



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP India Country Brief

June 2024



Seed distribution in Kathiatoli block of Nagaon district, Assam.
Photo credit: @Pooja Kotoky, WFP

Highlights

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), in collaboration with the Government of Assam, is implementing the ENACT (Enhancing Climate Adaptation of Vulnerable Communities through Nature based Solutions and Gender Transformative Approaches in Assam, India) Assam project to enhance climate adaptation using nature-based solutions and gender-transformative approaches. In partnership with Assam Agriculture University, the project has initiated community-led Smart Seed Production Systems (SSPS) in the Raha, Kathiatoli, and Pankhimoria blocks of the Nagaon district.

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 111 out of 125 countries on the 2023 Global Hunger Index. Despite improvements, the prevalence of malnutrition is above acceptable levels, with 35.5 percent and 32.1 percent of children below 5 years being too short for their age (stunting) and having low weight for their age (underweight) respectively. The prevalence of anaemia is alarmingly high, especially among all women of reproductive age 15-49 years (57 percent) and children 6-59 months (67.1 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.

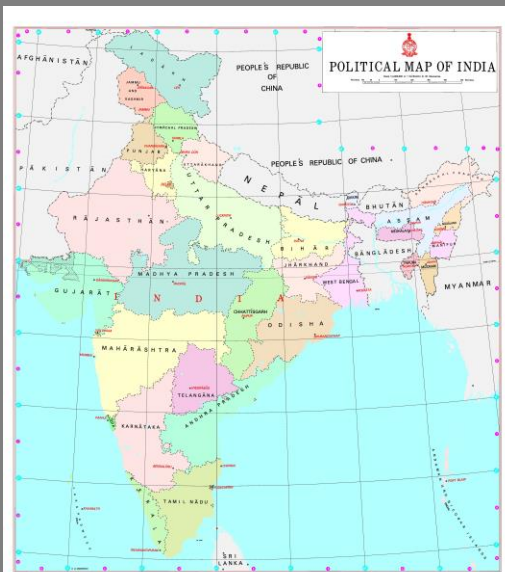
Operational Updates

Social Protection and Supply Chain

- WFP co-hosted a study visit for the Regional Bureau for Asia Pacific delegation. The visit explored the Government of India's reforms, transformations, and innovations within the Targeted Public Distribution System, focusing on optimizing and strengthening national food supply chains. The mission included exposure visits to observe the operations of the Public Distribution System, SMART warehouses, [Annapurta](#), and other initiatives. WFP facilitated these visits in Odisha and Uttarakhand with government counterparts. WFP is exploring collaborations with Asia Pacific countries through South-South and Triangular Cooperation to showcase and exchange knowledge of India's innovative food system solutions.

Nutrition and School Feeding

- WFP is providing technical support to state governments to reduce malnutrition among women and children. Take-home-ration (THR) production units have been established in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Odisha. In Uttar Pradesh, 4,000 women-led micro-enterprises across 204 units produced over 103,000 mt of fortified blended foods, benefiting 12.1 million people. In Rajasthan, 135 mt of THR products were distributed in Jaipur, along with 280 group sessions and 260 individual counselling sessions. In Odisha, 13 mt of THR products reached 20,300 beneficiaries in two districts.
- WFP and the Department of School Education, Government of Rajasthan, conducted an online orientation for cooks. Over 20,000 participants, including cooks, teachers, and block officials, attended the session. The session covered various aspects of the [PM POSHAN](#) scheme and the roles and responsibilities of cooks. It also emphasized hygienic practices essential for cooking and serving meals.



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

WFP Country Strategy



Country Strategic Plan (2023-27)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Oct-Mar 24 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
31.75 m	27.82 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 supported the nationwide adoption of fortified rice. This included training 160 rice millers and 72 government officials in Assam. In Bihar, 31 rice millers and 10 government officials received refresher training. Frontline workers were trained across four states, including 2,162 cook-cum-helpers in Haryana, 410 ICDS functionaries in Odisha, 485 in Bihar, and 224 FPS owners, as well as 43 food department officials in UP. In Assam, a pool of 99 master trainers was established for cascading training in the Education department. Sensitization workshops in Uttarakhand and Maharashtra trained 105 and 102 food division officials, respectively.

Women Empowerment

- The Second Norway-WFP India Symposium on Women Farmers took place on 18 June at the Royal Norwegian Embassy in New Delhi. The theme of the symposium was "Expanding Women Farmers' Access to Land, Inputs, Training, and Government Schemes". Key speakers included Mr. Anil Jain from the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Dr. Vineeta Kumari from MANAGE, and Ms. Megha Desai from SEWA. Ms. Sakhiben Khengarbhai Ahir, a successful woman farmer from SEWA, shared her inspiring journey of overcoming obstacles to achieve success.
- On June 26, 2024, the Country Director provided an update on WFP's priorities for preventing sexual exploitation abuse and harassment (PSEAH) in a virtual town hall session. The session included input from Mr. Christian Saunders, the Under Secretary General and Special Coordinator on SEA.

Climate and Resilience

- In June, as part of the Solar for Resilience (S4R) project, 36 women micro-entrepreneurs in Ganjam district, Odisha, processed 37 quintals of pumpkin. WFP documented the project's progress and produced videos showcasing these achievements.
- The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India, held its first meeting on 18 June in New Delhi to develop Operational Guidelines for the Climate Resilient Agriculture (CRA) Programme. WFP is providing essential technical assistance to the Ministry on relevant matters.
- In June, as part of ENACT Assam Project, seed distribution ceremonies involving officials from the District Agriculture Office, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Zonal Research Station, village heads, Gram Panchayat representatives, farmers, and Women Self Help Groups from seven project villages were held in Nagaon district.

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