFP had a stall with communication materials and videos about fortified rice.
- To increase awareness on and use of the new THR products, WFP and the Department of Women and Child Development in Uttar Pradesh developed a series of cooking videos which were disseminated through the [YouTube Channel of WFP India](#) and the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) Directorate, Government of Uttar Pradesh. They were also shared with government officials, frontline functionaries and others through WhatsApp.

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Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Jan-Jun'22 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
20 m	13.96 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

- The inception report of the baseline evaluation of a pilot project for local production of fortified THR in Jaipur District of Rajasthan has been approved by the Chair of the Evaluation Committee. The evaluation company finished data collection in the last quarter of 2021 and will begin work on the baseline report.
- In Rajasthan, WFP drafted the SDG chapter for the Government's Economic Review Report 2021-22 and submitted it to the Planning Department for their review and further actions.

South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC)

- WFP signed a partnership agreement with the NITI Aayog, the policy think-tank of the Government, where WFP will provide technical support for mainstreaming millets into government programmes. This will help to position India as a global lead in knowledge exchange around millets.

Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction

- On 20 December, WFP and the National Institute for Disaster Management (NIDM) jointly launched a foundation training course on Food and Nutrition Security in Emergencies for practitioners. The modules for integration of food and nutrition security in emergency preparedness and response package are being developed.
- WFP and partners (All India Disaster Mitigation Institute and SPHERE India) organised four regional consultations in December to seek inputs and feedback for the work on Strengthening the Humanitarian System in India.
- WFP and the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) jointly organized a two-day virtual stakeholder consultation on 14-15 December with senior government officials, academics, as well as private sector and NGO representatives to brainstorm and explore the scope of the study on climate change and its effect on food security and nutrition in India.

Gender and Inclusion

- WFP held a sensitization session on combating gender-based violence in the community with members of a women's self-help group federation in Khordha district in Odisha to mark the "16 days of activism to end gender-based violence" campaign.

Donors

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