



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP India Country Brief February 2023



## Highlights

- The WFP Country Director led a donor visit to Seemapuri, an urban poor locality in east Delhi, on 25 February to observe financial and digital literacy training of women's self-help groups being implemented with support from private sector partner EXL in Delhi and the National Capital Region. The women trainees expressed appreciation for the knowledge gained from the trainings and their intention to utilize the knowledge in enhancing their planning for household finances and economic activities in their self-help groups.

## 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 107<sup>th</sup> out of 121 countries on the 2022 Global Hunger Index, with a score of 29.1 (serious level). 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 put 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:**  
1.4 billion

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

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

## Operational Updates

### Social Protection and Supply Chain

- In continuation of its pilot of *Annapurti* (automated grain dispensing machine) at fair price shops in India, WFP deployed its sixth machine in Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh in partnership with the State Secretary of Food.
- WFP, in collaboration with the Department of Food and Public Distribution and the Food Corporation of India, launched the fourth 'Smart Warehouse' in Agra, Uttar Pradesh to help modernize the government grain warehouse system. The Smart Warehouse is equipped with wireless sensors to monitor conditions such as temperature, humidity, airflow, and rodents which can be tracked through a web-based application.
- WFP added two new modules to the learning management system which was developed in partnership with the Department of Food and Public Distribution. Launched in February 2022, it aims to train and educate government staff on reforms and new technology in the Public Distribution System across India. To date, there are 13,000 registered users who have completed more than 37,000 learning modules.

### Nutrition and School Feeding

- A state-wide social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) campaign was launched in Wayanad district, Kerala to create awareness on the use and benefits of fortified rice. As part of the campaign, cooking demonstrations, folk shows, public lectures, and media workshops were conducted across all districts of the state. More than 6,000 people were reached directly across four districts in February. In addition, more than 650 rice millers and government officials were sensitized and trained on rice fortification in the states of Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Haryana, and Odisha.

**Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)**

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Net Funding Requirements until June 2023 (in USD)
27.61 m	9.7m	0

**Strategic Outcome 4: National programmes and systems are strengthened**

**CSP Outcome 1:** By 2030, the Government of India’s food-based social protection systems reach their target beneficiaries more effectively and efficiently

*Focus area: Root Causes*

**Activity 1:** Provide capacity strengthening, technical support and innovative solutions to government and other stakeholders supporting food-based social protection systems

**CSP Outcome 2:** By 2030, beneficiaries of the Government of India’s food-based social protection systems have increased consumption of diverse, nutritious and fortified foods

*Focus area: Root Causes*

**Activity 2:** Provide capacity strengthening and social and behaviour change communication on grain fortification and local production of supplementary foods to government and other stakeholders working in and benefiting from food-based social protection programmes

**Activity 3:** Provide capacity strengthening and social and behaviour change communication to government and other stakeholders to promote the increased availability and use of diverse nutritious foods in school-based programmes

**CSP Outcome 3:** By 2030, women enrolled in the Government of India’s self-help group collectives in targeted states have increased social and financial mobility

*Focus area: Root Causes*

**Activity 4:** Provide capacity strengthening, technical assistance and innovative solutions to women’s self-help groups

**CSP Outcome 4:** By 2030, the Government, civil society groups and communities in India have strengthened their adaptive capacity for climate-resilient livelihoods and food systems

*Focus area: Resilience Building*

**Activity 5:** Provide technical assistance on integrated risk management and climate resilience building to national and state governments and communities

- In Odisha, WFP has successfully installed and commissioned a take-home-ration (THR) production plant in Bolangir district, which will be run by women’s self-help groups (WSHGs). The trainings for WSHGs on production and quality assurance has been completed, wherein three products will be produced by the unit. In Uttar Pradesh, the state Rural Livelihoods Mission has so far successfully operationalized 74 decentralized THR production units, with support from WFP.
- WFP finalised and submitted the baseline assessment report for the pilot scheme on rice fortification and its distribution under the public distribution system in Chandauli district of Uttar Pradesh, to the state Government. WFP also finalised and submitted the Terms of Reference for conducting the end line evaluation of this pilot scheme to the state government.

**Climate and Resilience**

- WFP has partnered with non-government organization ‘SACAL’ for the facilitation of the Participatory Integrated Climate Services for Agriculture (PICSA) pilot in 3 blocks of Ganjam district of Odisha. SACAL staff were oriented on the PICSA tool on 28 February.
- The first Jury Review Meeting on the Mapping & Exchange of Good Practices (MEGP) Initiative for Millets Mainstreaming in Asian and African Countries was conducted on 8 February with participants from WFP India, NITI Aayog, and jury members from the International Fund for Agricultural Development, Central Food Technological Research Institute, National Institute for Food Technology Entrepreneurship Management, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare, and the National Institute of Nutrition.
- The [Strengthening Humanitarian Systems](#) in India report was finalized, and its recommendations will contribute to dialogue in National Platform for DRR and other policy dialogues.

**Inclusion**

- WFP’s Gender Officer and Head of Odisha Field Office visited Rayagada district to monitor and advise on data collection for the state Tribal Study. They also interacted with the three different local tribal communities, including two particularly vulnerable tribal groups, to understand their food security and nutrition related status and challenges.

**Donors**

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