



World Food Programme

# WFP India Country Brief

May 2024

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



Session on Gender, Disability, and Body Image organised by Gender Results Network generated intense discussion. ©WFP/Shyamalima

## 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.

## Highlights

WFP India's Gender Results Network hosted a session titled "**Gender: Disability & Body Image,**" delving into the impact of body image stereotypes on individuals with disabilities, particularly within the context of gender. Nidhi Ashok Goyal, Founder and Executive Director of Rising Flame Organisation, an advocate for disability rights, and Mr. Murali Padmanabhan, Regional Disability Inclusion Advisor-Asia & Pacific at WFP, engaged in a dialogue facilitated by Parvinder Singh, Head Communications Unit, WFP India. The discussion provided insights and suggested strategies for addressing ableist social perception and the barriers that it creates.

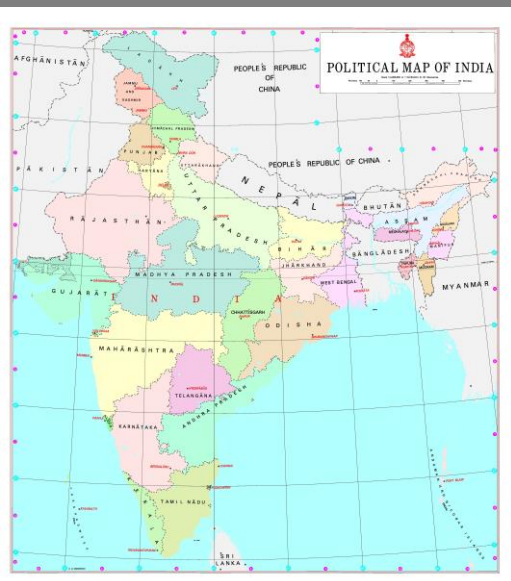
## Operational Updates

### Social protection and supply chain

- The Department of Food and Public Distribution is piloting the SMART Fair Price Shops (FPS) initiative to modernise India's Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), benefiting 800 million people with subsidised food grains. Operated by the Government, FPSs distribute wheat, rice and sugar to PDS beneficiaries. The SMART FPS initiative incorporates predictive analysis for inventory management and broadens the range of services and commodities offered. In collaboration with the Government, WFP launched pilots in 39 Smart FPS outlets across Gujarat and Telangana states. These modern hubs aim to provide food and essential goods in an efficient and user-friendly manner.
- WFP continues to support the optimization of the TPDS supply chain across India. Recognizing the unique challenges faced by each state, WFP has been developing customized tools for each. Six out of 31 states recently received these user-friendly tools which will enable them to make informed decisions and enhance overall supply chain management.

### Nutrition and School Feeding

- WFP has extended its technical support on the rollout of fortified rice to the northeast state of Tripura. Across India, training sessions on fortified rice continued, benefiting 234 health resource persons in Kerala, 100 rice millers in six districts in Assam, and 12 workers from nine mills in Bihar. The training of 1,353 cook cum helpers in Bihar (191) and Haryana (1,162) were also completed. Further, a total of 495 government officials and functionaries were trained in Bihar, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Uttarakhand.



**Income Level:**  
Lower Middle

**Population:**  
1.44 billion

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

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

## Country Strategic Plan (2023-27)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Oct-Mar 24 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
31.75 m	26.12 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.

- WFP's NutriEduTHR app for women micro-enterprises expanded in Uttar Pradesh. By May 2024, 1,518 users were registered, with over 489 completing training. Further in the state, over 97,000 mt of nutritious fortified take-home rations (THR) were produced by WFP-supported women self-help groups and distributed under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme. WFP also continues to implement the pilot on a market-based approach for improving the financial viability and incomes of the women working in these THR production units. The market-based pilot boosts women's income, with products sold with 12 percent profit. THR production pilots also continued in Rajasthan and Odisha, with a total of 68.3 mt distributed to the ICDS beneficiaries.

## Climate and Resilience

- As part of the inception of the ENACT Assam project (Enhancing Climate Adaptation of Vulnerable Communities through Nature-based Solutions and Gender-Transformative Approaches in Assam), WFP has onboarded project staff and initiated baseline survey activities. Target villages were shortlisted based on the selection criteria developed in coordination with the district administrations, and a validation exercise was conducted. Following the village selection, a community-based participatory planning and livelihood calendar mapping exercise will be conducted.
- WFP's 'Secure Fishing' app offers lifesaving and livelihood advisories to fishing communities, alerting them to potential dangers and productive fishing zones. The Satspot app testing was completed and resulted in a positive outcome. Successful Satspot testing ensures connectivity at sea, facilitating real-time information sharing and peer-to-peer communication among fishers in specific areas.

## 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