

## Opening Remarks: CONCEPT NOTE CSP 2019-2023 - INDIA.

**Dear Members of Exec Board**, thank you for this opportunity to present the Concept Note for our CSP 2019 – 23.

**The goal of WFP in India is to contribute and support India to achieve SDG-2 targets by 2030.**

On the upside, India is a Middle income country with remarkable progress in economic development and poverty reduction. With a big population India has three of the largest food safety nets in the world MDM, PDS and ICDS. India is also self-sufficient in food production notably food grain and milk.

On the downside, although malnutrition rates are declining, India bears almost 25% of the global undernourishment burden with similar high figures for Stunting, Wasting, Underweight and Anemia.

**It is evident that SDG2 global targets cannot be achieved if the dial is not moved significantly in India.**

Our work in India has evolved from **food aid** – to a **full transition** of “enabling” **Capacity and Technical support**. The current CSP (2015-18), referred to as the “**Prototype CSP**”, has established WFP as a credible technical partner in food and nutrition security.

Our longer term strategy over the next two CSP,s will build on this and we envisage a future transition post 2028 – 30 where our activities/role will be **facilitating Knowledge Sharing, Partnerships and South - South Technical Collaboration**.

The ongoing CSP formulation process has been very lengthy, consultative and in line with National plans based on India’s commitment to the SDGs, reflected in its strong policy framework - notably the National Food Security act, National Nutrition Mission and many other schemes and initiatives which link into the SDG2 goal of achieving a “**Malnutrition Free India**”.

We received active support and inputs from many key government ministries/departments whose recommendations and strong collaboration with **NITI-Aayog** (which **oversees SDGs**) are incorporated in the CN. Further endorsement is provided by the **Country Programme Advisory Committee** which steers WFP’s **operations in India**. Many other Stakeholders were engaged through consultations and workshops. **We also had a comprehensive CSR, MTR of the PCSP, and SDG2 Roadmap framework document which WFP commissioned – as guides.**

**WFP’s strategic approach** builds on the current work of strengthening government food based safety nets and **focuses on nutrition and sustainable capacities to: identify problems, design solutions** and also **plan, implement and monitor effectively**.

SO1 essentially targets **Access** by the vulnerable population through efficient delivery systems, benefiting both farmers and the needy.

SO2, focuses on **Enhanced Nutrition-** for and beyond safety-nets to reach critical beneficiaries

SO3, Covers **Country Capacity Strengthening** with both inward and outward focus.

**Gender** is critical and well integrated in the proposed CSP ‘**Inclusive and gender sensitive approaches** will be key recognizing **gender inequalities** that **underpin malnutrition and food insecurity**. Our activities will follow **gender transformative programming**

**Urbanization** is also becoming a critical issue. It will bring in economic benefits at the same time **enormous challenges for food security and nutrition**. The full CSP will support the government to identify needs and approaches, specific to urban food and nutrition security.

Cross cutting will be **evidence base for all activities, creating and supporting M&E systems** that are gender responsive and with **strong investment in documentation of the lessons learned in implementing the transformative agenda**.

Lastly, the CSP seeks to **enhance SMART partnerships** and **Convergence** as there are so many players in this space, in a complex country like **“Incredible India”**.

Thanks again for the opportunity, we are open for questions, comments and guidance.