



A group of cook-cum-helpers, who drive the school meal programme in Virat Nagar Block near Jaipur, with just acquired tablets with a learning app on providing safe and hygienic meals that contribute to providing better and safe nutrition for school children. Photo: WFP/Shyamalima



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

Quarterly Bulletin

UN WFP India | Jan-March 2022

This edition of the Quarterly Bulletin by the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in India has updates on stakeholder consultations for developing WFP India's new Country Strategy Plan; innovations that are optimising capacity and systems for delivering food security entitlements in Odisha, Rajasthan, and Meghalaya; strengthening PM POSHAN delivery, partnerships on strengthening access to nutrition and food security; thought leadership through Opinion Pieces and events.

STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS FOR WFP INDIA'S NEW COUNTRY STRATEGY

Building on a legacy spanning over fifty years in India, WFP hosted wide-ranging interactions with central and state government officials and counterparts for developing its Country Strategic Plan (CSP) for 2023-2027.

These interactions were part of multi-stakeholder consultations that saw participation from civil society organisations, academia, UN agencies, bilateral and multilateral bodies, and private sector. The findings from the review of the current CSP (2019-2023) were shared with participants apart from a deep-dive around the operational context at state and national levels.

As an outcome of these consultations, and other CSP processes underway at different levels, a draft will be shared with the Government of India for concurrence, paving the way for its implementation starting in January 2023.

WFP has been a co-traveller with successive governments in India's transition from a food aid recipient to a provider of humanitarian food assistance and an exporter. Since 2012, WFP's focus has been on technical assistance and capacity strengthening of the Government. Through the current CSP, WFP is supporting India in achieving its goals under Sustainable Development Goals 2 and 17.

The new CSP developed a year ahead of its schedule will be aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Framework for India planning cycle (2023-2027).

Recognition of WFP's role as a catalyst and strengthening capacities for large-scale impact by leveraging existing government programmes emerged as a common theme at the consultations. WFP's focus on building strategic partnerships to expand engagement around nutrition and food security in the country was also appreciated.

[Read more](#)

March 2022

Climate Change and Adaptation

WFP AND ISHA OUTREACH JOIN HANDS FOR SUSTAINABLE FOOD SECURITY

WFP and Isha Outreach will partner on creating awareness and supporting conversations around food and nutritional security in India.

An MoU for this was signed between Mr. Bishow Parajuli, WFP India Representative and Country Director, and Ms. Mounita Sen Sarma, Director Isha Outreach, in New Delhi on 21st February.

“Every responsible scientist in the world and the UN agencies are clearly saying we have 80-100 harvests left, that means approximately 45-50 years of agricultural soil left on the planet. By 2045, we will be producing 40% less food than what we are producing right now, and our population will be 9.3 billion people,” said Sadhguru, spiritual leader and founder of the Isha Foundation, weeks before the launch of [Save Soil Campaign](#).

WFP is supporting Save Soil Campaign led by Sadhguru as it is directly linked with the future of global food security.

“We are aligned on the need to create sustainable practices and approaches to addressing hunger, malnutrition, and creating long-term food security, we will work together,” said Mr. Parajuli.

WFP is working on Adaptation Fund and with the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change on various initiative around adaptation.



Sadhguru with WFP India Country Director Mr. Bishow Parajuli and Director Isha Outreach, Ms. Mounita Sen Sarma. Photo: WFP

ODISHA, WFP TO WORK ON BOOSTING CLIMATE RESILIENCE

WFP and the Government of Odisha have joined hands to improve the food security of small and marginal farmers by strengthening their resilience to climate change.

An agreement on this was inked by Dr. Muthu Kumar, Director, Agriculture, and Food Production, Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment, and Mr. Bishow Parajuli, Representative and Country Director, WFP in India.

A key highlight of this partnership is participatory pilot climate advisory service that will allow farmers to adapt to climate change. Smallholder farmers, who constitute 90 percent of farming communities in Odisha, will be able to

select the right farming and livelihood options based on this information to mitigate risks, and improve their food security and incomes.

WFP and the department will develop toolkits, modules, and guidelines to provide climate services to smallholder farmers, helping the farming communities make informed decisions for a more productive and resilient agricultural system.

“The Government of Odisha is committed to improving the livelihoods of small and marginal farmers. This partnership with WFP will contribute to inclusive growth and resilience in agriculture thus contributing to improved food security,” said Dr. Kumar.

Generating Evidence

WFP participated in a panel discussion on experiences of building an evaluation ecosystem in India on 25th February at the 3rd Asia Pacific Evaluation Association Conference and EvalFest 2022.

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.

Improving Access to Food

LEARNING PLATFORM FOR FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES OFFICIALS

WFP in India continues to partner with the Government of India to make the nation's Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) more efficient and effective. A [Learning and Management System](#) (LMS), developed by WFP in collaboration with the Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD), was launched in February.

