



Food and Nutrition Security, Enhanced Resilience Project (FaNS)

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Food and Nutrition Security, Enhanced Resilience (FaNS) Project

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About National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA 2013)

NFSA 2013 provides for food and nutritional security in human life cycle approach, by ensuring access to adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices to people to live a life with dignity.

NFSA includes the Public Distribution System (PDS), Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Mid-Day Meal (MDM) and Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) schemes. The MDM and ICDS are universal in nature whereas the PDS reaches about two-thirds of the country's population (75% in rural areas and 50% in urban areas).

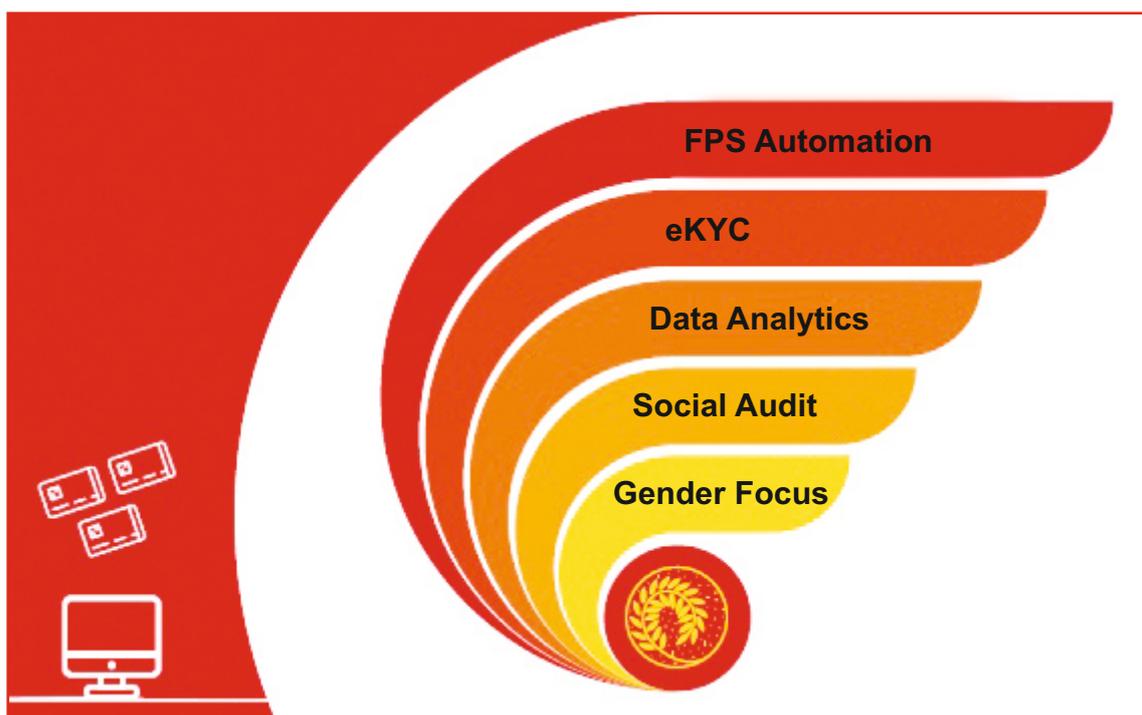
The act provides for leveraging Information and Communication Technology tools in order to bring transparency in the system, better targeting and preventing diversion.

Partners

FaNS has been partnering with the Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Government of India at the central level and at the state level with Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection, Government of Madhya Pradesh.

Interventions

The interventions primarily include the following:



eKYC (Electronic Know Your Customer)



Sector Food & Nutrition Security



Region India



Technology Automation of Process of Beneficiary Identification



Project Status Pilot Completed



Context

Every year the government spends a huge amount of money in giving subsidized food grains to the eligible beneficiaries. The list of beneficiaries is maintained at the state level. There are cases where list contains beneficiaries which don't exist (**ghost beneficiaries**). Also, several beneficiaries appear multiple times in this list (**duplicate beneficiaries**). Since the quota of subsidized food grains is fixed, ghost and duplicate beneficiaries eat up the quota and eligible beneficiaries are left out of the system.

Hence **identification of beneficiaries** is of paramount importance so that ghost and duplicate beneficiaries are removed from the list and more eligible beneficiaries get an entry into the system.

The global project FaNS developed the "**eKYC solution**" for beneficiary identification and piloted it in the State of Madhya Pradesh in collaboration with Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection, Government of Madhya Pradesh.

