



World Food Programme

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LIVES

# WFP India Country Brief April-May 2025



Ms. Elisabeth Faure, WFP Representative and Country Director meeting with Honourable Chief Minister of Assam Mr Himanta Biswa Sarma. ©Dept. of Agriculture, Govt. of Assam

## 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

As part of ongoing efforts to strengthen climate and gender-responsive programming, the Norwegian Ambassador to India, H.E. Ms. May-Elin Stener, and WFP India Country Director, Ms. Elisabeth Faure, visited Nagaon, Assam on 24–25 April. They interacted with government officials, project partners, and communities engaged in the [ENACT project](#), focusing on livelihoods, ecosystem restoration, and climate resilience. Ms. Faure also met with the Honourable Chief Minister of Assam, Mr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, to discuss potential areas of collaboration under the project.

## Operational Updates

### Social Protection and Supply Chain

- On 26 May, WFP facilitated a training on qualitative data analysis for 45 officials from NITI Aayog's Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office. The session covered techniques for managing qualitative data using Microsoft Office tools and demonstrated the ATLAS.ti analysis tool.
- In a major scale-up, the Government integrated Smart Warehouse Dashboards with Depot Darpan, the national warehousing portal launched in May 2025. The SMART Warehouse solution, previously piloted by WFP across 15 locations, employs AI and sensor-based monitoring to reduce grain losses and improve stock management within the Public Distribution System (PDS). The Government now aims to extend this solution to 2,278 warehouses across the country.

### Nutrition and School Feeding

- WFP strengthened the capacity of government stakeholders and industry players in 10 states, focusing on rice fortification and the FoRTrace digital traceability portal. In Assam, Bihar, and Uttar Pradesh, WFP trained 107 rice millers, 40 fortified rice kernel manufacturers, and 66 food officials in Uttar Pradesh; 17 rice millers in Assam; and 55 millers with 20 officials in Bihar. In Bihar, 124 officials were trained as master trainers. In Maharashtra, Odisha, and Uttarakhand, WFP trained 875 officials from various departments, including Integrated Child Development and Education. Additionally, 76 food officials were trained in Kerala.
- In Chhattisgarh, under the Poshan Pratham campaign, sensitisation sessions and school rallies were conducted across six districts in 57 government schools, reaching more than 2,200 students, teachers, and staff. Messages about fortified rice were promoted through hoardings in several districts, and radio jingles were broadcast on municipality vehicles in four districts.

## 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.

- WFP-supported women-led microenterprises in Uttar Pradesh produced 205,491 mts of fortified blended foods, benefiting over 7 million people under the Anganwadi system<sup>1</sup>. Through WFP's market-based approach, micro-entrepreneurs earned up to US\$200 per month. In Jaipur, Rajasthan, 77 mt of take-home ration were produced and distributed. Additionally, hygiene and food safety training were provided to 1,388 participants across 20 districts.
- On 2 May, WFP and the Department of Elementary Education, Haryana, signed an agreement to strengthen the PM POSHAN<sup>2</sup> scheme through interventions, like nutrition gardens, training for cooks, and awareness drives on fortified rice in Nuh, Palwal, Panipat, and Sonipat.

## Women Empowerment

- The WFP has initiated a pilot on gender training and sensitization in Nuh, Haryana, one of India's Aspirational Districts, which the Government of India has identified as districts requiring focused developmental intervention. In April and May, WFP facilitated seven training sessions for nearly 1,000 Anganwadi Workers on gender equality, nutrition, and violence prevention.

## Climate and Resilience

- Under the [Solar for Resilience](#) project in Odisha, WFP's partner, S4S Technologies, trained micro-entrepreneurs on standard operating procedures on product handling, storage, and quality control in horticulture, currently focusing on ginger processing at the village level, according to March's Technical Advisory Group recommendations.
- WFP signed letters of understanding with the Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh governments on 9 and 11 April for the ADAPT4R<sup>3</sup> project, aimed at strengthening vulnerable farming communities affected by climate change in Ramanathapuram and Annamayya (erstwhile blocks of Kadapa district) districts. The first Technical Resource Group meeting was held on 27 May in New Delhi, where experts provided feedback on strategies.

## 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

<sup>1</sup> A government-sponsored programme that provides early childhood care and development services for children aged 0-6, pregnant women, and lactating mothers

<sup>2</sup> The Government's mid-day meals programme

<sup>3</sup> Adaptation for Resilience, a regional climate adaptation project