



WFP EVALUATION

Evaluation of India WFP Country Strategic Plan 2019-2023

July 2022

Informal consultation



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

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** remain 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

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 focal 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 to advance national food security and nutrition goals



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 ensure that CCS benefits 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

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



Protection and **environment**-specific actions limited with no direct beneficiaries and CCS-focus; still 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 that benefits reach 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 GoI 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 influenced both 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 new thematic areas** of strategic engagement

2

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

3

More effectively integrate and strengthen **gender equality, empowerment, and inclusive approaches**

4

Develop long-term **strategic collaborations** with stakeholders to support efforts towards addressing FSN 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