A project anecdote

As a government official I find it extremely difficult to identify ghost and duplicate beneficiaries. In the normal circumstances this is a very tedious process and requires door to door visit for physical verification of the beneficiaries. **This application automates the entire process of establishing the identity of beneficiaries.** It will help me in finding out the ghost and duplicate beneficiaries in the system. I can do eKYC of all the beneficiaries which are taking subsidized food grains from an FPS. After eKYC I can look at the data collected and based on that I can delete the ghost beneficiaries from the system. Then I can add more eligible beneficiaries in the system.

The application not only helps in weeding out the ghost and duplicate beneficiaries but will also help me in cleansing the database of the remaining beneficiaries as well. The data collected by this application thus has a two-fold impact.

Impact and Scaling Up

The results of the pilot were shared both at the state level as well as at the central level. The results were significant and initiated a discussion at the highest levels.

The eKYC functionality was scaled up in the state of Madhya Pradesh and it is now available at **all the 24900+ FPS** in the state. The central level also took note of the findings and has recommended all the states in the country to do eKYC of its beneficiaries.

Such applications have the potential to be initiated in **other countries** as well depending upon the IT readiness and legal framework available in the country.

Data Analytics



Sector Food & Nutrition Security



Region India



Technology Data Analytics using open source big data technologies



Project Status Ongoing



Context

Approx. 790 million people are benefitted by getting subsidized food grains across the country through Public Distribution System (PDS). A huge amount of data gets generated every month which goes and resides in databases. As the data is huge, traditional IT systems offer solutions which are kind of post-mortem solutions.

This untapped data offers a big potential to fetch meaningful information based on which **actionable insights** may be generated.

These actionable insights may be both long term as well as short term and are real time.

The global project FaNS has developed the **data analytics solution which leverages the open source big data technologies**. This solution is available to the government officials so that they can get **real time information** on the things happening on the ground and accordingly take corrective actions. By using it the officials can enhance the operational efficiencies to a large extent.

A project anecdote

As a government official I can login to the data analytics solution and look at a huge number of parameters with respect to beneficiary management, fair price shop (FPS) management, stock management and food grain distribution management. A few examples are:

- a) Opening and closing timings of FPS
- b) Biometrically authenticated transactions happening or not
- c) Availability of requisite stock at FPS
- d) Arrival of beneficiaries at the FPS for getting the food grains

Using the tool, I can also look at the patterns of these parameters over a period of months.

All these help me a lot in taking decisions and corrective actions, which until now was not possible for me.

Impact and Scaling Up

The solution has been demonstrated to government officials in some states. Since the solution offers real time insights, it has been appreciated and has evinced a lot of interest.

The solution is being rolled out in 8 different states. More and more states are now keen on rolling it out. On similar lines a solution for central level is also being discussed.

The solution offers real time capabilities using the huge amount of data. This approach can be used transnationally in any domain where huge data is generated, and real time insights are needed for course correction.

NFSA Social Audit and Awareness Generation



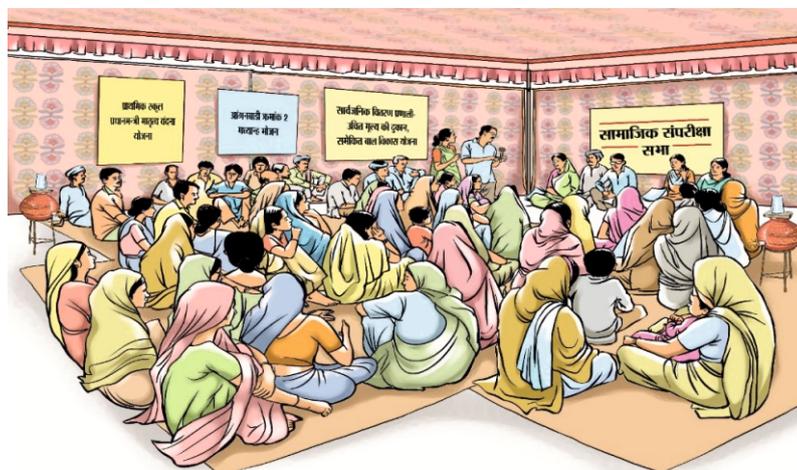
Sector Food & Nutrition Security



Region India



Project Status Pilot Completed



Context

National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 provides food and nutritional security to disadvantaged people in human life cycle approach through various schemes. The schemes under NFSA have several challenges including poor level of awareness regarding entitlements, leakages and diversion of food grains, quantity fraud, improper identification of beneficiaries, lack of transparency, poor monitoring and accountability etc. NFSA has made provision for Social Audit to address the issue of **transparency and accountability**.

