

PRESS RELEASE

Stop Hunger & Sodexo India enable food hygiene and quality nutrition in mid-day meals in Dhenkanal, Orissa

- Support includes training, awareness building and technical assistance in model kitchen set up
- Two model kitchens inaugurated; 6 more to be launched by end of September 2018
- 3494 cooks and kitchen helpers trained on preventive controls, food processing, effective storage and handling
- Beneficiaries involve 127,882 school children in 1591 schools in the Dhenkanal District

Odisha, July 10, 2018 : Stop Hunger a non profit global organization fighting hunger, Sodexo India and the World Food Programme (WFP), today inaugurated two model kitchens in Odapada and Kamakhyanagar blocks of the Dhenkanal District in Odisha. Present for the inaugural ceremony were District administrative officers, Head masters & teachers, students, local community representatives and key staff members of the partner organizations. The initiative is part of the pilot project where WFP along with Stop Hunger, Sodexo India and other donor organizations have united to address the multi-micronutrient deficiency as well as food safety and hygiene standards of Mid-Day Meals served in government schools in the Dhenkanal district of Odisha.

*“Addressing hunger, and the critical issues that contribute towards it, including lack of adequate focus on food safety and hygiene require due attention and effort. Technical expertise on food safety and hygiene from Sodexo India and support from Stop Hunger have enabled WFP establish a successful model, in collaboration with the Government of Odisha, across the schools of Dhenkanal. Training the kitchen cooks and helpers, consistent communication & awareness building drives and the setting up of the model kitchens in all the eight blocks of the district are a true example of ‘whole-of-society’ approach that will positively impact more than 127,000 children of the entire district.” says **Dr. Hameed Nuru, Representative and Country Director, India, World Food Programme.***

Given its expertise in on-site food solutions, Sodexo India is supporting the project by offering training and technical assistance. "An innovative approach of skill-based volunteering was implemented by Sodexo India to strengthen and support effective adoption and implementation of hygiene measures

in the school kitchens. Experts from the Food Platform, Design & Built and HSE teams trained a pool of master trainers who in turn conducted cascade trainings for 3494 cooks and kitchen helpers. We also provided the toolkit materials for communications and promotions and, offered the design and development support for setting up one model kitchen in each of the eight blocks of the District, for potential scale-up across Odisha state.

Commenting on the project and the role played by Sodexo India, Rishi Gour, Country President, Sodexo India stated, *“Fighting Hunger is one of the key focus areas for Sodexo as part of its Better Tomorrow 2025 Plan, and thanks to the support of Stop Hunger. As an organization, we are committed to extend our skills and offer service expertise to people and communities who need it the most”. “Improved Health & Education for all school children is one of the key priorities for the Government. Being associated with this project enables us do what we are good at – serving quality food with the best-in-class health and hygiene standards. With our project partner WFP, we are playing a meaningful role in improving the quality of life of the students, their families and the community as a whole. It is extremely fulfilling”, concluded Rishi Gour.*

Touching lives, creating an impact...

Balmiki Sahoo is a student at Gangijodi Upper Primary School, Dhenkanal, Odisha. He studies in class VII, and tells us that he wants to join the Indian army as a soldier and fight for our country. A farmer's son, Balmiki often isn't able to get three complete meals at home and looks forward to his mid-day meal at school. He says, ***“It is important to stay fit and strong, and we are told that the nutritious rice we have in school will help us remain healthy”***. Coming from an extremely humble background, Balmiki's favorite meal is roti (Indian bread) with fried potato. He has two siblings, and lives in a thatched house with his parents and siblings.

His father, Jugal Sahoo tells us: ***“For breakfast we give him biscuits, and we rely on the school meal for his nutrition. We were really grateful when we heard that the rice he gets in school will be made more nutritious. We find him much more energetic, engaged and involved in all he does these days”***.

Like any father would, Jugal Sahoo too has dreams for his son. “I want my son to do better than me, us”.

About the Project: The Mid-day Meal (MDM) scheme is a centrally Sponsored Scheme of the Government of India, which serves hot cooked mid-day meals to all children studying in classes I–VIII of government schools, government aided schools, Special Training Centres (STC) and Madarasas and Maktabs supported under the Education for All Movement. The Government of Odisha reaches nearly 5 million beneficiaries through the mid-day meals programme. The partnership between WFP, Stop Hunger and Sodexo India, in addition to other donor organizations is a pilot which aims to provide multi-micronutrient fortified meals whilst improving the food safety and hygiene standards of mid-day meals served in government schools of Dhenkanal district, Odisha.

About Stop Hunger

Stop Hunger created in 1996 by Sodexo, it is now a global non profit organization fighting hunger in 50 Countries with the support of 82 000 volunteers, served 6 million free meals to some of the most vulnerable populations, and raised 6.3 millions USD to finance innovative projects throughout the world in 2017. Today, Stop Hunger is financed at 50% by Sodexo and 50% by others donors. www.stop-hunger.org

About Sodexo

Sodexo in India

Sodexo India On-site Services is a leading service provider of food and facilities management solutions that impact the Quality of Life of clients and its employees. With 100+ service offerings, a robust QHSE framework and a sustainable business model, we are touching the lives of over a million consumers daily in the Auto & Ancillary, Pharmaceutical & FMCG, IT & ITES, Industrial & Infrastructure and Diversified business segments; Oil & Gas; Healthcare and Schools & Universities. In 2017, Sodexo On-site Services has delivered food and facilities management solutions across 1100 sites for 450+ clients with its network of 43,000 employees, spread across 8 Regional offices and a Corporate office in Mumbai.

Sodexo Group

Founded in Marseille in 1966 by Pierre Bellon, Sodexo is the global leader in services that improve Quality of Life, an essential factor in individual and organizational performance. Operating in 80 countries, Sodexo serves 100 million consumers each day through its unique combination of On-site Services, Benefits and Rewards Services and Personal and Home Services. Through its more than 100 services, Sodexo provides clients an integrated offering developed over 50 years of experience: from food services, reception, maintenance and cleaning, to facilities and equipment management; from services and programs fostering employees' engagement to solutions that simplify and optimize their mobility and expenses management, to in-home assistance, child care centers and concierge services. Sodexo's success and performance are founded on its independence, its sustainable business model and its ability to continuously develop and engage its 427,000 employees throughout the world.

Sodexo is included in the CAC 40 and DJSI indices.

Key Figures (as of August 31, 2017)

20.7 billion euro in consolidated revenues

427,000 employees

19th largest employer worldwide

80 countries

100 million consumers served daily

12.5 billion euro in market capitalization (as of July 4, 2018)

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