

Nobel Peace Prize

Why in news?

The Nobel Peace Prize 2020 was awarded to the United Nation's World Food Programme (WFP).

What is the Nobel Peace Prize?

- The Nobel Prizes would be dedicated to the person who shall have done the most or the best work
 - 1. For fraternity between nations,
 - 2. For the abolition or reduction of standing armies and
 - 3. For the holding and promotion of peace congresses.
- The Nobel Peace Prizes have been awarded since 1901.
- It was not awarded on 19 occasions including 1914-1916, 1918, 1939-1943 among some other years.
- Overall, the prize has been awarded to 135 laureates, including 107 individuals and 28 organisations.

What is the UN WFP?

- The WFP was established in 1961 at the behest of the US president Dwight Eisenhower.
- It is the world's largest humanitarian organisation committed towards its global goal of ending hunger by the year 2030.
- In 1960, Eisenhower proposed to the UN General Assembly that a scheme should be devised for providing food aid through the UN system.
- In 2015, eradication of world hunger became one of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- The WFP is the UN's primary instrument in achieving that goal.
- WFP runs entirely on public donations and its donors include governments, corporations and individuals.

Why did it win the prize?

- WFP was awarded the prize for its efforts to combat hunger and for its contribution to bettering conditions for peace in conflict-affected areas.
- It was given the award for acting as a driving force in efforts to prevent the use of hunger as a weapon of war and conflict.

How does WFP help people?

- It provides food assistance in two ways, either by way of providing food or by meeting people's food-needs by providing cash-based transfers.
- The cash-based transfers were launched for the first time in 2005 in response to the tsunami in Sri Lanka.
- In 2019, WFP provided assistance to close to 100 million people spread across 88 countries by supplying them with food, cash and vouchers.
- In 1962, the WFP undertook its first emergency operation after an earthquake in Iran killed over 12,000 people.
- In 1963, it launched its first development programme in Sudan.
- In 1989, WFP staged the largest humanitarian airdrop in history when it launched "Operation Lifeline Sudan" to provide assistance to people affected by the civil war.
- More recently, it has provided food aid to the victims of the earthquake in Nepal in 2015.

How does WFP measure hunger?

- It estimates hunger by the **prevalence of undernourishment**.
- The UN defines undernourished people as those individuals whose food intake falls below the minimum level of dietary energy requirements.
- These dietary energy requirements are set by sex and age groups in consultation between the FAO, UN and WHO.
- According to current estimates, about 8.9% of the world's population or about 690 million people are hungry.
- As per the WFP, if the current trends continue, by 2030 there will be 840 million hungry people.
- Further, about 135 million suffer from acute hunger mainly as a result of man-made conflicts, climate change and economic downturns.
- WFP estimates that the pandemic could possibly double that figure.

Does WFP work in India?

- Yes, WFP has been working in India since 1963.
- It has transitioned from food distribution to providing technical assistance as India became self-sufficient in cereal production.
- One-fourth of the world's undernourished population is in India.
- \bullet About 21% of the population live on less than \$1.90 a day.
- Now, WFP is working to improve the government's targeted public distribution system to ensure that food reaches those that need it the most.
- It is also working with the government to improve the nutritional value of the Midday Meal programme.

• It is using its own software called the Vulnerability and Analysis Mapping to identify the most food insecure groups in the country.

Source: The Indian Express