Under NFSA, for social audit there was hardly any well-designed model that existed across the country.

This could be attributed to absence of comprehensive and simplified NFSA social audit process/guidelines, lack of trained human resources and financial provisions.

MP Model: To design and implement a replicable model of NFSA Social Audit and Awareness Generation, the following collaborated:

- Department of Food & Public Distribution, Ministry of Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution, Government of India
- Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection, Government of Madhya Pradesh
- GIZ FaNS

NFSA entails

nutritional support to pregnant women, lactating mothers and children through Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Mid-Day Meal (MDM) and Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) Schemes

NFSA Social Audit and Awareness Generation

Pilot was implemented in 6 fair price shops (FPS) of Khandwa district of Madhya Pradesh. **During the pilot a robust institutional framework involving all concerning departments was evolved.** For training and capacity building, reading materials and training manuals in vernacular were developed. Trainings were organized in cascade mode for master trainers, district trainers and social audit teams. A comprehensive and simplified process along with tools for data collection and reporting were developed.

For five days social audit teams carried out various activities which included household surveys, focus group discussions, key informant interviews, observations at FPS, Anganwadi Centres and Schools, data collection, analysis, report writing, verification of claims etc. Activities designed under awareness campaign i.e. distribution of handbills, pamphlets, brochures; display of posters and banners, street plays and short films were carried out alongside.

On the day fifth, Social Audit team helped the villagers to organize the social audit meetings, wherein provisions of NFSA schemes and social audit findings were presented. Participants were allowed and encouraged to raise grievances and issues. Largely, these meetings were well-attended and grievances raised by the participants were recorded as Gram Panchyat meeting minutes and communicated to appropriate authorities for actions.

Impact and Scaling Up

The details of pilot were disseminated in a **national level workshop of Food Secretaries.** The pilot was a success and has been well recognized at state and national forums. It can be upscaled across the country with customization.

With the support of GIZ FaNS a scheme for state wide implementation has been submitted to central government by the State of Madhya Pradesh.

Gender Focus

Context

Public Distribution System (PDS) is a male dominated system on all fronts which includes procurement, supply chain and distribution. FaNS through its PDS component promotes gender equality by identifying the gaps and taking simple measures to address those gaps.

Identification of major gender gaps

- a) Database analysis of PDS beneficiaries of MP revealed that only 17% of the eligible households were having eldest woman as head of the family. Concurrent evaluation of the NFSA implementation in the state also supplemented this finding. This is against the provisions of National Food Security Act (NFSA).
- b) Due to lack of the capacities and trained human resources, department was not conducting social audit.

As a result, women and under privileged sections of the society were not able to participate in the monitoring of NFSA provisions. This is a major gap as 4 schemes (PDS, ICDS, MDM and PMMVY) under NFSA primarily target women and children.

Achievements

The identified gender gaps were highlighted by FaNS in various meetings with the state government officials and actions/activities were proposed to bridge those gaps. The following concrete results were obtained by implementing the measures:

- a) Database of PDS beneficiaries was corrected and eldest woman was



Eldest Woman

is now Head of Family in 11.1 million ration cards in Madhya Pradesh

Gender Focus

- made head of the family (HOF) for approximately 11.1 million families (approx. 95% of eligible families).
- b) A social audit model has been piloted and developed so that women can participate and raise/share their issues. The pilot was conducted in a district of MP and consisted of 36 social audit team members out of which 26 members were women.
 - c) A 6 members social audit team at the FPS level was formed. As part of the policy a provision has been made that out of the 6 members **at least 2 members shall be female** and preference shall be given to the women belonging to Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe (SC/ST) families.
 - d) Findings of the social audit pilot have been shared in national conference where policy makers of all the 36 States/Union Territories participated.

Sustainability

All the measures that have been taken are at the policy and its implementation level in consultation with government partners, other stakeholders including Non-governmental organizations.



Women

through social audit can now participate in monitoring and evaluation of NFSA



Right to receive foodgrains at subsidised prices by persons belonging to eligible households under Public Distribution System

Nutritional support to pregnant women, lactating mothers and children in the age group of six months to six years through the local Anganwadi centre.



Nutritional support to children in the age group of six years to fourteen years through one mid-day meal, free of charge, in all schools run by local bodies.