



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP India Country Brief February 2024



State-level rice fortification workshop in Patna Bihar.
Photo: AK Creations

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 800 million vulnerable people monthly. 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

As part of the social behaviour change communication (SBCC) campaign on fortified rice in Bihar, a workshop was held in Patna on 16 February 2024. Eighty participants joined from media outlets, government agencies, institutions, and development partners. During the event, sessions were held to highlight the benefit of fortified rice and the progress made in the state in rolling out fortified rice across the government food-based social protection schemes.

Operational Updates

Social Protection and Supply Chain

- WFP has accomplished the ambitious task of optimizing the supply chain for the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) for all states in India. Recognizing the diverse constraints in each state, WFP is now developing tailored tools to address state-specific challenges. One such tool was recently completed for Punjab state, offering a range of features with a user-friendly interface, which helps stakeholders to make informed decisions.
- On February 20, WFP organized a workshop on "Evaluation Quality Assurance" to enhance the national monitoring and evaluation system. This workshop was part of EvalFest 2024, a conference that saw participation from over 250 speakers representing the Government of India, UN agencies, donors, academia, and civil society. WFP played a key role in the conference by sharing insights and expertise on strengthening the national monitoring and evaluation systems.

Nutrition and School Feeding

- The fourth meeting of the technical advisory group on rice fortification was held to discuss the fortification standards and present the findings of the endline evaluation in Chandauli district of Uttar Pradesh. Forty-eight officials and experts attended the meeting, including senior officials from the Department of Food and Public Distribution and the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, academia, representatives from the technical support units, and development partners.
- Trainings and sensitizations on rice fortification continued across the country. In Kerala, a master trainer pool was established, constituting of 134 officials from various departments. In Chandigarh, a public lecture was held in the Post Graduate Institute of Behavioural and Medical Sciences to raise awareness among 80 community medicine students and faculty. Furthermore, sensitization workshops

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.

were held in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand, training 296 school cooks, local and state level officials, quality controllers, and community childcare workers.

- In Rajasthan, WFP is supporting the government to include fortified wheat flour in the school feeding programme. In February, the first production of 34 metric tonnes of fortified wheat flour was distributed to 38,000 students. To improve the understanding of wheat flour fortification, WFP also organized an online orientation session for 679 school head teachers.

Women Empowerment

- WFP and the Secretary of Rural Development, Government of Assam had a meeting to kickstart an intervention aimed at enhancing the livelihoods of rural women through the Assam State Rural Livelihoods Mission Society. In Rajasthan, WFP met with the Secretaries of Tribal Area Development Department and Rajeevika, and discussed a proposed intervention that would improve the livelihoods of Sahariya tribal women in the state.

Climate and Resilience

- On February 28, WFP organized an orientation and implementation planning workshop for the ADAPT4R project, a regional project aiming to strengthen resilience of vulnerable communities in Sri Lanka and India against the increased impacts of climate change funded by the Adaptation Fund. The workshop brought together key stakeholders involved in the project's execution in Odisha state.
- WFP conducted a scoping mission in Ganjam district, Odisha, as a preparatory step for a new project which will support building resilience of women's self-help groups for sustainable household food and nutrition security. The findings from this mission will be used to develop implementation strategies and a comprehensive project plan.
- Under the Participatory Integrated Climate Services for Agriculture (PICSA) project, WFP facilitated 300 farmers to be connected to a government scheme that provides seeds for pulses. This complementary support will help crop diversification and enhance household nutrition. Under the project, women farmers are receiving assistance in diversifying their livelihoods, such as to establish backyard poultry.

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