



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP India Country Brief June 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 organised the state-level stakeholder workshop in Bhubaneswar, Odisha on 27 June, as part of the social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) campaign on fortified rice with more than 30 participants from the Departments of Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare, Women and Child Development, School, and Mass Education, Health, and Family Welfare, UNICEF, UNDP, Azeem Premji Foundation, Deloitte, and UN Women.

Operational Updates

Social Protection and Supply Chain

- 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 13 of the 31 target states.
- WFP facilitated the training on "*Communication and Dissemination of Evaluation Findings*" on 7 June as part of the Mid-Career Training Programme for Indian Administrative Services (IAS) officers in the Lal Bahadur Shastri Academy of Administration, which was attended by 170 IAS officers from across the country.
- WFP and the Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office of NITI Aayog organized a capacity strengthening workshop on 16 June on "*Output Outcome Monitoring Framework (OOMF)*" for officials of the Directorate of Evaluation Organisation (DEO), Planning Department, Government of Rajasthan.

Nutrition and School Feeding

- The scale-up of the Food Safety for MDM' (FOSAFMDM) app for building the capacity of school cooks in Odisha, was completed in June, where WFP has trained 629 master trainers (school cooks) selected from all the blocks who will further train 100,000 school cooks across the state.
- Sensitization of government stakeholders on rice fortification continued in June. WFP reached 1,400 staff in Chhattisgarh, Haryana, and Odisha. In Uttar Pradesh, WFP supported the Food Corporation of India with a regional workshop for training 23 manufacturers of fortified rice kernels and 8 officials of Food Department. In Uttarakhand, WFP trained 134 master trainers from state government departments.
- 147 take-home ration (THR) production units are now operational across Uttar Pradesh and provide nutritious THR products to more than 4.1 million government beneficiaries. In June, around 50 mt of THR products were produced and 40 mt of THR

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Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Net Funding Requirements until June 2023 (in USD)
27.61 m	20.07 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

products were distributed to 15,800 children, pregnant and breastfeeding women across three blocks of Jaipur district, Rajasthan. In Odisha, total 11.1 mt of THR was produced for distribution in two blocks.

- Initial findings of the evaluation of the pilot project on rice fortification in Malkangiri District were presented to the national government recently as part of WFP's contribution to learning and documentation of the scale-up of fortified rice across all food-based safety nets in the country.

Women's empowerment

- In partnership with the Mission Shakti Department, WFP finalized two assessment reports that analysed the empowerment impact of women's self-help groups (SHG) engaging in electricity meter reading and pisciculture activities for the Government of Odisha. Most groups reporting increased status and respect in family and communities and feelings of pride among family members, greater participation in decision making.
- WFP completed the midline assessment of the project on "Capacity Development for Financial and Digital Literacy" among women SHG Groups in the Delhi-National Capitol Region.

Climate, Resilience and Disaster Risk Reduction

- WFP staff participated in the pre-inception meeting for the Regional Adaptation Fund project between India and Sri Lanka from 5-9 June in WFP Sri Lanka Country Office. The meeting was organized to orient the country office on implementation arrangements and planning for the regional inception workshop.
- More than 330 farmers and 90 self-help group members participated in a village-level refresher training of farmers on the participatory integrated climate services for agriculture (PICSA) approach along with village-level *kharif* (July-October season) planning in Ganjam, Odisha.
- Women farmers have been identified for solar-based post-harvest drying activities in two blocks of Ganjam district for 12 units of solar dryer equipment. Primary processing has been initiated at Giria village with 6 tons of cabbage already dried using solar drying equipment.

Gender and Inclusion

- The WFP India Gender Results Network organized a staff capacity strengthening session on 26 June on the use of gender-sensitive language.

Donors

Adaptation Fund, Citrix Systems, Inc., Ericsson India Global Services, Government of Odisha; General Mills Foundation, Global Development Group NZ, Department of Food and Public Distribution, Government of India; Government of Uttar Pradesh, PATH, Rockefeller Foundation, UPS, WFP Trust for India, the WFP Innovation Accelerator, and individual donors to WFP's ShareTheMeal app and WFP.org