



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

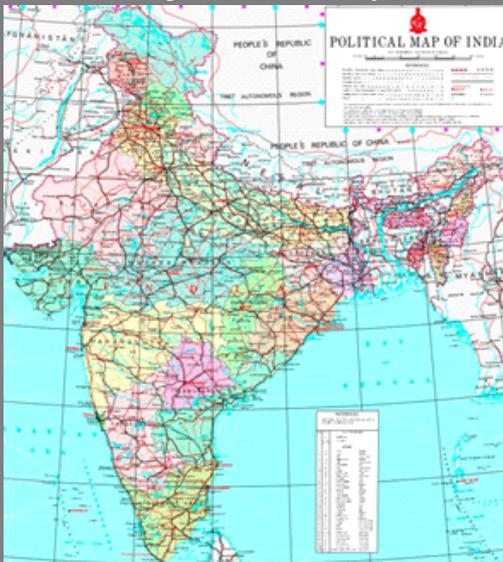
# WFP India Country Brief September 2023



## 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 107 out of 121 countries on the 2022 Global Hunger Index. Despite improvements, the prevalence of malnutrition is above acceptable levels, with 35 percent and 19 percent of children below 5 years being too short for their age and having low weight for their age respectively. The prevalence of anaemia is alarmingly high, especially among women of reproductive age (57 percent) and children 6-59 months (67 percent).

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. WFP has been working in partnership with the Government for more than 50 years. WFP is providing technical assistance and capacity strengthening to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Government food-based social protection schemes and other programmes that strengthen food security, nutrition, and livelihoods. WFP also empowers vulnerable communities to effectively tackle climate-induced challenges to food security and nutrition.



**Income Level:**  
Lower Middle

**Population:**  
1.32 billion

**Chronic Malnutrition:**  
38% of children  
6-59 months of  
age

**2022 Human Development Index Ranking:**  
132 out of 191

## Highlights

A delegation from the Government of Nigeria, and the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition visited India to understand the journey of rice fortification in the country. They met with officials from the national and state governments and visited the state of Odisha to observe the production, machinery, safety standards and quality control systems. Additionally, the delegation witnessed the distribution and consumption of fortified rice through various government food-based safety net schemes, including the Public Distribution Systems, Mid-Day School Meals, and Integrated Child Development Services.

## Operational Updates

### Social Protection and Supply Chain

- WFP completed a supply chain optimisation analysis of the transportation network for the targeted public distribution system (TPDS) in 24 states.
- WFP is supporting the government to replace traditional storage with Flospans (prefabricated frameless storage structure) to increase capacity and reduce losses. The second Flospan and fourth mobile storage unit were installed in Himachal Pradesh.
- WFP has installed the first of 20 Annapurta solutions (grain dispensing machine) in Uttarakhand. This is part of the planned state-wide Annapurta scale-up. With this installation, WFP has now installed 9 Annapurta solutions across India.
- On 14 September, WFP and the Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay signed an agreement. This will facilitate collaboration in evidence generation, promotion of technology and innovations, research, and scale-ups in the food and nutrition security sector.

The Rajasthan Food and Nutrition Security Analysis Report 2023 was launched by the Planning Department of the Government of Rajasthan and WFP. The report provides a comprehensive analysis on the food security and nutrition status as well as measures being taken in the State and put forward various policy recommendations. WFP provided technical assistance in conceptualizing the analysis, collating and synthesizing various data sets, and drafting and dissemination of the report.

### Nutrition and School Feeding

- Awareness raising on fortified rice continued across various parts of India.
  - Refresher training was conducted in Uttar Pradesh state for 245 rice millers.

## Country Strategic Plan (2023-27)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Oct-Mar 24 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
31.75 m	20.46 m	0 m

### Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to safe and nutritious food (SDG 2.1)

**Strategic 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.

### Strategic Result 2: End all forms of malnutrition (SDG 2.2)

**Strategic 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

### Strategic Result 3: Double the productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers (SDG 2.3) and ensure full participation in leadership and decision-making (SDG 5.5)

**Strategic 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

### Strategic Result 4: Sustainable food production and resilient agricultural practices (SDG 2.4)

**Strategic 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.

- Public lectures were organised in Bihar at two medical colleges. Over 300 people from the medical fraternity participated. These lectures aimed to generate awareness about the consumption of fortified rice as part of the ongoing social and behaviour change campaign.
- Also in Bihar, 150 street plays, and 28 cooking demonstrations were conducted. Radio jingles were developed by WFP and were transmitted through the Red-FM radio channel, which covered 42 towns across the state.
- As part of the national nutrition month celebrations, WFP collaborated with the Government and supported a seminar on rice fortification. WFP also supported celebration activities in Jaipur, where more than 600 schools organized activities with more than 50,000 children, teachers, community members and school cooks. This included rallies, pledge taking, quiz, drawing and slogan writing.

## Women Empowerment

- WFP is in discussion with the Rajasthan Rural Livelihood Mission (Rajeevika) and the Tribal Area Development Department, to consolidate a new program supporting the livelihood of tribal women in the state. This programme would be aligned with the Government's Van Dhan Vikas Yojana, which is geared towards marketing tribal produce and minor forest products. A field mission was also conducted to better understand the local context of the targeted population.

## Climate and Resilience

- As part of its technical assistance to the National Disaster Management Authority, WFP has been acting as a member of the technical advisory committee for drought mitigation planning and reviewing proposals submitted from state governments to the Committee. WFP collaborated with the National Rainfed Area Authority to develop operational guidelines for state governments.
- WFP is working with the Government of India to promote millet consumption. In collaboration with the Indian Institute of Millets Research, a formative study was conducted to analyse the behavioural challenges in enhancing millet consumption. Data collection has been completed, and the report is expected to be released by the end of October.

## Donors

The Government of India, Associated Data Processing, Inc., Cargill, DSM, Ericsson India Global Services, General Mills Foundation, Jubilant Bhartia Foundation, Stop Hunger Foundation, Secretary General's Multi-Partner Trust Fund, Sodexo Food Solutions India Private limited, and WFP Trust for India