



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP India Country Brief July 2024



The first State Monsoon Forum organised on 5 July in Guwahati, Assam. © WFP/Pooja Kotoky

## Highlights

The first [Assam State Monsoon Forum](#) was held in Guwahati on 5 July. The forum concluded with a plan to improve climate services and adaptation, including anticipatory action. It brought together government departments, officials, civil society, experts, and agencies to discuss climate change information and opportunities for using it to provide advisories and help build anticipatory responses. WFP, the Indian Meteorological Department, and the Department of Agriculture, Government of Assam organized the forum.

## Operational Updates

### Social protection and supply chain

- State-level officials participated in workshops and training sessions to learn how to use customized tools for optimizing the supply chain of the Targeted Public Distribution System (PDS). These tools were provided to eight states, helping the staff make data-driven decisions to enhance the efficiency of the food supply chain. WFP, in collaboration with the Department of Food and Public Distribution, has been working on optimizing the PDS supply chain across 31 states.

### Nutrition and School Feeding

- WFP worked closely with key partners and academia to ensure that the myth around consumption of fortified rice by patients of thalassaemia and sickle cell anaemia being unsafe is addressed based on scientific evidence. The joint advocacy and evidence base led to the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India withdrawing the disclaimer labels on the bags of iron-fortified rice against consumption by thalassaemia and sickle cell anaemia patients.
- WFP continued its engagement to strengthen nutrition intervention delivery through the Take Home Rations (THR) programme, which provides nutritious food to children, pregnant and breastfeeding women as part of India's Integrated Child Development Services scheme. In Uttar Pradesh, over 114,000 mt of fortified food was produced by 4,000 women through 204 micro-enterprises. WFP provided tablet devices to facilitate online learning on the production and quality control. In Rajasthan, where the pilot is at its early stage, 64 mt of THR products were produced by one pilot unit, and counselling and training sessions on nutrition and consumption of THR were conducted. In Odisha's Ganjam district, over 15,000 people received THR products, and capacity-building sessions for frontline staff engaged in this programme were held.

## 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:** 132 out of 191 countries

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## Country Strategic Plan (2023-27)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Oct-Mar 24 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>31.8 m</b>	<b>28.2 m</b>	<b>0 m</b>

### 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.

- Under the WFP and the Government’s comprehensive Social and Behavioural Change Communication Campaign, the first of the three-episode television series on rice fortification was aired on a prominent state-level channel in Bihar. Two episodes of the talk show were also aired on the official All India Radio in Bihar.
- In Rajasthan, WFP distributed summer and monsoon vegetable seeds (brinjal, bottle gourd, and cluster beans) to 1,800 schools as part of its school nutri-garden support. Preparatory activities such as seed sowing were conducted in 1,600 schools.
- WFP conducted a training session on rice fortification with multiple stakeholders across eight states including i) 142 rice millers and 141 food department officials in Assam, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Tripura; ii) 4,400 cook-cum-helpers and 4,100 teachers in Haryana and Uttarakhand; iii) 1,640 functionaries from the Departments of Food, Education, Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS), and Health in Odisha; and iv) 570 Anganwadi Workers, 262 cook-cum-helpers, and 68 ICDS block-level officials in Bihar.

### Women Empowerment

- WFP conducted meetings with senior officials from the Department of Women and Child Development and the Haryana State Rural Livelihoods Mission to plan a gender training for Women and Child Development officials, Anganwadi workers, and community members. The Government aims to extend these training sessions to over 600,000 women’s self-help group members across the state.

### Climate and Resilience

- In collaboration with the Government of Odisha, WFP distributed stress-tolerant paddy seeds to 300 smallholder farmers under the Resilient and Inclusive Initiatives for Sustainability and Empowerment project. This project supports climate adaptation through resilient agricultural practices.
- As part of its technical support to the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, WFP conducted joint field visits with ministry officials to farming communities to assess the implementation, institutional setup, and impacts of interventions for boosting climate resilience. These visits showcase the benefits of improved water use efficiency, increased crop yields, and enhanced water conservation. The findings will help refine national guidelines and integrate various sectoral schemes.

### 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