

World Food Programme (WFP) - UPSC Notes

The World Food Programme (WFP) is an international organisation that works in the field of hunger alleviation and food security. Such international groups and programmes are important for the [UPSC exam](#) international relations segment. In this article, you can read all about the WFP and its work, especially with respect to India.

World Food Programme (WFP)

WFP is a branch of the [United Nations](#) that deals with hunger eradication and promotes food security in the world. It is especially focused on countries where hunger is an issue.

- Operating in more than 80 countries, WFP provides food assistance during emergencies and works with communities to enhance nutrition and generate resilience.
- Its chief goal currently is to end hunger, attain food security and augment nutrition by 2030.
- It is focused on emergency assistance, development aid, relief and rehabilitation, and special operations.
- Most of their work is concentrated in conflict-affected countries.
- WFP's work is guided by the [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#).
- Founded in 1961, it is headquartered in Rome, Italy.

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| <p>NAME</p> <p>World Food Programme (WFP) (Member of UNDP)</p> | <p>YEAR OF FORMATION</p> <p>1961</p> | <p>UPSC PRELIMS FACTS - WFP</p>  |
| <p>HQ</p> <p>Rome, Italy</p> | <p>SECTOR</p> <p>Hunger, Food Security</p> | |

To know more about [Important Headquarters of International Organizations](#), check the linked article.

WFP Functioning

WFP is funded completely by voluntary donations.

- It is governed by an Executive Board composed of 36 member states.

- It works in close tandem with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the [International Fund for Agricultural Development \(IFAD\)](#).
- WFP also works in collaboration with several national and global non-governmental organizations (NGOs).
- It is a member of the [United Nations Development Programme \(UNDP\)](#). It is headed by an Executive Director, who is jointly appointed by the Secretary-General of the UN and the Director-General of the [FAO](#).

WFP Focus Areas

1. Climate action
2. Disaster risk reduction
3. Gender equality
4. Nutrition
5. Smallholder market support
6. Social protection and safety nets
7. Sustainable livelihoods and ecosystems

WFP and India

WFP has been functioning in India since 1963.

- It supports the Government of India in its various food safety initiatives.
- Earlier, the focus of the organisation in India was in food distribution. But, as India has steadily gained in the area of cereal production, the organization has realigned its strategy towards technical assistance to the government in its related programmes.
- WFP is engaged in trying to improve the accountability, efficiency & transparency of the country's own subsidized food distribution system, which brings supplies of rice, wheat, sugar and kerosene oil to around 800 million poor people across the country.
- Despite the country's significant gains in poverty alleviation and per capita income levels, the malnutrition levels are unacceptably high. India ranks 102 out of 117 nations in the Global Hunger Index 2019.
- Apart from collaborating with governments in India, WFP also works with various NGOs in India.
- According to the country strategy plan for India (2019 - 2023), WFP aims to:
 - Enable the most vulnerable people of India to meet their minimum food and nutrition requirements throughout the year.
 - Enable people with a high risk of malnutrition, especially women, children and adolescent girls, to have improved nutrition by 2025.

Also read: [National Food Security Act \(NFSA\)](#)

UPSC Questions related to WFP

Who funds the World Food Programme?

WFP is funded by voluntary donations from governments, corporates and private donors.

Is the World Food Programme an NGO?

WFP is a member of the UNDP, under the UN system.

What is the difference between FAO and WFP?

- Both organisations work in tandem with each other. Both are under the United Nations.
- While the FAO is a specialised organisation, the WFP is a programme under the UNDP.
- While both are headquartered in Rome, FAO was established much earlier than the WFP. FAO was formed in 1945 and the WFP, in 1961.
- FAO focuses its efforts on improving nutrition, increasing agricultural productivity, enhancing living standards in rural populations, and help in global economic development. The WFP, on the other hand, is a food-assistance programme with a focus on emergency situations, although it works in other areas as well.

