



WFP India Country Director, Ms Elisabeth Faure and Mr Manoj Juneja, Deputy Executive Director, Management, and Chief Financial Officer, WFP with Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare & Mr Manoj Ahuja, Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare at the signing of the WFP India Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2023-27.



# Quarterly Bulletin

## UN WFP India | January- March 2023

This edition of the Quarterly Bulletin by the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in India has updates on the signing of WFP's India country strategic plan ; Credentials presentation by new WFP India Country Representative; Silver at Anthem Awards for Annapurthi-Grain Dispensing machine; New take-home-ration production plant in Bolangir, Odisha; launch of SHSI report; signing of the Statement of Intent between WFP and Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO), NITI Aayog ; partnership with EXL on digital and financial literacy of women and girls in urban slums of Delhi; impact and evidence, national capacity development; media coverage and advocacy events.

### GOVERNMENT OF INDIA & WFP SIGN ON COUNTRY STRATEGIC PLAN 2023-27

WFP in India signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Ministry, guided by CSP 2023-27 to address national priorities in food and nutrition security through capacity strengthening for stakeholders and technical support for the strengthening of national social protection programmes and government schemes, during the recently held Global Millets Conference.

development Goal 13 on climate action. [Read More.](#)

The MoU was signed by newly appointed WFP India Country Director Ms Elisabeth Faure and Mr Manoj Ahuja, Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, in the presence of Mr Narendra Singh Tomar, Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India, and Mr Manoj Juneja, Deputy Executive Director, Management, and Chief Financial Officer, WFP.



Ms Elisabeth Faure with Mr Manoj Ahuja, Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and Mr Narendra Singh Tomar, Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.

The CSP will contribute towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal 2 by improving access to food, reducing malnutrition, increasing incomes and livelihoods, and building resilient food systems, while also supporting the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 5 on gender equality and Sustainable De-

## WFP INDIA NEW COUNTRY DIRECTOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS

Ms Elisabeth Faure presented her credentials as the new India Country Director at a meeting with Mr Sanjay Verma, Secretary (West) Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.

Ms Faure is a French national with more than 18 years of development and humanitarian experience in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Before taking charge as Country Director in WFP India, she served as Director of WFP's London Office and WFP's Country Representative in Bolivia (2016-2019) and Guinea (2012-2016)

She is the co-founder of the Humanitarian Women's Network (HWN), established in 2015. HWN is a grassroots online community comprised of over 13,000 women and seeks to create a safe environment where humanitarian women can flourish free from sexual exploitation, harassment, and abuse.

Ms Faure has a master's degree in Latin American Studies from Oxford University and a bachelor's degree in Philosophy from The London School of Economics and Political Science.



WFP India Country Director Ms Elisabeth Faure with Sanjay Verma Secretary (West) Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.

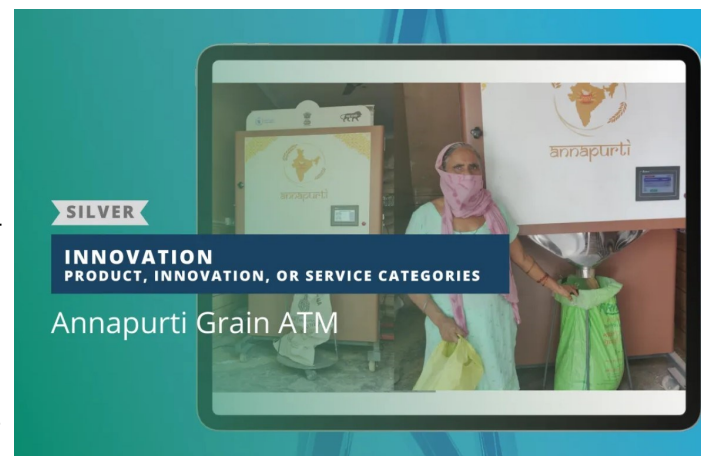
## Social Protection and Supply Chain

### WFP INDIA'S INNOVATION, ANNA PURTI, WINS SILVER AT ANTHEM AWARDS

WFP India's automated grain dispensing solution – *Annapurti* – was awarded Silver under the innovation category at the 2022 edition of the Anthem Awards. It is amongst the four innovations to be recognised and supported by WFP Innovation Accelerator.

The solution, which currently caters to 240,000 people per month, has been deployed in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, as well as in Gorakhpur and Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh taking the number of grain dispensing machines being piloted to six.

