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).

Operational Updates

Ensuring Access to Food

- As part of WFP’s on-going support to the Government of Rajasthan to improve the efficiency of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), WFP completed the analysis of the state's 2019-2020 TPDS data which provided insights on various aspects of the TPDS operations including beneficiary data, supply chain operations and grain distributions. A report was submitted to the state which will enable them to take informed decisions to improve the system.

- In late December 2021, WFP installed an Annapurti (automated grain dispensing machine) at a Fair Price Shop in Odisha and during the month of January 2022, 2.2 MT of rice and wheat were disbursed from the machine to TPDS beneficiaries.

Improved Nutrition

- On January 3, 2022, WFP signed an agreement with the Akshaya Patra Foundation (TAPF) to enhance the effectiveness of the Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN) scheme (the government school meals programme) for a longer-term partnership aiming to strengthen the programme in areas of food safety, hygiene and nutritional quality of the meals.

- The Department of Education, Rajasthan and WFP have signed an agreement to introduce a series of interventions to enhance the nutritional effectiveness of the PM-POSHAN programmes in Jaipur District. As part of this intervention, WFP will be implementing the demonstration projects on staple food fortification, capacity strengthening of school cooks and social behaviour change communication for school children and teachers, while providing technical assistance towards establishing nutri-gardens in schools.
WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirement (in USD)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
<th>Feb-Jul/Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20 m</td>
<td>13.96 m</td>
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Monitoring and Evaluation

- WFP provided training to the data collection teams of the Inter Agency Group (IAG) Odisha for the third study on the impact of COVID-19, droughts and cyclones on the food security of vulnerable groups in the state.
- Contributing to the ongoing evaluation of the 2013 National Food Security Act (NFSA), WFP prepared a synthesis report of findings from the multiple evaluations on NFSA published by the Department of Food and Public Distribution, which is part of the secondary literature review under the evaluation of NFSA.
- WFP partnered with the Sambodhi Organisation in conducting the third capacity strengthening session for officials of the Directorate of Evaluation Organisation, Planning Department, Government of Rajasthan on ‘Sampling Techniques: From the Perspective of Evaluation’.

South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC)

- WFP organized an inception meeting with the NITI Aayog to develop the workplan based on the partnership agreement signed in December 2021. The focus of the partnership is on the development of a good practice compendium around the use of millets in India and the region. Multistakeholder consultative meetings with the state governments will begin next month.

Gender and Inclusion

- WFP developed a set of Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for working with women’s groups, with a focus on gender and protection considerations, and shared them with the Government of Uttar Pradesh. The SOPs included the need to sensitize communities and families to create an enabling environment for women’s participation and provide facilities to ensure protection and security for women workers.
- As part of the Inter-Agency Group on Disability Inclusion of the UN Country Team in India, WFP will work jointly with other UN agencies and the Resident Coordinator’s Office on enhancing the physical accessibility, inclusion and access of persons with disabilities to their rights and entitlements.

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; Jubilant Bharti Foundation; Nutrition International; Sodexo Food Solutions, India Private Ltd.; Stop Hunger Foundation; WFP Trust for India; WFP Innovation Accelerator; WFP 2030 Fund