



Highlights

- Agreements with the state government of Uttar Pradesh are signed for supporting the Targeted Public Distribution System reforms and fortification of government school meals programme. Uttar Pradesh has the highest burden of malnutrition in India.
- WFP is working on the development of a national roadmap framework for achieving Sustainable Development Goal 2 in collaboration with Research and Information Systems in Developing Countries (RIS) and the National Institute for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog.
- Preparatory work for the development of the next Country Strategic Plan (2019-23) has been initiated. Consultative meetings with the Government partners are underway.

WFP India Country Brief

WFP Assistance

| Country Strategic Plan (2015-2018) | Total Requirements (in USD) | Total Received (in USD)* |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| | 25.5 m | 8.05 m (31.5%) |

WFP's work in India has evolved with the economic growth and changing needs of the country. India's self-sufficiency in cereal production and large food-based safety nets that provide food security have allowed WFP to transition from food distribution to provision of technical assistance, policy and advocacy support. The shift in focus was supported by WFP's food security analysis and recommendations from a 2011 mid-term evaluation. Food delivery was phased out in 2012, and a new Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2015-2018 was signed between the Government and WFP.

Through this CSP, WFP supports the Government's largest food-based safety nets—(i) the **Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS)**, which assists 67 percent of the Indian population (800 million people); (ii) the **Mid-day Meal scheme (MDM)**, which reaches about 120 million children from 6 to 14 years of age across the country; and (iii) the **Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)**, which assists pregnant and nursing women and children below 6 years of age. The three schemes are covered under a progressive umbrella legislation—the National Food Security Act (NFSA)—which makes food a legal entitlement and gives support to all needy and vulnerable citizens through the life-cycle.

Although the Government has been implementing food-based safety nets for more than two decades, the nutritional status of children and women has been perpetually poor. The main issues highlighted by various evaluations of these schemes included inefficient service delivery, diversion of food grains and nutritional inadequacy. These issues represent challenges to achieving the zero hunger goal for India despite the scale of these schemes. WFP supports the Government's efforts towards sustainable impact on food and nutrition security by covering various vulnerabilities such as poor, women, children and adolescents, through the following interventions:

Improve the efficiency of safety nets: WFP supports improving the efficiency of service delivery through technological solutions and evidence-based research. WFP collaborates with the states of Odisha and Kerala to scale up reforms, building on the experiences of an earlier pilot and a nationwide study undertaken to develop "best practice solutions" for improved efficiency. Through these initiatives, WFP is indirectly reaching 67.3 million people assisted by the NFSA in both states.

Improve nutritional value of food under the safety nets: WFP advocates for the enhancement of the nutritional content of the food basket of the safety net schemes through fortification and diet diversification. WFP supports various pilot initiatives to demonstrate operational models that can deliver impact at scale in the government feeding programme. These projects are being implemented in both Kerala and Odisha with potential for state-wide scale-up, while policy advocacy is conducted at the national level with relevant government stakeholders.

Improve systems for food security analysis and monitoring: WFP is partnering with the Government to strengthen statistical and analytical systems for monitoring the food and nutrition security situation. Collaboration with the Ministry of Statistics and programme implementation at the national level and with the Department of Planning and Convergence in Odisha will facilitate the institutionalization of such analysis and its use for decision-making.

Contribute to knowledge sharing within and outside India through establishing a Centre of Excellence (CENEX): Following the signing of a letter of intent to establish a Centre of Excellence in India, and a subsequent visit to the Brazil Centre of Excellence by a high level government delegation, a proposal for establishing such a centre in India was drawn up and submitted. This is currently being reviewed with a stronger South-South collaboration lens.

*Figures for received funding are as per country office pipeline.

Main Photo

Credit: WFP
Caption: WFP supports the Government in its school feeding programme in Gajapati, Odisha.

January 2018

Operational Updates

- Through the multi-micronutrient fortification of school feeding supported by WFP in Dhenkanal district of Odisha, reaching 129,485 schoolchildren aged 6-14 years, so far 1664 mt of fortified rice and 10.6 mt of micronutrient powder have been distributed. As an important achievement, state government scale-up of rice fortification to 14 tribal districts through state resources has been agreed.
- In Kerala, WFP is focusing on reducing micronutrient malnutrition in children below 3 years of age by ensuring fortification of take-home rations (THR) provided through the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS). So far, 125 mt of fortified THR have been distributed to 3,052 children. To improve knowledge in the community on fortified THR and age-appropriate complementary feeding, WFP will conduct local media activities in the project area. The executive committee of ICDS approved the extension of the project to all nutrimitax production units in the district in the current financial year. In the next financial year, the project will be scaled-up across the entire state.
- An agreement with the state government of Uttar Pradesh on school meal fortification was signed. Preparatory work to start the project by mid-year is underway.
- A request for proposals for point of sale devices for rural fair price shops (FPS) was submitted to the Government of Uttar Pradesh. Data analysis for anomalies and inconsistencies in FPS automation for 3 additional states is underway, continuing previous analysis presented at the National Conference in Vijayawada.
- The Supply Chain and Paddy Procurement Report was published and disseminated to all states and Government of Odisha officials. The recommendations of the report were presented to Department of Food and Public Distribution and Food Corporation of India.
- The development of a National Food Security Atlas is progressing well with the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. A new Technical Advisory Committee was constituted and data on indicators is being made available through different data sources.
- WFP, in partnership with Rome-based agencies and the state government of Odisha, plans to implement a comprehensive pilot to address food and nutrition security in Keonjhar District of Odisha and to subsequently scale up across the state. Collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) was finalised. The project proposal and budget are now being developed.
- WFP is working in consultation with the Government and NITI Aayog to develop a national roadmap framework for SDG 2. Two research agencies—Research and Information Systems in Developing Countries (RIS) and Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI)—are currently working on this. Draft reports are ready and are being reviewed by stakeholders.

Challenges

- Changes in government staff, complex bureaucracy and long clearance procedures at times have a negative bearing on timelines and budgets.
- The challenging funding environment also poses difficulties for the achievement of the strategic objectives laid out within the CSP. Thus, with limited funding from traditional donors, funding for the CSP has to be sourced from the Government and the Indian private sector.

Country Background & Strategy



With 17.3 percent of the world's population and 23.4 percent of world's undernourished population, India bears a huge burden of global food insecurity. Though there are some recent improvements in the nutritional status of children, the rates are well below acceptable levels. Micronutrient deficiencies are very high (anaemia among women - 55.3 percent). The sex ratio is declining (940 females per 1000 males) and expected years of schooling among females is less than that for males. India ranks 97 (out of 118 countries) on the 2017 Global Hunger Index. Recent economic growth, food grain production of 264.8 million MT and the existence of three large food safety nets to cover the entire vulnerable population of the country allows WFP to play a catalytic role.

The CSP 2015-18 is aimed at providing technical assistance for improved efficiency and nutritional effectiveness of the Government's food-based safety nets to contribute to impact at scale. WFP's activities are aligned with government priorities laid down by the National Food Security Act (NFSA 2013) and Sustainable Development Goals 2 & 17 (2015-30).

WFP has been present in India since 1963.

Population: **1.25 billion**

2017 Global Hunger Index: **100 out of 119 countries**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **38.7% of children under 5 years of age**

Donors

Government of India, Yum! TECK and Sodexo