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 103th out of 119 countries on the 2018 Global Hunger Index. Despite recent improvements in the nutritional status of children, malnutrition rates are well below acceptable levels, with large number of people, especially women and children, suffering from micronutrient deficiencies. The Indian Government has undertaken many reforms in the existing social safety nets to better ensure nutrition and food security to accelerate progress towards achievement of targets under SDG 2.

WFP is working in India as a catalyst by providing technical assistance for improved efficiency and nutritional effectiveness of the Government's food-based safety nets, in alignment with the priorities of the National Food Security Act (NFSA 2013) as well as SDGs 2 and 17.

Highlights

The Government of Kerala announced the state-wide scale up of the production of fortified ‘Nutrimix’ and its distribution to children aged six to 36 months as part of a Take-Home Ration, based on WFP’s pilot project in Wayanad District. The announcement took place at the inauguration of ‘Poshan Abhiyan’ (Nutrition Mission), which was attended by the Chief Minister, Shri Pinarayi Vijayan, the Minister of Women and Child Development of the Government of India, Smriti Irani and WFP India’s Deputy Country Director.

Operational Updates

Protecting Access to Food

- In order to ensure that the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) provides the intended beneficiaries with their entitlements, the Department of Food and Public Distribution of the Government of India has shared an advisory with all states to link Adhaar (Unique Identification Number) with ration cards. In line with this, WFP has supported a training session in Karnataka on e-KYC (Know Your Client).
- Based on the request by the Government of India to help strengthen the TPDS supply chain, WFP initiated an assessment for intra-state transportation and Fair Price Shop commissions.

Improved Nutrition

- In collaboration with Public Health Foundation of India, WFP has conducted a study on Take Home Rations (THR) which are distributed to children aged 6 to 36 months and pregnant and lactating mothers across the States and Union Territories of India. The study showed variations on quality and content of the various THRs by state which will provide insight towards ways to improve them in the future.
- WFP began to work with the Government of Chattisgarh State to support its rollout of the Centre Sector Scheme on rice fortification. This follows a request from the Department of Food and Public Distribution of the Government of India.
- In support of the Midday Meals programme, WFP is developing an app to train Cook-Cum-Helpers in schools in the Cholapur block of Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. In August, WFP conducted a ‘Proof of Concept’ exercise in five schools within the project area.
- The Government of India will celebrate ‘National Nutrition Month’ in September. WFP is taking this opportunity to disseminate nutrition messages by

Contact information: wfp.newdelhi@wfp.org
Country Director: Bishow Parajuli
Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/India
setting up Nutrition Kiosks in Varanasi to promote awareness about fortified Midday Meals and health and to promote nutritious practices within the community.

**Improved use of evidence for SDG implementation/ South-South cooperation**

- WFP is supporting the cross-learning of good practices in food security and nutrition. As part of this, the Government of Bangladesh has planned to visit India to learn more about its journey on school meals, while the Government of Sri Lanka has invited a representative from the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India to share their experience on fortification at the first South East Asia Regional Group meeting.

**Monitoring & Evaluation**

- The end-line evaluation of the pilot project on the Fortification of Midday Meals in Dhenkanal has been completed and the report has been shared with the State Department of School and Mass Education in Odisha.
- The report on the end-line evaluation of the end-to-end computerization of TPDS in Bhubaneshwar District of Odisha will be disseminated in October.
- The final evaluation report of the project on fortification of school meals in Varanasi has been initiated.

**Challenges**

WFP encountered operational delays in some project areas because of staff changes in government at National and State levels.

**Donors**

WFP’s donors in 2019 include the Government of India, General Mills Foundation, Ericsson and the WFP 2030 Fund.