The machine developed by WFP India, in partnership with Department of Food and Public Distribution ensures 24x7 access for people entitled to monthly subsidised grains through India's Public Distribution System – the world's largest food-based safety net reaching more than 800 million people per month. [Read More.](#)



### WFP LAUNCHES SMARTWAREHOUSE IN AGRA

WFP has set up a Smart Warehouse at Agra in Uttar Pradesh, taking the total to four in three states, including Delhi and Gujarat. These pilot Smart Warehouses have been developed in collaboration with the Department of Food and Public Distribution and the Food Corporation of India, for supporting the modernisation of government's 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, enabling warehouse operators to take informed decisions to improve storage environment and reduce losses for warehouses with longer term storage of food grains under the National Food Security Act, 2013 programmes.

## SUPPLY CHAIN OPTIMISATION OF PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

WFP India is collaborating with the Government of India for capacity development and providing technical assistance to improve the efficiency and nutritional effectiveness of food-based social safety nets. One of the key areas is WFP's support to the government on supply chain optimisation to address inefficiencies in the supply chain of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS).

WFP has, so far, supported State Governments of Odisha, Uttarakhand and Rajasthan to undertake optimisation of TPDS supply chain. Optimisation results have led to savings and making the PDS efficient. The Ministry of Food, Government of India, has decided to scale-up optimisation to cover all the states.

The [scale-up of optimisation](#) is being done by WFP India in collaboration with the Foundation for Information and Technology Transfer, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi. WFP has already completed the optimisation in the states of Uttarakhand, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Rajasthan.

## LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

WFP added two new modules to the [learning management system](#) which was developed in with the Department of Food and Public Distribution, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

The digital learning platform, launched in February 2022, enables government staff of Food and Civil Supplies Departments in states to learn about new technologies and reforms that are rolled out frequently to ensure that the National Food Security Act entitlements are available with equity and dignity.

The platform has 13,000 registered users who have completed more than 37,000 learning modules.

Government of India  
Ministry of Food & Public Distribution  
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution

75th Anniversary  
Mahatma

Learning Management System (LMS)

**did you know?**

The DFDP, in collaboration with UNWFP has added two new modules in the LMS. They are related to

01 Oversight Monitoring and Grievance Handling.

02 Digitization of Beneficiary Records.

If you are a PDS functionary, please enrol yourself in the online learning facility at <https://bit.ly/3x6pq4V>

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## Nutrition and School Feeding

### TAKE-HOME-RATION PRODUCTION UNITS IN TITILAGARH AND JAIPUR

Take-Home-Ration (THR) production units or supplementary nutrition production units that provide products that are distributed under the government's Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme were installed in Jaipur, Rajasthan, and Titilagarh, Odisha by WFP.

The units are expected to ensure the availability of a safe, quality-assured, and nutritious THR produced by local Women's Self-Help Groups (WSHGs) who have been trained on production and quality assurance to cater to ICDS beneficiaries.

The ICDS scheme is the flagship programme of the government under the National Food Security Act, that addresses the health, nutritional and developmental needs of pregnant and lactating women and young children.

In Jaipur, training sessions were held for women's self-help groups (WSHGs), who which will be operated the unit, on production and quality assurance of THR was completed. More than 30 MT THR has been produced by the unit, benefitting children aged six to 36 months, severely underweight children and pregnant and lactating women.



## STRENGTHENING RICE FORTIFICATION

WFP supports national and state governments through technical assistance on production and inclusion of fortified rice across food-based safety nets, including capacity strengthening activities and context-specific tools for social and behaviour change communication.

WFP focuses on 'pilot-to-scaleup' approach to demonstrate effectiveness of including fortified rice in different social protection programmes. At the same time, working across the value chain, WFP supports standard setting; local production of fortified rice; integration into government distribution systems; and information, education, and communication in different contexts.



Locals attend a rice fortification campaign activity in Malkangiri, Odisha conducted as part of SBCC campaign by WFP.

A social and behaviour change communication campaign to create awareness on the use and benefits of fortified rice reached 2500 people in more than 50 villages in Malkangiri district of Odisha since launch of the campaign in March.

Spanning 100 villages in Kerala, the campaign was kicked off at Kalpetta by District Supply Officer Wayanad with a cooking demo to encourage consumption of fortified rice to address malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies. The campaign, which included cooking demonstrations, folk shows, public lectures, and media workshops, has reached 6,000 people directly.



Cooking demonstration of fortified rice during the launch of Social Behaviour Change Communication Campaign in Wayanad, Kerala

With these campaigns, WFP aims to address common myths and misconceptions around fortified rice and increase the utilisation and consumption of fortified rice in the state.

