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 101st out of 116 countries on the 2021 Global Hunger Index. Despite recent improvements, 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 in place some of the world's largest food-based safety nets, reaching nearly 1 billion vulnerable people every month.

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has been working in partnership with the Government of India for more than 50 years. Currently WFP is providing technical assistance and capacity strengthening to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Government of India's food-based social protection schemes and other programmes that strengthen food security, nutrition and livelihoods and build resilience to shocks.

WFP works by demonstrating innovative solutions with pilots and evaluations that attract government investment in scaling up, documenting and sharing best practices across states and other countries in the region through south-south exchanges.

Operational Updates

Ensuring Access to Food

- WFP is working to augment alternative storage capacity of the Government to replace cover and plinth (CAP) storage, thus reducing post-harvest losses through the piloting of mobile storage units (MSU) in targeted states. In August 2022, WFP installed a third MSU, in Rudrapur, Uttarakhand State as part of this ongoing pilot.

Improved Nutrition

- WFP constituted a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to support the evidence base for scaling up rice fortification. International and national experts on food fortification attended the first TAG meeting on 18 August.

- In Uttar Pradesh, WFP organized state-level sensitization workshops on rice fortification for key stakeholders and bureaucrats as well as for media representatives. Both workshops focused on developing participants' awareness and capacities. These marked the culmination of the five-month behaviour change and awareness campaign in the state, reaching more than 24,000 people across 13 districts.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- WFP submitted a final baseline report for the assessment of the Pilot Scheme on 'Fortification of Rice and its Distribution under Public Distribution System in the Malkangiri District of Odisha' to the Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Department on August 18.

- WFP met with the Rajasthan State Institute of Public Administration to discuss institutionalization of the M&E curriculum for state government officials. The curriculum was developed by the Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO) of the NITI Aayog, with support of WFP.

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On 23 August, WFP participated in the Development Partner’s Meet organized by the DMEO. During the panel discussion, WFP shared its experience on working with the state of Rajasthan on M&E capacity strengthening.

South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC)

- WFP and NITI Aayog launched a joint initiative, ‘Mapping and Exchange of Good Practices on Millets Mainstreaming’ in July. To encourage participation, WFP and NITI Aayog organized six workshops to reach 35 state governments and Union Territories, complemented by targeted consultations with the Ministry of Rural Development, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, and the National Rainfed Area Authority to ensure participation from the Government, NGOs, private firms/ start-ups, farmers producer organizations and self-help groups. WFP also organised a workshop with ICRISAT for the regional officials and partners across Asia and Africa. More than 550 participants attended these workshops virtually.

Climate Change & Disaster Risk Reduction

- WFP completed the scoping study for a resilience building project for farmers in Ganjam District of Odisha State using Participatory Integrated Climate Services for Agriculture (PICSA). This approach included a list of options for cropping and livelihoods, validated by the communities and the Agriculture University. WFP, in collaboration with the University of Reading, also developed a PICSA training manual.

Gender and Inclusion

- In August, WFP conducted a series of training sessions for more than 150 block level government staff on data collection using WFP Mobile Operational Data Acquisition (MODA) platform. MODA will be used for sectoral assessments of paid activities conducted by women’s self-help groups in Odisha State, including rice paddy procurement, electricity meter reading and feeding people in state Aahaar centers, which provide hot cooked meals to poor people.

Donors

Associated Data Processing; Bank of America Charitable Foundation; Cargill, Inc.; Citrix Systems, Inc.; Ericsson India Global Services; EXL Service; General Mills Foundation; General Mills, Inc.; Glenmark Foundation; Global Development Group NZ; Individual donors to Share the Meal & WFP.org; Jubilant Bhartiya Foundation; Nutrition International; Sodexo Food Solutions, India Private Ltd.; Stop Hunger Foundation; WFP Trust for India; WFP Innovation Accelerator