



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP India Country Brief April 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

- As part of the SBCC Campaign in Kerala, WFP organised folk media shows in five districts to sensitize people to the benefits of fortified rice and to address the myths and misconceptions. The participants included officials from the Food and Civil Supplies, Health Departments, Kudumbashree members, frontline workers, *panchayat* (village council) members, and community members. To date, more than 3,000 community members across 35 villages have attended 70 folk shows.

Operational Updates

Social Protection and Supply Chain

- WFP installed its fifth SMART warehouse in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir in April. WFP is collaborating with the Department of Food and Public Distribution and the Food Corporation of India (FCI) for this technical intervention which uses wireless sensors to monitor and track conditions such as temperature, humidity, airflow, and rodent infestation through a web-based application. The Government has requested FCI and the Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) to scale up the solution across the country in warehouses storing government grains for long periods of time.
- WFP organised a consultation in Jaipur with the Planning Department and the Directorate of Economics and Statistics (DES) and Planning in Rajasthan to discuss the findings and recommendations of the food security and nutrition atlas, which WFP developed with the state government. Once finalised, the findings will be published with the Government.

Nutrition and School Feeding

- WFP held the 3rd meeting of the Technical Advisory Group on rice fortification on 25 April to discuss and review the safety of iron-fortified rice for population groups with haemoglobinopathies and the need for revisiting standards for rice and wheat flour fortification. A total of 25 experts from UN, NGOs, Government and civil society participated in the discussion.
- WFP conducted stakeholder sensitizations for 286 government officials from the Public Distribution System (PDS) and Integrated Child Development Services in Kerala, Haryana, and Odisha while 350 rice millers, fortified rice kernel manufacturers and FCI officials were trained in regional workshops in Chhattisgarh, Odisha, and Haryana. Additionally, 268 medical students and faculty members of the medical community were sensitized on rice fortification in Uttar Pradesh.

Contact information : wfp.newdelhi@wfp.org
Country Director: Elisabeth.Faure@wfp.org
Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/India

Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Net Funding Requirements until June 2023 (in USD)
27.61 m	12.14 m	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 Uttar Pradesh, with technical support from WFP, 100 take-home ration (THR) production units are now operational across the state. These units employ more than 2,000 rural women and provide fortified blended food to more than 3.5 million young children and pregnant and breastfeeding women under the Government of India's programme. WFP is supporting THR pilots in Odisha and Rajasthan.
- Data on haemoglobin and food consumption behaviours have been collected from nearly 2,100 PDS beneficiaries receiving fortified rice, for the endline evaluation of the pilot scheme on rice fortification in Malkangiri district of Odisha.

Women's empowerment

- WFP India initiated an assessment of the effectiveness of financial and digital literacy trainings delivered to 60 women's self-help groups in Delhi and National Capital Region in early 2023.

Climate and Resilience

- The state government, technology partner and WFP launched the *Solar For Resilience (S4R) project* supported by WFP Innovation Accelerator in building the resilience and livelihoods of smallholder women farmers in Odisha. On field demonstration of the technology was showcased in Ganjam, Odisha as a part of the launch. The project will build the capacities of women farmers' collectives for alternative livelihoods, improve incomes through climate responsive, inclusive and gender-transformative approaches.
- Trainers from WFP, the University of Reading and the Indian Meteorological Department conducted a district level refresher training of trainers (ToT) workshop to build capacities on alternate cropping and livelihoods trainers from the Department of Agriculture, Horticulture, Livestock and Fisheries under the Participatory Integrated Climate Services for Agriculture (PICSA) approach.
- WFP supported the National Disaster Management Authority in assessing the damage and loss caused by landslides in the town of Joshimath and surrounding areas in Uttarakhand. The multi-sector team completed data collection and will propose the recovery and reconstruction strategy with integration of disaster risk reduction elements and an approach to Build Back Better.

Donors

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