WFP supported capacity development for 292 rice millers in Chhattisgarh and more than 100 Government officials in Odisha, and Haryana. The Government of India is scaling up the distribution of "fortified rice" through its food safety net schemes to fight against malnutrition and WFP India is supporting the capacity building of rice millers to produce quality-assured fortified rice for distribution through the food safety net schemes.

A [training manual](#) for rice millers on rice fortification prepared by WFP has been released.

## STRENGTHENING SCHOOL MEALS PROGRAMME

WFP in India works with governments to empower Cook-cum-Helpers (CCH) who play a critical role in preparing and providing hot-cooked meals to millions of school children under India's PM-POSHAN or Mid-day Meal scheme.

A cooking competition "Pak Kala Pratiyogita" to assess the cooking skills and learnings of CCH through FoSaF MDM app was organised in collaboration with Varanasi District administration.

Thirty CCH from nine blocks of Varanasi participated in the competition. Other activities conducted during the event included quiz, painting, and essay writing competitions to assess the knowledge of school children on various aspects of health, hygiene and nutrition which saw participation of 81 children at the district level.

India has one of the world's largest Mid-day Meals or School Feeding Programme reaching over 100 million students. Nutritional improvement through the Mid-day Meals scheme is inextricably linked with food safety. Unsafe food served in the schools has the potential to create a vicious cycle of disease and malnutrition, impacting school children partaking these day meals. Training of cook cum helpers is expected to help address these challenges.



CCH and school children at the Pak Kala Pratiyogita organised by WFP & Varanasi District administration.

# Women Empowerment

## WOMEN'S GROUPS UNDERGO DIGITAL AND FINANCIAL TRAINING UNDER DIGITAL EMPOWERMENT PROJECT

Members of Women-Self Help Groups in Delhi and National Capital Region attended intensive training on digital and financial literacy to empower disadvantaged women and build their skills and confidence in the use of digital and financial technology.

The yearlong project by WFP Trust for India, a nationally registered public charitable entity, incubated by WFP, and EXL India, part of EXL group, focused on create long-term solutions to end food insecurity through an empowerment approach.

The trainings are designed to enable self-help group members to make full use of the opportunities offered by Government schemes to set up their small businesses together and be able to earn incomes and make profits.



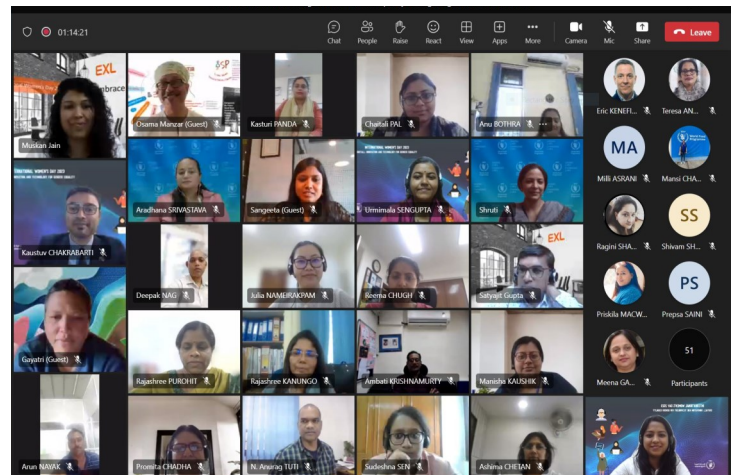
WFP India CD Elisabeth Faure with Muskan Jain, Assistant Vice President - Global CSR Lead, EXL and Aradhana Srivastava, Head-Gender and Inclusion, WFP India at a training for WSHGs on digital and financial literacy.

[Read More](#)

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2023

WFP India marked the International Women's Day on 8th March with a number of engagements around the theme for the day — DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality.

An interactive panel discussion- Breaking Barriers Gender Equality through Digital Innovation was hosted online. Speakers from organizations like Gram Vaani, Feminist Approach to Technology, EXL Services and Digital Empowerment Foundation talked about the importance of digital literacy for women for financial, social and economic empowerment; challenges that women face due to lack of access and opportunities that can be created to promote women's leadership.



Panel discussion on Breaking Barriers Gender Equality through Digital Innovation hosted by WFP India.

## OUR PARTNERS:

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; Rockefeller Foundation; Sodexo Food Solutions, India Private Ltd.; Stop Hunger Foundation; WFP Trust for India; WFP Innovation Accelerator.

# Climate Change and Adaptation

## WFP PARTICIPATES AT KRUSHI ODISHA

WFP India Country Director, Ms Elisabeth Faure participated in a seminar 'Humble Millets: Hope for Future' as a part of Krushi Odisha 2023 organised by Odisha Millet Mission, Government of Odisha.

