



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP India Country Brief August 2018



Operational Context

With 17 percent of the world's population and 23 percent of the world's undernourished population, India bears a huge burden of food insecurity (more than 190 million people). Despite recent improvements in the nutritional status of children, the rates are well below acceptable levels. Micronutrient deficiencies are very high and India ranks 100 (out of 119 countries) on the 2017 Global Hunger Index. Recent economic growth, grain production, and existing food safety nets enable WFP to play a catalytic role.

WFP's work providing technical assistance for improved efficiency and nutritional effectiveness of the Government's food-based safety nets is aligned with the priorities of the National Food Security Act (NFSA 2013) and Sustainable Development Goals 2 & 17.

WFP has been present in India since 1963.



Population: **1.32 billion**

2015 Human Development Index: **131 out of 188**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition **38.7% of children between 6-59 months**

Highlights

WFP provides capacity building and technical assistance to Government of India (GoI) safety-nets reaching 800 million people.

Severe floods affected the south Indian state of Kerala due to unusually high rainfall during July-August 2018. Large scale relief operations are being coordinated by Indian government

WFP India's operations are fully funded for the next six months thanks to a strong partnership with the Government of India.

Operational Updates

- The Country Strategic Plan (2019-23), approved in principle by the Government, is posted for presentation at WFP's November 2018 Executive Board.
- In collaboration with the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, WFP is organizing a workshop on mainstreaming fortified rice in the Public Distribution System (PDS) on 14 September.
- The WFP supported Central Project Management Unit contributed to the planning awareness and Information Education & Communication (IEC) campaign for the Ministry of Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution for improved uptake by the beneficiaries. It will play important role in empowering beneficiaries, supporting Fair Price Shop operators in delivering services, and strengthening governance, thereby contributing to food security.
- WFP submitted a detailed scope of work for implementing data analytics-based Management Information System for Targeted Public Distribution System in state and central government. It includes overview of key system requirements and list of priority Monitoring values, analysis, analytics and KPI based alerts for effective Management Information System (MIS).
- At national level, with ratification from the Technical Advisory Committee, work is progressing on a Food Security Atlas in collaboration with the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- In Dhenkanal district of Odisha, in August, government school meals were fortified with minerals and vitamins for children aged 6-14 years. 135 tons of fortified rice and 3.41 tons of Micronutrient Powder (MNP) were distributed in the schools in August. Data collection for the end line evaluation of the project has started.
- WFP initiated preparatory work for a transparency portal in partnerships with Ericsson. A request for proposals for hiring vendors is shared with the state government. Preparations for setting the baseline are currently ongoing.

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Country Strategic Plan (2015-2018)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Sept18 – Feb19 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
12.95 m	4.04 m	0 m

Strategic Result 1: Access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Enhanced efficiency of national food safety-nets to deliver targets of SDG2 and National Food Security Act (NFSA)

Focus area: Root Cause

Activities:

- Improvement of TPDS programme through technological solutions and improved service delivery systems.
- Piloting Best Practice Model of the TPDS Food Basket.
- Piloting the use of ePOS (Biometric enabled authentication) for Public Distribution System in urban areas

Strategic Result 2: End malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 2: The food baskets of national safety-nets are improved to enhance their nutritional impact

Focus area: Root Causes

Activities:

- Support to improve the Food Supply Chain of the Integrated Child Development Services
- Study of ICDS Take Home Ration for First 1,000 days Initiative and Advocate for Models for Piloting
- Advocate for Scaling-up Fortification Initiatives and diet diversification to reduce anaemia among children
- Advocating for the linkages between health and nutrition

Strategic Result 3: Developing countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs

Strategic Outcome 3: Government systems undertake food security analysis and performance monitoring

Focus area: Root Causes

Activities:

- Partnering with governments to improve systems for food security analysis and monitoring through Food Security Atlases at National and state level
- Strengthening M&E systems for Zero Hunger
- Support to SDG roll-out

Strategic Result 4: Sharing of knowledge, expertise and technology strengthen global partnership support to country efforts to achieve the SDGs

Strategic Outcome 4: Enhanced contribution of Government of India (GoI) to global food and nutrition security through increased knowledge sharing and south-south cooperation

Focus area: Root Causes

Activities:

- Contribute to knowledge sharing within and outside India through establishing a Centre of Excellence (CENEX)

However, this may not be pursued by the government at this point in time.

- The Food Security Atlas developed as a part of institutionalization with in the state government of Odisha is in final stages of printing and is likely to be released in September followed by a SDG 2 strategic planning workshop based on the findings.
- In Kerala, the pilot project on fortification of take home rations (THR) to improve micronutrient malnutrition is being scaled up by the Government of Kerala (GoK) under the supportive supervision of WFP. Hiring of vendors for state-wide scale up is on-going. 10.35 tons of fortified THR has been produced in August. The Kerala floods have affected the distribution of the fortified THR. The end evaluation to assess the performance of the project as well stalled due to recent state-wide Kerala floods.
- Kerala experienced exceptional floods with huge losses of life and property. WFP is actively contributing to undertaking the assessments for nutrition and food security sector and volunteering in the relief operations under the umbrella of UN-Hub.
- As part of WFP's partnership with the Government of Uttar Pradesh (GoUP), WFP is continuing support to TPDS end-to-end computerization. The grievance redressal system is reviewed and recommendations for improvement provided.
- WFP supports the Department of Basic Education, Government of Uttar Pradesh in piloting mid-day meal fortification in Varanasi district. The micronutrient composition and project evaluation methodology are approved by the Technical Advisory Group Committee.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Field activities are regularly monitored. End evaluation of project on fortification of THR in Wayanad in collaboration with Kozhikode Medical College is stalled due to floods.

Challenges

- Capacity development requires stability in government postings to WFP's partnership projects. Frequent transfers among government officials linked to WFP's projects have posed challenges to the project timelines.
- Providing technical assistance to the government warrants long term commitment. With little scope for funding from traditional donors; it is to be sourced from the Indian Government and the private sector.

Donors

Government of India, Yum!, TECK, Sodexo, General Mills, Ericsson