



World Food Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

## WFP India Country Brief October 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 101<sup>st</sup> 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.



**Income Level:**  
Lower Middle

**Population:**  
1.38 billion

**Chronic Malnutrition:**  
35.5% of  
children aged 6-  
59 months

**2021/2022  
Human  
Development  
Index**  
132 out of 191  
countries

### Highlights

With co-facilitation from the Regional Bureau and Headquarters, WFP recently held an internal workshop on South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) to review WFP India's SSTC Strategy (2019-2022), discuss progress made under the current Country Strategic Plan (CSP) and to map out a strategy to roll out SSTC across all four CSP Outcomes in the new CSP (2023-2027), as well as strengthening ties with the Regional Bureau and Headquarters teams.

### Operational Updates

#### Ensuring Access to Food

- The learning management system, which WFP developed in partnership with the Department of Food and Public Distribution, was launched in February to train government personnel on reforms and new technology in the Public Distribution System across India. WFP is developing three new modules focused on warehouse management to strengthen the capacity of government officials who manage warehouse operations across the country. In total, WFP aims to train more than 30,000 government staff across the country. So far, more than 34,000 modules have been completed by more than 12,000 registered government staff.

#### Improved Nutrition

- WFP continues its work to strengthen the implementation of fortified rice across the country. WFP and the Department of Food and Civil Supplies (DFCS), Kerala organized a workshop for more than 100 participants and government officials in Wayanad to sensitize them on the nutritional and health benefits of fortified rice and dispel the common myths and misconceptions. Furthermore, WFP trained more than 500 rice millers and government officials in Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Odisha, on quality control and quality assurance related to fortified rice.
- In order to support the Uttar Pradesh State Rural Livelihoods Mission (UPSRLM) to effectively scale up the 'decentralized take-home ration project' through rural women's self-help groups to 202 production units across 43 districts, WFP established a 10-member Programme Management Unit (PMU). In Odisha, WFP completed equipment capacity validation and production trials for the second WFP-supported take-home ration production unit in Bolangir District, which will produce supplementary nutritious products for approximately 11,000 beneficiaries under the integrated child development services scheme.

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## Country Strategic Plan (2019-2022)

Total Requirement (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)	Net Funding Requirements until December 2022 (in US\$)
16.54 m	21.09 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 and a representative from the Government participated in the 7th International Conference on National Evaluation Capacities 2022 held in Turin, Italy. WFP's partnership with the Government of India on building national evaluation capacity was highlighted at the conference as one WFP's best examples.
- WFP supported the Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO) of the Government of India in formalizing its partnership with the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), Mumbai for its provision of technical expertise for the primary data collection to evaluate the National Food Security Act (NFSA).

## South-south and triangular cooperation

- The WFP-NITI Aayog joint initiative of the 'Mapping and Exchange of Good Practices on Millets Mainstreaming' received more than 200 entries as of 18 October. The shortlisting of top 10 entries in each category is currently underway and the announcement of results is planned by the end of November.

## Gender and Inclusion

- WFP organized meetings with the Departments of Women and Child Development, Government of Haryana to plan for training of government personnel on gender equality and women empowerment. The trainings will help strengthen the Government's efforts towards community gender sensitization. WFP also organized a meeting with the Haryana State Rural Livelihoods Mission to plan for interventions to enhance the livelihoods and increase incomes of women self-help group members.
- WFP conducted a training needs assessment to assess the existing financial and digital literacy levels among members of women's self-help groups in Delhi and the surrounding National Capital Region. The findings will inform WFP's plan to provide training to boost women's financial and digital skills in 2023.

## Donors

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