



WFP EVALUATION

Evaluation of India WFP Country Strategic Plan 2019-2023

October 2022

Round Table



World Food Programme

SAVING
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CHANGING
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Context

- **Multidimensional poverty** rates at 25%
- Large disparities across states and high **inequalities**, including gender-based
- India ranked 131st out of 189 in the 2020 Human Development Index
- Prevalence of **malnutrition** remains high, with under-5 stunting at 35.5 percent
- Exposure to various **climate risks**
- **COVID-19** induced income and employment losses but economy is now in recovery



WFP CSP in India 2019-2023

Enabling role focused on capacity strengthening Three Strategic Outcomes (% of budget as of needs-based plan)



23.6%

The most vulnerable people in India are better able to meet their minimum food needs all year round

S01



37.5%

People with high risk of malnutrition, especially women, children and adolescent girls, in India have improved nutrition by 2025

S02



38.8%

National and state institutions have enhanced capacity to deliver on SDG 2 and key related targets, and collaborate with regional and global partners towards SDG 2

S03

Evaluation Methodology



- **Mixed-methods:** thorough use of secondary data to complement focus group discussions and interviews
- **Case studies** to deepen understanding of each activity
- **Gender sensitive** evaluation
- **Adaptive approach** to accommodate COVID-19-related challenges

Findings

Q1 To what extent are WFP's strategic position, role and specific contribution based on country priorities and people's needs, as well as WFP's strengths?



Extensive consultation at formulation stage. Appropriate CSP design, considering specific context of India, to advance national food security and nutrition. Still, focus on few states, owing to limited resources, reduced potential impact.



The CSP adapted proactively to governments' needs during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Established comparative advantage in support of country capacity strengthening (CCS) within the food security and nutrition space. Alignment with UNSDF ensured.



Enabling role with continued necessity to advocate for benefits to ultimately focus on the most vulnerable.

Q2 What is the extent and quality of WFP's specific contribution to CSP strategic outcomes?



SO1 Safety nets: positive contribution to improving the Targeted Public Distribution System implementation efficiency and targeting effectiveness in six states. Further advocacy at state level would have amplified results.



SO2 Nutritional support: demonstrating the viability of rice fortification to producers and consumers led to significant take-up at various levels, including policies, with associated nutritional benefits.



SO3 Institutional capacities: promoted and enhanced capacities in food security and nutrition analyses in national and state institutions; built capacities on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.



Efforts to facilitate **South-South and Triangular Cooperation** limited by COVID-19 disruptions.

Q2 Achievements on cross-cutting priorities and sustainability



Gender considered across SOs and demonstrated a commitment to the gender transformative agenda. Need for more dissemination and proactive advocacy on GEWE.



Other cross-cutting dimensions: No direct beneficiaries and CCS-focus have limited WFP role. Still demonstrated some efforts to promote these dimensions across programmes and with partners.



Sustainability of CCS supported by establishing government ownership from the onset and is intrinsic to a programme focused on strengthening capacities.

Q3 To what extent did WFP use its resources efficiently in contributing to CSP outputs and strategic outcomes?



Timeliness: generally adequate, with main challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and related capacity issues amongst partners.



Resources optimization: costs rationalization for the government have been an integral focus of many CCS activities.



Cost efficiency: the CSP generally operated along cost-efficient modalities to reach indirect beneficiaries and results at scale, building capacities on innovative solutions, piloting projects and seconding full-time staff to government departments.

Q4 What are the factors that explain WFP performance and the extent to which it has made the strategic shift expected by the CSP?



Limited access and uncertainty related to **funding** have adversely affected WFP's capacity to make a significant contribution.



Solid and strategic **partnerships** with national and state governments and research partners was well suited to strengthening technical capacities, and less so to ensure they benefitted the most vulnerable populations.



Quick adaptation to the COVID-19 crisis to support NGOs and CSOs provides strong evidence of the CSP's flexible and dynamic nature.



Strong leadership, technical expertise, political acumen have **enabled** WFP to leverage its comparative advantage in the food security and nutrition space.

Conclusions



Strategic positioning: CSP designed appropriately to meet Government of India's needs for capacity strengthening towards meeting India's priorities in FSN. WFP could further amplify its contribution to SDG2 in India by expanding its reach.



Results of the CSP: WFP positively contributed to the supply and demand for quality foods and leveraged the government's push for evidence-based decision making.



Partnerships: strong links with governments has been a central driver; results could be greater through more targeted advocacy and expansion towards other partners.



Funding and advocacy: amplifying impact required additional financing, through cost-sharing with state governments or mobilizing from new sources.



Efficiency: A generally low cost 'enabling' modality – accounting system does not allow assessing cost-efficiency.

Recommendations

1

Consolidate, build on successes, and develop medium-term strategies and approaches based on **capacity needs assessments for each CSP Outcome** in the new CSP, integrating innovation and SSTC within all SOs.

2

Expand **the geographical footprint** of CCS initiatives across India for greater impact on the SDG2 agenda.

3

Step up on existing efforts to effectively integrate and strengthen **gender equality, empowerment, and inclusive approaches**.

4

Develop long-term **strategic collaborations** with stakeholders to support efforts towards addressing food security and nutrition challenges and leave no one behind.

5

Actively pursue the strategies in place for **mobilising additional resources** to further WFP's work in other geographic and thematic areas.

6

Support the development, in collaboration with the RB and HQ, of immediate and intermediate **CCS outcome level indicators** to assess WFP's contribution to CCS.