

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.