



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP India Country Brief March 2023

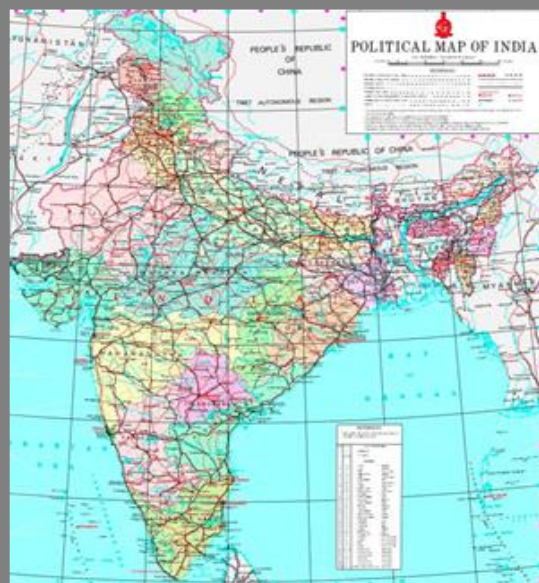


Operational Context

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 107th 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

Highlights

- WFP and the Varanasi District Administration jointly organized a cooking competition "*Pak Kala Pratiyogita*" to assess the cooking skills and learnings of school cook-cum-helpers (CCH) using the WFP app. Thirty CCHs from 9 blocks of Varanasi participated in the competition. Other competitions, such as quiz, painting, and essay writing were held to assess the knowledge of schoolchildren on various aspects of health, hygiene, and nutrition, in which 81 children participated at the district level.

Operational Updates

Social Protection and Supply Chain

- In continuation of its pilot of Annapurta (automated grain dispensing machine) at fair price shops in India, WFP deployed its seventh machine in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh in partnership with the State Secretary of Food. Based on the successful deployment in three locations, the state government has requested support from WFP to scale up Annapurta in ten additional locations.
- WFP and the Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD), Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution have, so far completed supply chain optimization in the states of Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, and Punjab. Based on the success and potential savings demonstrated in optimization, DFPD issued a mandate to all states and union territories to undertake route optimization for availing increased rates for intra-state transportation as per Food Security Amendment Rules 2022.
- WFP, DFPD and the Food Corporation of India are piloting a 'Smart Warehouse' solution using wireless sensors to monitor conditions such as temperature, humidity, airflow, and rodent infestation which can be tracked through a web-based application. Following a visit by senior government officials and WFP management to one of the Smart Warehouse in March, the Government requested the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) to scale up the solution across the country in warehouses storing grains for long periods of time.
- WFP, the Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO), and NITI Aayog renewed their technical partnership on national evaluation capacity strengthening on 22nd March.

Nutrition and School Feeding

- WFP and the state government launched a state-wide social and behaviour change communication (SBCC)

Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Net Funding Requirements until June 2023 (in USD)
27.61 m	11.14m	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

campaign to create awareness on the use and benefits of fortified rice in Malkangiri district, Odisha. As part of the campaign, cooking demonstrations, folk shows, public lectures, and media workshops will be conducted across the state. In March, 2,500 people in more than 50 villages were reached directly in the district.

- In Kerala, WFP completed cooking demonstrations under its ongoing SBCC campaign, reaching more than 8,500 people in 5 districts. In addition, more than 540 rice millers, 570 government officials, and 70 women's self-help groups were sensitized and trained on rice fortification in Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Haryana, and Odisha.
- In Rajasthan, WFP has successfully installed and commissioned a take-home-ration (THR) production plant in Jaipur, operated by women's self-help groups. The women completed training sessions on production and quality assurance, producing more than 30 mt of fortified supplementary foods. In Uttar Pradesh, with technical support from WFP, 74 THR production units located in rural areas of the state are currently operated by women self-help groups and have produced more than 15000 mt of nutritious THR reaching more than 3.2 million women and children in more than 51,000 Anganwadi centres across the state.

Climate and Resilience

- WFP Assistant Executive Director Mr. Manoj Juneja represented WFP in a high-level 'Global Millets (Shee Anna) Conference' organized by the Government of India. The recommendations from the conference are expected to pave the way to millets mainstreaming through improved South-South and Triangular Cooperation. WFP also supported the Rajasthan Millets Conclave to improve millets programming in the state. India's commitment and leadership in millets mainstreaming were highlighted by the Prime Minister inaugurating the conference.

Inclusion

- The Gender unit and Gender Results Network organized a series of staff activities at WFP India to commemorate International Women's Day. The culminating event was a webinar on "Breaking Barriers: Gender Equality through Digital Innovation in India." Four external panellists shared their knowledge and experiences on barriers faced by women and girls in accessing digital technology and the initiatives taken by them that offer promising solutions to address such barriers.

Donors

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