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.

Highlights

- WFP India facilitated a cross-learning visit of Odisha state government staff (Horticulture) and progressive farmers from Odisha to Aurangabad, Maharashtra to see first-hand the solar drying technology model. The team interacted with women farmers implementing the solutions and learned about good practices, on-the-ground experiences and challenges. They also gained insights into the value chain and benefits to the women entrepreneurs for scaling-up solar technology in Odisha.

Operational Updates

Social Protection and Supply Chain

- By the end of May, WFP has installed a total of seven SMART warehouses in six different states across India covering over total storage capacity of 17,226 mt. 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.

- In partnership with the Department of Food and Public Distribution, WFP completed the supply chain optimization of the transportation network for the public distribution system for eight of the 31 target states.

Nutrition and School Feeding

- As part of the social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) for fortified rice, WFP organized public lectures on fortified rice for Government medical colleges in four districts in Kerala, reaching more than 400 doctors, medical professors, staff, medical students, and 50 government officials. Similar events were organized at Agra and Firozabad Medical Colleges in Uttar Pradesh where 120 medical students and 20 faculty members were sensitized. Other workshops on rice fortification were organised in Bihar, Uttarakhand and Odisha sensitizing 916 officials from the Departments of Education, Food and Civil Supplies.

- Building on the success of WFP’s pilot to build the capacity of school cooks-cum-helpers (CCH) using the FoSaFMDM app in Odisha, WFP collaborated with the Department of School and Mass Education, Odisha in the process of training up to 100,000 CCH in the State. In the initial phase of scale up, WFP has trained 548 master trainers (CCHs) selected from all
WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirement (in USD)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
<th>Net Funding Requirements until June 2023 (in USD)</th>
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<td>27.61 m</td>
<td>20 m</td>
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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

the blocks who will further train all the CCHs at the block level in the coming months.

- WFP organized a virtual knowledge exchange session on 15th May with the WFP Philippines to present the Government of India's national school feeding programme including institutional arrangements, guidelines, norms, and centralized kitchen model. This session involved presentations from WFP India and the Akshaya Patra Foundation and was attended by Philippine Government representatives and other stakeholders.

Women's empowerment

- The Deputy Director, Gender Equality Office at WFP Headquarters visited India on a mission to understand the gender programme and advise on a gender action plan for WFP India. She also visited Odisha to understand the Government's programme for women empowerment through women's self-help groups and WFP's support to the programme and provided inputs on how it can be strengthened.

- WFP finalized and submitted the report on Sectoral Assessment of Aahaar Kendra Management by Mission Shakti Self-Help-Groups to the Mission Shakti Department, Government of Odisha.

Climate, Resilience and Disaster Risk Reduction

- WFP completed block-level training of 71 extension workers from Agriculture, Horticulture and Fisheries and Animal Resources Departments on the Participatory Integrated Climate Services in Agriculture (PICSA) approach and village-level planning in Ganjam, Odisha.

- WFP India provided technical support to the National Disaster Management Authority and the National Rainfed Area Authority to develop a template for 12 drought-prone states to requisition funding under the National Disaster Mitigation Fund. WFP is a member of the core team formulated by the National Rainfed Area Authority and the National Disaster Management Authority providing technical support for drought mitigation planning.

Donors

Adaptation Fund, Citrix Systems, Inc., Ericsson India Global Services, EXL Service, General Mills Foundation, Global Development Group NZ, PATH, Rockefeller Foundation, Sodexo Food Solutions India Private Ltd., UPS, WFP Trust for India, the WFP Innovation Accelerator, and individual donors to WFP's ShareTheMeal app and WFP.org