



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP India Country Brief February 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 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:
35.5% of
children 6-59
months of age

2020 Human Development Index Ranking:
131 out of 189

Highlights

- In partnership with the Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD), WFP developed a [Learning Management System \(LMS\)](#) which was launched on 8 February with 6 training modules. The LMS is an [e-learning](#), multilingual, interactive and audio-visual training platform which will train and educate the Food and Civil Supplies functionaries on reforms and new technology in the targeted public distribution system across India. Upon completion of the training, government officials will be certified. DFPD has a target of training up to 20,000 government officials through this system.

Operational Updates

Improved Nutrition

- In Rajasthan, WFP is supporting the Department of Women and Child Development in improving nutritional effectiveness of the Take Home Rations (THR) provided as supplementary nutrition through the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme, complemented with behavior change communication campaigns. As part of the initiative, WFP has completed setup, installation and commissioning of a THR production plant in Jaipur which will cover five blocks, reaching around 25,000 ICDS women and young children enrolled in ICDS.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- WFP participated in a Panel Discussion on "Experiences of Building Evaluation Ecosystem in India" on 25 February in the 3rd Asia Pacific Evaluation Association Conference and EvalFest 2022 - Towards a Vibrant Evaluation Ecosystem: Creativity, Collaboration and Convergence.

South-South and Triangular Cooperation

- WFP's work in supporting the mainstreaming of millets into government social protection programmes has resulted in the launch of the Mapping & Exchange of Good Practices Initiative for Millets Mainstreaming in Asia and Africa next month, along with the formulation of a national workshop with selected states to solicit information in their millets mainstreaming efforts and good practices across millets value chain.

Climate Change & Disaster Risk Reduction

- WFP signed an MoU with the Isha Foundation to restore the rapidly degrading agricultural soil and create awareness on the rising concerns of climate change and its impact on the sustainable food systems in the country.

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Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
20 m	13.99 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.

- The Secure Fishing project, funded through the Innovation Accelerator and is being implemented in the eastern state of Odisha in partnership with the state Government. For the project, WFP developed an app which can be downloaded and used by fishermen and women to provide information on improving their catches through sustainable fishing practices. Pilot testing is underway, and the app will be launched in the coming months.
- Also supported by the Innovation Accelerator, the Takachar programme is designed support smallholder farmers in converting their crop residues into energy sources and higher value bioproducts at the farm gate, increasing their income and reducing the harmful air pollution from waste burning. WFP has recently completed the installation of a machine in Dhamar village in Haryana.

Gender and Inclusion

- Based on the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) developed for Indian interventions with women's groups and microenterprises, WFP has collaborated with the Gender Office at HQ to produce generic [SOPs on Gender and Protection Considerations while working with Women's Groups and Microenterprises](#), that were published on WFPGo and shared widely with other country offices through networks and communities. The SOPs have been generalized to apply to any country where such initiatives are being implemented by WFP, Government or non-Government partners.

Donors

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