



World Food Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

## WFP India Country Brief February-March 2025



Members of WFP's leadership team and of India's delegation pose in front of the exhibition at WFP Headquarters. ©WFP/Matteo Minnella

### 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

## Highlights

Scaling Impact for a Food-Secure World, a multimedia exhibition, was held at the WFP headquarters in Rome in February 2025, coinciding with WFP's first regular session of the Executive Board. The exhibition showcased innovations developed by WFP in India was inaugurated by Carl Skau, Deputy Executive Director, in the presence of Mr. Sanjeev Chopra, Secretary of the Department of Food and Public Distribution, Government of India; H.E. Ambassador Vani Rao; and the Joint Secretary of the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, among others. [Watch the virtual exhibition](#)

### Operational Updates

#### Social Protection and Supply Chain

- WFP continues to support the Department of Food and Public Distribution in enhancing the storage efficiency of grains within the Public Distribution System (PDS). The SMART Warehouse solution has been implemented in 15 warehouses across five locations nationwide. This initiative utilises sensor-based monitoring, real-time inventory tracking, and AI-driven analytics to minimise storage losses and improve management.
- Following the successful implementation of supply chain optimisation for the PDS, the Department has approved phase 2 of this initiative. Building on the achievements of supply chain optimisation, or [Anna Chakra](#), which so far resulted in US\$15 million in annual savings across 12 states, phase 2 will focus on optimising linkages between procurement centres and mills to reduce transportation costs and enhance efficiency.

#### Nutrition and School Feeding

- WFP has extended technical support for rice fortification in ten states. Nearly 300 food department officials in Bihar and 171 in Tripura have been trained as master trainers. Quality assurance training involved 44 rice millers in Bihar, 15 in Uttarakhand, and 55 from the State Food and Drug Administration. Government officials from Bihar, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, and Kerala were sensitised on the consumption of fortified rice. Additionally, 698 *Anganwadi* (government-funded child and mother care centres) workers in Odisha were trained to prepare fortified rice.
- Since the inception of the Take Home Ration (THR) project, over 193,000 mt of fortified blended foods have been produced in Uttar Pradesh, benefiting over 1.2 million people. The Uttar Pradesh Government approved new recipes for THR developed by WFP, aligned with the national guidelines. In February-March 2025, about 89 mt of

## Country Strategic Plan (2023-27)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Apr-Sep 2025 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
31.75 m	35 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.

THR products were produced and distributed in Jaipur, while Odisha provided 66 mt of THR and 38 mt of other nutritious foods to over 14,000 beneficiaries.

- WFP, in partnership with Haryana's School Education Department, is establishing nutrition gardens in selected schools in four districts. This initiative aims to diversify school meals with fresh vegetables and enhance children's local food and nutrition knowledge. Over 1,000 schools have implemented these gardens, with orientations for teachers and community members to ensure sustainability.

## Women Empowerment

- On 7 March, WFP India celebrated International Women's Day with Accelerating Action. A key feature was a panel discussion with colleagues from nutrition, climate resilience, workplace inclusivity, and communication & storytelling, who highlighted the criticality of gender equality for food security and community resilience.
- In March, WFP started training 1,000 frontline *Anganwadi* workers in the Nuh district of Haryana on gender equality, nutrition security, and community mobilization. After the training, these workers will lead community gender sensitisation sessions with WFP's support.

## Climate and Resilience

- In the [ENACT project](#) in Assam, 61 master trainers learned about financial inclusion, digital literacy, enterprise development, and climate resilience.
- Under the [Solar for Resilience project](#) in Odisha, women micro-entrepreneurs processed over 61 mt of horticulture produce in February and March. On 11 March, a technical advisory group meeting discussed the progress of the project and validated the findings of the horticulture assessment.
- Under the Resilient and Inclusive Initiatives for Sustainability and Empowerment project in Odisha, 120 community members participated in four Climate Adaptation Planning sessions, while 183 participants attended 10 training sessions on Climate-Resilient Agriculture.
- The Adaptation for Resilience project has established the National Adaptation Project Steering Committee for policy guidance, and oversight and the Technical Resource Group to facilitate project implementation.

## Donors

The Government of India, ADM, citi group India, Ericsson India Global Services, Norway, Gates Foundation. Mastercard Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation, UPS foundation UN Adaptation Fund and WFP Trust for India