



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP India Country Brief June-July 2025



Chief Secretary, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh and Country Director, WFP India with other colleagues of WFP at Head Quarter, Rome, Photo credit: WFP, HQ.

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

The then Chief Secretary of Uttar Pradesh, Mr. Manoj Kumar Singh along with the Country Director of WFP India, Ms Elisabeth Faure presented the state's gender-transformative nutrition programme at WFP Headquarters in Rome. The presentation showcased women-led, decentralised production and distribution of supplementary nutrition products as Take Home Ration, benefitting approximately 7.2 million women and children across the state.

Operational Updates

Social Protection and Supply Chain

- WFP's SMART warehouse pilot which utilises internet of things (IoT) monitoring and AI analytics to improve storage efficiency in the Public Distribution System (PDS), is operational across 12 agro-climatic zones. The Government of India is scaling up the initiative by integrating Smart Warehouse Dashboards with its Depot Darpan portal.
- Following the successful optimisation of the PDS supply chain, which has generated USD 17 million in annual savings across 17 states, the Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD) has approved the next phase of the initiative. The new phase will focus on optimising procurement process, particularly the linkages between the procurement centre to mills, to reduce transportation costs.
- On 6 June 2025, WFP India hosted a virtual panel discussion titled "Reimagining Food Security and Nutrition Through Evidence", as part of gLOCAL Evaluation Week 2025. The panel featured senior WFP staff, government, and the private sector.

Nutrition and School Feeding

- The sixth Technical Advisory Group meeting on fortified rice was held on 19 June by WFP India, with officials from Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and the DFPD. Discussions centred on optimising folic acid and vitamin B12 levels in FSSAI standards.
- WFP continues to provide the technical support in mainstreaming rice fortification in 10 states. Refresher trainings were provided for over 600 rice millers in three states Bihar (412), Haryana (265) and Odisha (16), while 470 grassroot workers and 159 officials were trained in Odisha and Bihar.
- In Rajasthan, THR production unit set up by WFP has produced and distributed more than 102.59 MT of fortified blended foods for children and pregnant and breast-feeding women across five blocks of Jaipur.

Country Strategic Plan (2023-27)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Aug 2025-Jan 2026 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
36.21 m	37.79 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.

- As part of the Social Behaviour Change campaign 'Pushti Pratham' (Nutrition First) on fortified rice in Assam, WFP India, in collaboration with the Department of Food, Public Distribution & Consumer Affairs, Government of Assam, held workshops to promote fortified rice on 22 and 23 July. The Government Stakeholder Workshop brought together officials and experts to strategise implementation, while the Media Sensitisation Workshop engaged journalists to strengthen public discourse. In total, over 100 stakeholders participated in these workshops.

Climate and Resilience

- Under the *Resilient and Inclusive Initiative for Sustainability and Empowerment project*, a mobile application is being piloted with 300 farmers to deliver last mile climate services, promote climate-resilient practices and provide information on market interventions and government schemes.
- The second state-level climate/monsoon forum was held on 31 July in Assam under the *Enhancing Climate Adaptation of Vulnerable Communities Through Nature-based Solutions and Gender-transformative Approaches project*. The forum focused on strengthening climate services for farmers. Further, the second Technical Advisory Committee for the project was held on 10 July, confirmed good progress of the project and agreed on the strategic directions for the upcoming period.
- Under the *Adaptation for Resilience (ADAPT4R) project*, WFP in collaboration with the State Forest Departments organised two workshops in Nuapada (Odisha) and Ramanathapuram (Tamil Nadu). The workshops conducted the district-level seasonal livelihood mapping and agreed on the annual workplan.
- In collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, WFP is developing a compendium of best practices for climate resilient agriculture. The first Technical Advisory Group (TAG) met on 7 July. The TAG attendees endorsed the initiative and agreed on the priority action points.
- WFP finalised a baseline assessment for its project *Enabling Socio-Economic Empowerment and Resilience of Women's SHGs for Sustainable Food Security and Nutrition in Ganjam, Odisha*. The findings show that women smallholder farmers face high climate vulnerability, low awareness of adaptation planning, and poor access to reliable, localised weather advisories.

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.