The digital learning solution or platform will reduce training costs while enabling functionaries of food and civil supplies departments to quickly learn new technologies and reforms rolled out frequently to ensure that the National Food Security Act (NFSA) entitlements reach those in need. The department aims to train 20,000 officials and so far 31 States/UTs have registered.

PILOTS ON OPTIMISING EFFICIENCY SHOW PROMISE IN ODISHA

WFP has installed an automated packaging machine and also provided training to block level federation members in Delang block, Puri. The solution will reduce packaging time for supplementary food products by nearly 40 percent, while providing better income opportunities to 22,800 people, and improve the livelihood options for self-help groups in Odisha. The immediate response to the packaging machine has been enthusiastic, with women realising a of possibilities for packaging and selling other products like spices and condiments, besides Take Home Rations.

Under the social protection convergence and supply chain integration pilot in Ganjam district, WFP has completed the supply chain optimisation of the intra-district transportation of paddy rice from procurement centres to mills. The first round of optimisation results show a potential reduction in the distance travelled by 29 percent. The next step will be to cover the entire supply chain from procurement centres to last mile retail shops.

OPTIMISATION OF SUPPLY CHAIN IN MEGHALAYA

Building on its recent partnership agreement with the Government of Meghalaya, WFP is working on developing a mobile application for optimising the supply chain network by establishing a mobile-based GPS tracking solution in the state.

In addition to this, WFP has also developed a [price monitoring dashboard](#) for the state that provides various analyses for retail pricing across the 16 districts for 22 essential commodities. The real-time information is expected to benefit policymakers and civil society organisations working towards food security.

WFP also welcomed Mr. James P K Sangma, Minister of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, at its Delhi office to discuss the [partnership and cooperation](#).



Women from local federation working on a packaging machine installed by WFP in Odisha's Delang block. Photo: WFP

Thanks to our partners: The Government of India; Associated Data Processing; Bank of America Charitable Foundation; Cargill, Inc.; Citrix Systems, Inc.; Ericsson India Global Services; General Mills Foundation; General Mills, Inc.; Naumi Hotels; Glenmark Foundation; Jubilant Bhartia Foundation; 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; Mission Shakti, Government of Odisha; Government of Meghalaya.

Quality Nutrition for All

RAJASTHAN AND WFP TO PARTNER ON PM POSHAN PROGRAMME

The Department of Education, Rajasthan, and WFP will be partnering on a series of interventions to enhance the nutritional effectiveness of the PM POSHAN programmes in Jaipur.

WFP will be implementing demonstration projects on staple food fortification, strengthening the capacity of school cooks and social behaviour change communications for school children and teachers, while providing assistance towards establishing nutri-gardens in schools.

The Government of Rajasthan and WFP have a wide ranging [Memorandum of Understanding](#) on work together to achieve food security and improved nutrition in the state to make significant progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 2. This cooperation will target people at high risk of malnutrition, especially women, children and adolescent girls, to have improved nutrition by 2025.

WFP AND AKSHYA PATRA TO WORK ON SCHOOL MEALS PROGRAMME

WFP and the Akshaya Patra Foundation will work together to enhance school meals programmes in India with an aim of sharing the experience beyond the country.

Mid-day Meals Scheme also known as Prime Minister

Gender and Inclusion

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2022

WFP India marked the International Women's Day on 8th March with a number of internal and external engagements around the theme for the day — Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow.

[A feature](#) was published on a leading news portal, NDTV, for showcasing WFP India support Take Home Rations project in Uttar Pradesh as an example of gender-transformative initiative that not only provides nutrition but also empowers women. An Interactive session with staff was hosted on the theme to highlight a gendered approach across work and personal outlook.

Odisha government and WFP are jointly conducting a study on food security and vulnerability of tribal populations in the state.

Poshan is one of the three main food-based safety nets in India, reaching close to 100 million school-aged children with hot-cooked meals. The scheme plays a significant role in retention of children in school while providing nutritional security.

[An agreement was signed](#) between Bishow Parajuli, Representative and Country Director for WFP in India, and Shri Chanchalaphi Dasa, Vice-Chairman, The Akshaya Patra Foundation, on 3rd January in New Delhi.



Agreement signing between Joint Secretary (UNES), Mr. Srinivas Gotru and WFP India Country Director, Mr. Bishow Parajuli, for the next batch of wheat for people of Afghanistan. Photo: WFP

INDIA'S FOOD AID FOR AFGHAN PEOPLE

Extending a helping hand to the people of Afghanistan reeling under an ongoing food crisis, the Government of India despatched 8000 tonnes of wheat, to be distributed by WFP, for the people of Afghanistan in four shipments during February and March 2022.

Representatives from India, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and WFP present at flagged off of the first convoy from the Attari-Wagah border crossing.

Earlier, an MoU was signed between the Government of India and the World Food Programme in February 2022 for Afghan people in need of emergency food assistance.

[Read more](#)

E-mail: WFP.NewDelhi@wfp.org

Twitter: [@UNWFP_India](https://twitter.com/UNWFP_India)
www.wfp.org/countries/india