Ms Elisabeth Faure, emphasized on the 'Mapping and Exchange of Good Practices' initiative for scaling up production and consumption of millets with a focus on nutrition support for children and women.

She also appreciated the Odisha government for pioneering the Odisha Millets Mission in 2017 prior to 2018 being declared as National Year of Millets. She said that the mission's key features should be scaled up, and there is a need for investments in research for raising production and productivity of millets with a focus on women farmers.

[Read More](#)



WFP India CD Ms Elisabeth Faure with Principal Secretary of DA&FE, Dr. Arabinda Kumar Padhee at Krushi Odisha

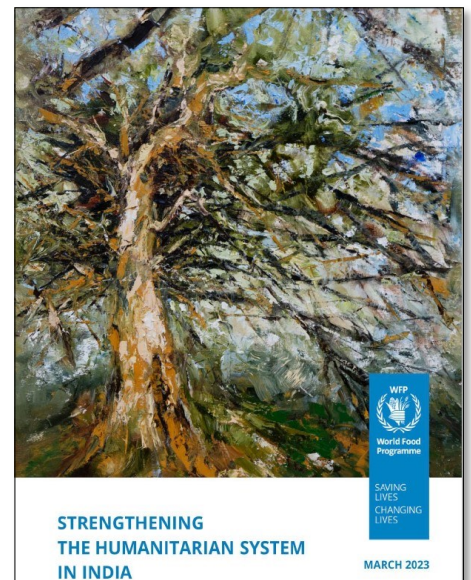
## LAUNCH OF REPORT ON STRENGTHENING THE HUMANITARIAN SYSTEM IN INDIA

In collaboration with All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI) and Sphere India, WFP has commissioned a report on Strengthening the Humanitarian System in India.

The report describes in detail the main elements of the humanitarian system in India and its evolution from providing 'charity' aid to victims of disasters, to a more rights-based approach.

This study can be used as a guiding template for similar studies in other countries, especially in developing countries, interested to improve their humanitarian systems. The contexts, legacies, and the frameworks of laws, institutions, standards, and practices of each country would be different and therefore the broad structure followed in this study can be adapted according to the specific contexts and needs of the countries.

[Read the Report](#)



## MAPPING AND EXCHANGE OF GOOD PRACTICES INITIATIVE FOR MILLETS MAINSTREAMING IN ASIA AND AFRICA

The Mapping and Exchange of Good Practices (MEGP) initiative for millets mainstreaming in Asia and Africa launched by NITI Aayog, Government of India in collaboration with WFP, has drawn strong participation for its call for innovative solutions around the broad theme of food security and resilience.

The first Jury Review Meeting saw 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 MEGP Initiative, which aims to map and exchange the best practices for millet mainstreaming in Asia and Africa, was launched last year. The initiative will support the documentation of good practices and lessons learned, and also present an opportunity for experience sharing amongst Asian and African developing countries.

# Evidence and Impact

## STRENGTHENING MONITORING AND EVALUATION CAPACITY AROUND FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

Renewing longstanding collaboration, the Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office, NITI Aayog, and WFP have signed a long-term Statement of Intent on cooperation in the areas of strengthening monitoring and evaluation capacity.

WFP has been supporting the preparation of the national evaluation policy framework, undertaking studies and reviews of government schemes and policies around food security and nutrition and strengthening Monitoring and Evaluation capacities of national and state government officials by leveraging WFP's global experiences, toolkits, and training modules.

To strengthen the existing capacities of state governments for monitoring SDG-2 through technical assistance and transfer and exchange of knowledge, skills, and expertise, WFP held a two-day training workshop as part of agreed activities under the partnership with Planning Department, Government of Rajasthan. This was the first among the capacity-strengthening workshops planned for officers at the Directorate of Economics and Statistics and Planning Department, Government of Rajasthan.

WFP is supporting Government of Odisha and Uttar Pradesh to undertake evaluation of the Centrally Sponsored Pilot Scheme on Fortification of Rice in the Malkangiri and Chandauli districts.

The assessments are intended to measure the impact of the pilot scheme on rice fortification on anaemia reduction in the target groups.



WFP Country Director, Ms Elisabeth Faure with officials from DMEO at signing of Statement of Intent..



Officers of the Directorate of Economics and Statistics and Planning Department, Government of Rajasthan, at a training session on monitoring SDG-2.

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Women farmers and self-help groups in Odisha are leading the fight against malnutrition by promoting millet consumption in their communities.

Overview Context and Operations Partnerships CSP financial overview Programme performance Cross-cutting results Grain ATM Innovation

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