



WFP India Country Brief January 2024

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



Launching of Millet Compendium at NITI Aayog Government of India. WFP/Shyamalima Kalita

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's 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

On 12th January, WFP in collaboration with NITI Aayog (the apex public policy think tank of the Government) [launched a compendium of inspiring stories on millets mainstreaming in India, and other Asian, and African countries](#). The launch was a part of Mapping and Exchange of the Good Practices (MEGP) Initiative started in the International Year of Millets. The compendium compiles inspiring and replicable practices that can motivate the practitioners to increase the uptake of millets as climate resilient nutri-crops.

Operational Updates

Social Protection and Supply Chain

- 20 Annapurta or grain-dispensing solutions have been operationalised in Uttarakhand, completing the initial phase of the Annapurta scale-up. With this installation, WFP has effectively operationalized 29 Annapurta solutions across India. WFP is compiling the findings from the pilot which will inform the government's consideration for further scale-up.
- WFP has been working with the Department of Food and Public Distribution and the Food Corporation of India to implement a SMART warehouse solution that uses wireless sensors to monitor temperature, humidity, airflow, and rodent infestation in warehouses across India. The data collected is accessible through a web-based application. Following pilots facilitated by WFP, the Government has requested the Food Corporation of India and the Central Warehousing Corporation to scale up the solution across warehouses storing government grain stocks for considerable periods.
- WFP has finalised a work plan to enhance national evaluation capacity development initiatives in collaboration with the Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO) of NITI Aayog. The work plan outlines WFP's technical assistance to DMEO in conducting food security and nutrition evaluations, providing training, and capacity-building programmes for government officials to monitor and evaluate government food security and nutrition initiatives.

Nutrition and School Feeding

- As a part of the school feeding programme in Jaipur, WFP has set up 1800 nutrition gardens in schools, which aim to increase supply of fresh vegetables and fruits in school meals as well as to educate children on locally available food and their nutritional value. Teachers and cooks have been trained to incorporate freshly harvested vegetables in daily menus.

Country Strategic Plan (2023-27)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Oct-Mar 24 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
31.75 m	25.17 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.

- As part of the SBCC campaign on rice fortification, 226 JEEVIKA (Rural Livelihoods Promotion Society) members and 16 officials were trained. In Kerala, a master trainer pool was established with 505 officials across 12 districts trained. Capacity building also continued in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Kerala, and Uttarakhand, with 423 officials in Food, Education, and ICDS departments sensitised.

Women Empowerment / Climate and Resilience

- WFP's gender and climate and resilience teams conducted a joint scoping mission to Nagaon district in Assam, to assess the situation prior to starting the climate adaptation and women empowerment project. The team interacted with female farmers, women community agricultural workers and self-help groups, as well as district officials. The mission also debriefed with the state government to agree on implementation strategies. The project is scheduled to launch next month.

Climate and Resilience

- WFP participated in India's Investment Forum for Climate-Resilient Agri-food Systems. The forum was held by the Ministry of Agriculture, NITI Aayog, and FAO. The discussions focused on investment trends, needs, and innovations in climate-resilient agriculture. WFP also participated in a workshop on risk financing solutions organised by UNDP and National Disaster Management Authority. Currently, WFP is exploring a pilot to improve awareness and efficiency in climate risk insurance.
- In Odisha, through WFP's Solar for Resilience project, 12 women's groups processed nine metric tonnes of cabbage using solar-powered drying technology.
- WFP's Participatory Integrated Climate Services for Agriculture (PICSA) project facilitated knowledge exchange between 120 farmers at the Farmers' Field Day. In Hinjlicut area, PICSA-targeted 30 farmers received green gram seed kits for dry season cultivation. Village adaptation planning is also being finalized in the PICSA-targeted villages.

Donors

The Government of India, Ericsson India Global Services, UPS Foundation, MasterCard India, Government of Norway, Secretary General's Multi-Partner Trust Fund, Rockefeller Foundation, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, PATH, Citigroup Global Markets India Private Limited, Citicorp Services India Private Limited, UN Adaptation Fund, Innovation Accelerator, and WFP Trust for India