



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

## WFP India Country Brief January 2022



Improving Food Security for Smallholder Farmers in Odisha using Climate Resilient Practices



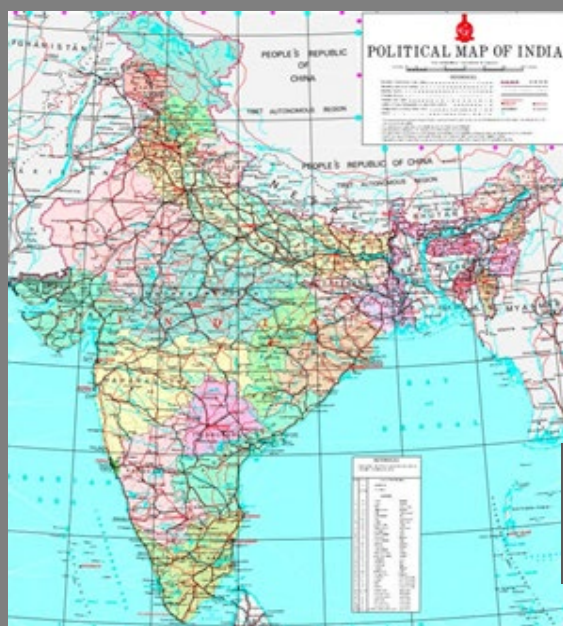
LEARNING AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE SESSION

19 January 2022

### 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:**  
35.5% of children 6-59 months of age

**2020 Human Development Index Ranking:**  
131 out of 189

### Highlights

- As part of the joint work on enhancing the resilience and adaptive capacities of small-holder farmers through the use of climate services. WFP and the Department of Agriculture Odisha organized a half-day virtual learning and knowledge sharing seminar on 19 January. Officials from the state government, the Agriculture University, India Meteorological Department, NITI Aayog, and WFP India and Kyrgyzstan participated, learning from the practical experiences from Bangladesh and Malawi where the participatory climate services approaches have been implemented.

### 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.

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## Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

| Total Requirement (in USD) | Allocated Contributions (in USD) | Feb-Jul'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

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