



WFP India Country Brief January 2025

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



The launch of 'Anna Chakra', The Public Distribution System Supply Chain Optimisation Tool. Photo Credit @PIB Delhi

Highlights

India's Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, led by Mr Pralhad Joshi, launched a supply chain optimization tool for the Public Distribution System, which serves over 800 million people under the National Food Security Act (NFSA). The tool, [Anna Chakra](#), developed by WFP and IIT-Delhi, is expected to save US\$30-40 million nationwide annually and reduce carbon emissions by over 30 per cent. The launch on 5 December comes following successful pilots in Odisha and Uttarakhand.

Operational Updates

Social Protection and Supply Chain

- WFP and the Indian Grain Storage Management and Research Institute launched a one-year study programme to aid evidence-based scale-up of SMART warehouse solution across seven states. A research methodology training was also held for research fellows and warehouse managers in December 2024.
- After successful pilot of flospan, a semi-permanent storage solution introduced by WFP, the Department of Food and Public Distribution has recommended its use in hilly areas. The flospans enhance foodgrain storage capabilities and minimize losses, strengthening India's public distribution system, particularly in hard-to-reach areas.
- A roundtable was jointly organized by the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, and WFP on 31 January 2025, on National Food Security Act. The event discussed the achievements of the programmes under this Act and explored its future possibilities.

Nutrition and School Feeding

- WFP continued to support the capacity strengthening of stakeholders for the introduction of fortified rice in food safety nets through training and sensitization campaigns in several states. Education and food department officials were trained in Kerala, Odisha, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Bihar. WFP also inked two Memoranda of Understanding with universities in Assam and Maharashtra to establish technical support units for better sustainability of the activities.
- An impressive 45 million viewers tuned in to a talk show on rice fortification aired by state broadcaster in Bihar in December as part of WFP continued awareness campaign on fortified rice in Bihar, Chhattisgarh, and Assam. The campaign in Chhattisgarh engaged 3,000 people through cooking demonstrations, street plays, and quizzes. In Assam, 24,000 individuals were sensitized through 37

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

Country Strategic Plan (2023-27)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
31.75 m	33.73 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.

cooking demonstrations, over 200 street plays, and rallies in 29 schools.

- WFP published two documents; one report analysing the varied school meals menus across India as well as their nutrition values, and the other showcasing steps taken to improve the quality of take-home rations under India's Integrated Child Development Services.

Women Empowerment

- In December, WFP trained all 266 master trainers for gender training of frontline nutrition and women's livelihoods workers in Haryana.
- The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign featured sessions on gender-based violence, child protection, and awareness training for housekeeping and security staff.

Climate and Resilience

- The baseline report on the "enhance the climate adaptation of vulnerable communities through nature-based solutions and gender transformative approaches (ENACT)" project in Assam was completed. The report highlighted the challenges faced by smallholders such as limited access to technical knowledge and quality inputs, low adoption of good agriculture practices, a gap in receiving and utilizing actionable weather advisories, and potential of women's groups to enhance value addition, credit access, and alternative livelihoods. The first technical advisory group meeting was held in December, where discussions were held on the implementation of key upcoming activities.
- For the regional Adaptation for Resilience (ADAPT4R) project, WFP conducted an Environmental and Social Safeguards training workshops for government stakeholders and WFP staff in November, and signed a letter of understanding with the Forest, Environment, and Climate Change Department, Government of Odisha in January. WFP is committed to ensuring environmental sustainability across all its activities, limiting potential negative impacts on the environment and people.
- A planning workshop was held for the Resilient and Inclusive Initiatives for Sustainability and Empowerment (RIISE) project with various government officials in Odisha, to discuss how to ensure convergence among activities. On the ground, free, prior and informed consent sessions with 45 community members, and climate adaptation planning sessions with 106 participants were organized.
- As part of Odisha's Solar for Resilience Project, women micro-entrepreneurs processed 100 mt of raw materials in three months. Trainings on safety, hygiene, and diversification were held jointly by the Directorate of Horticulture, WFP and its partner S4S Technologies.

Donors

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