



World Food Programme

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## WFP India Country Brief March 2024



## Highlights

A National Conference on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was held by NITI Aayog, the apex public policy think tank of the Government, in Jaipur, Rajasthan. During the event, the Chief Minister of Rajasthan launched a dashboard developed by the Planning Department of the Government of Rajasthan in collaboration with WFP on SDG-2 and food and nutrition security. The inauguration ceremony was attended by the Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog, along with the United Nations Resident Coordinator, senior Government and UN officials.

## Operational Updates

WFP's Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific region visited India and interacted with various senior government officials as well as the UN Resident Coordinator and other key partners. During the visit, the Regional Director extensively discussed further collaboration opportunities with government counterparts.

### Social Protection and Supply Chain

- WFP is assisting the government modernize grain storage systems by replacing traditional storage with Flospans (prefabricated frameless storage structure) to increase capacity and reduce losses. Recently, the sixth Flospan was installed in the state of Chhattisgarh.

### Nutrition and School Feeding

- On March 8, the International Women's Day, the Deputy Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh unveiled an e-learning initiative which uses an app developed by WFP in partnership with the Uttar Pradesh State Rural Livelihood Mission. This initiative provides training to women's micro-enterprises in take-home ration (THR) production under the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS), with an emphasis on standard operating procedures, food safety, and hygiene practices. The event also introduced a new product developed by the women's group being sold in the market, which will help increase the group's income.
- In March, around 48 metric tons (mt) of take-home ration (THR) products were produced and around 51 mt were distributed in Jaipur, Rajasthan. In Ganjam block of Odisha, 14.3 mt of THR was produced and distributed to more than 10,000 beneficiaries.
- As part of its initiative to improve state capacities for rice fortification, WFP organized various training and sensitization sessions; in Kerala, 1,002 resource persons who work on a poverty eradication and women empowerment

## 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:**  
1.44 billion

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

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

## 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.

programme led by the state government were trained. In Haryana, a group of 123 master trainers was established while 347 officials from various departments in Odisha underwent sensitisation sessions. Further, 17 ICDS supervisors were trained in Uttarakhand and training sessions on quality control measures were conducted for rice millers in Bihar and Odisha. In Uttar Pradesh, 265 stakeholders, including government officials, millers and fair price shop owners attended training sessions.

## Women Empowerment

- WFP India's Gender Results Network organized a webinar titled "Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress" to celebrate International Women's Day. The webinar featured a fireside chat with Ms. Bhanupriya Rao, the founder of Behanbox, a digital media platform for gender journalism. During the chat, Ms. Rao discussed gender perspectives in media coverage and emphasised the importance of using a gender lens to analyse issues both at the grassroots and national levels.

## Climate and Resilience

- WFP, in collaboration with the State Government of Assam and the Royal Norwegian Embassy, has launched a project "Advancing Climate Adaptation for Vulnerable Communities through Nature-based Solutions and Gender-transformative Approaches in Assam." The project aims to increase the adaptive capacities of smallholder farmers, with a focus on women. The launch event also brought together key stakeholders who will be engaged in the project's execution.
- In March, 36 women micro-entrepreneurs in Ganjam district of Odisha processed over 20 metric tons of vegetable raw materials. Currently, WFP and Science for Society Technologies, a technology-based social enterprise, are working together to conduct a market assessment in Odisha to identify potential markets and opportunities to scale up the project.

## 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