



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP India Country Brief Aug-Oct 2025



Mr. Carl Skau, Deputy Executive Director of WFP met with Secretaries, Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare, and Department of Food and Public Distribution, Government of India. Photo credit: Ministry of External Affairs, India.

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 111 out of 125 countries on the 2024 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

Mr. Carl Skau, Deputy Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP), visited India on 25–26 August 2025. During his visit, Mr. Skau met with the secretaries from the Ministries of Agriculture, External Affairs, and Food & Public Distribution, as well as a Member of NITI Aayog, the apex public policy think tank for the Government and engaged with academic and diplomatic partners. The mission reaffirmed the commitment to deepening collaboration with the Government of India, advancing South-South Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) on sharing India's innovation with the global south, and promoting humanitarian diplomacy for regional cooperation.

Operational Updates

Social Protection and Supply Chain

- In the phase two of supply-chain optimisation for the Public Distribution System (PDS), WFP shared results and recommendations with 10 states. While phase one achieved annual savings of USD 17 million across 17 states, phase 2 aims to streamline procurement-centre-to-mill linkages to achieve further efficiencies.
- WFP is in collaboration with the Government of Meghalaya to create a 5-year strategic vision and action plan to enhance the efficiency of the PDS, aiming to improve service delivery for over 3 million people, particularly in remote areas. The State's Minister of Food launched the initiative on 5 September 2025.
- WFP showcased its innovative solutions through strategic partnerships at major tech events: with Ericsson, the [Annapurta system](#) was presented at India Mobile Congress on 8-11 October in Delhi, where live Electronic Point of Sale transactions were demonstrated. WFP also unveiled the SMART Warehouse at UPS Tech Day, on 26 August in Chennai.

Nutrition and School Feeding

- WFP is providing technical assistance to seven state governments in the implementation of fortified rice. In Chhattisgarh, a four-episode talk show around health benefits of fortified food was aired on *Doordarshan* TV Channel as part of the Social Behaviour Change campaign *Poshan Pratham* (nutrition first). In Haryana, WFP-supported Technical Support Unit (TSU) delivered three lectures, while in Uttarakhand, TSU organised a 2-day workshop on the role of food fortification in addressing anaemia and micronutrient deficiencies. In Kerala, TSU authored an article on fortified rice in the government's Quarterly Magazine, and in Maharashtra, WFP's technical support was extended for another year at the request of and financed by the state government.

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Country Strategic Plan (2023-27)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Nov 2025-Apr 2026 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
36.21 m	38.09 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.

- The pilot for Take Home Ration (THR) production in Rajasthan (2020–2025) was completed and handed over to the state. In Uttar Pradesh, WFP supported the production and distribution of 36,442 MT of fortified blended foods and trained 881 Self Help Group (SHG) women in food safety. In Haryana, the government approval to establish a new THR production unit was received.
- WFP has completed a series of technical assistance activities for the Department of Education in Rajasthan in improving the quality and nutrition value of school meals. These activities include establishment of school nutri-gardens and training of school cooks, which were scaled up across the state by the government, as well as the piloting of fortified wheat flour.

Climate and Resilience

- The planning and consultations for the Adaptation Fund Project (ADAPT4R) has been progressing well; the National Project Steering Committee approved the Year-2 Workplan on 26 September, while the State Project Implementation Committee for Tamil Nadu endorsed the state Annual Workplan. At the community level, the Community-Based Participatory Planning were completed in two Gram Panchayats in Odisha, and block-level Seasonal Livelihood Mapping works were conducted both in Ramanathapuram (Tamil Nadu) and Annamayya (Andhra Pradesh) in September.
- Under the ENACT Assam project (*Enhancing Climate Adaptation of Vulnerable Communities through Nature-based solutions and Gender-transformative approaches in Assam*), custom hiring centres were inaugurated to enable affordable mechanisation, reduce drudgery and support inclusive agricultural growth.
- Under the RIISE project (Resilient and Inclusive Initiative for Sustainability and Empowerment), 829 smallholder farmers were registered on an information dissemination app, while 4,145 farmers were reached through SMS and voice messages. They receive advisories on crops, livelihoods, markets, and weather. Two Automated Wireless Weather Stations were also installed to monitor rainfall, temperature, humidity, soil moisture, leaf wetness and evapotranspiration, feeding localised agrometeorological 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