



World Food Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

# WFP India Country Brief October 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 in the age range of 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 for 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

WFP India recently facilitated the participation of a delegation at the 6<sup>th</sup> Global Conference on the Micronutrient Forum. The delegation comprised officers from the Department of Food and Public Distribution, NITI Aayog, and technical support units established for rice fortification of Uttarakhand and Chhattisgarh. The mission of the delegation was to strengthen capacities around fortification initiatives.

## 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 28 states.
- WFP is collaborating with the government to modernise traditional storage systems to increase storage capacity and reduce losses. Recently, the third Flospan (prefabricated frameless storage structure) was installed in Rajasthan, bringing the total number of Flospans installed by WFP to three, in addition to four mobile storage units located across seven different locations in India.

### Nutrition and School Feeding

- WFP signed a Memorandum of Understanding with two institutes, the Department of Haematology at the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research in Haryana, and the College of Community Sciences at the Odisha University of Agriculture & Technology in Odisha. These institutes will act as Technical Support Units (TSU) for the Government's rice fortification programme where WFP has been providing technical assistance. The establishment of the TSUs will ensure the state level technical capacity and ownership for the programme.
- Capacity building and sensitization activities for the rice-fortification programme continues; 12 fortified rice kernel (FRK) manufacturers attended capacity strengthening sessions and 792 government functionaries and officials from the Departments of Food of Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, and Haryana participated in the sensitization sessions. In Bihar, 21 street plays and 24 cooking demonstration sessions were held to encourage the consumption of fortified rice.
- WFP is collaborating with the Uttar Pradesh State Rural Livelihood Mission in setting up 186 operational take-home-ration (THR) production units out of a target of 204. WFP-supported THR units are also operational in Rajasthan and Odisha and produced 67 metric tons and 6.6 metric tons of THR respectively, which were distributed to pregnant and breastfeeding mothers as well as children aged 6 – 36 months.

## Country Strategic Plan (2023-27)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Oct-Mar 24 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
31.75 m	20.49 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.

## Women Empowerment

- WFP visited Baran District, Rajasthan to understand the livelihood realities and challenges faced by tribal women. The findings were presented along with preliminary recommendations to the Tribal Area Development department and the Rajasthan Rural Livelihood Mission program of the State Government of Rajasthan. Following the mission, WFP is designing a new project to assist tribal women's self-help groups in marketing their produce.
- WFP India presented a poster titled 'Assessing the Impact of Women's Self-Help Group Interventions on Women's Empowerment: A Case Study of Pisciculture by Women Self Help Groups in Odisha' at the International Conference on 'From Research to Impact: Towards Just and Resilient Agri-Food Systems'. The conference was organised by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research.

## Climate and Resilience

- The second State Technical Advisory Group meeting for the project 'Building Adaptive Capacities of Smallholder Farmers in Odisha' was held on 26 October. The meeting discussed and agreed on the priorities of the project in the coming period and approved the concept of the climate adaptation planning.
- The seasonal activities of Solar for Resilience (S4R) project have resumed after the end of the rainy season. The project uses solar-powered technology to process horticulture surplus. New women groups also joined the project, receiving induction and orientation. The Technical Advisory Group has recommended connecting women-led processing units and various government subsidy schemes to provide better financial support.
- WFP completed the scoping study for the S4R Project. The study was conducted in two blocks of Ganjam district in Odisha. The study highlighted existing gaps and the status of female beneficiaries in terms of their education, livelihood and access to resources. The data is being used for developing the capacity building and awareness raising activity materials as well as the overall planning of the project.

## Donors

Government of India, Associated Data Processing, Inc., UPS Foundation, Ericsson India Global Services, General Mills Foundation, Secretary General's Multi-Partner Trust Fund, BMGF, Rockefeller Foundation, Citibank, and WFP Trust for India