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SPR Reading Guidance



**Karnali Drought Response
Standard Project Report 2016**

World Food Programme in Nepal, State of (NP)



World Food Programme

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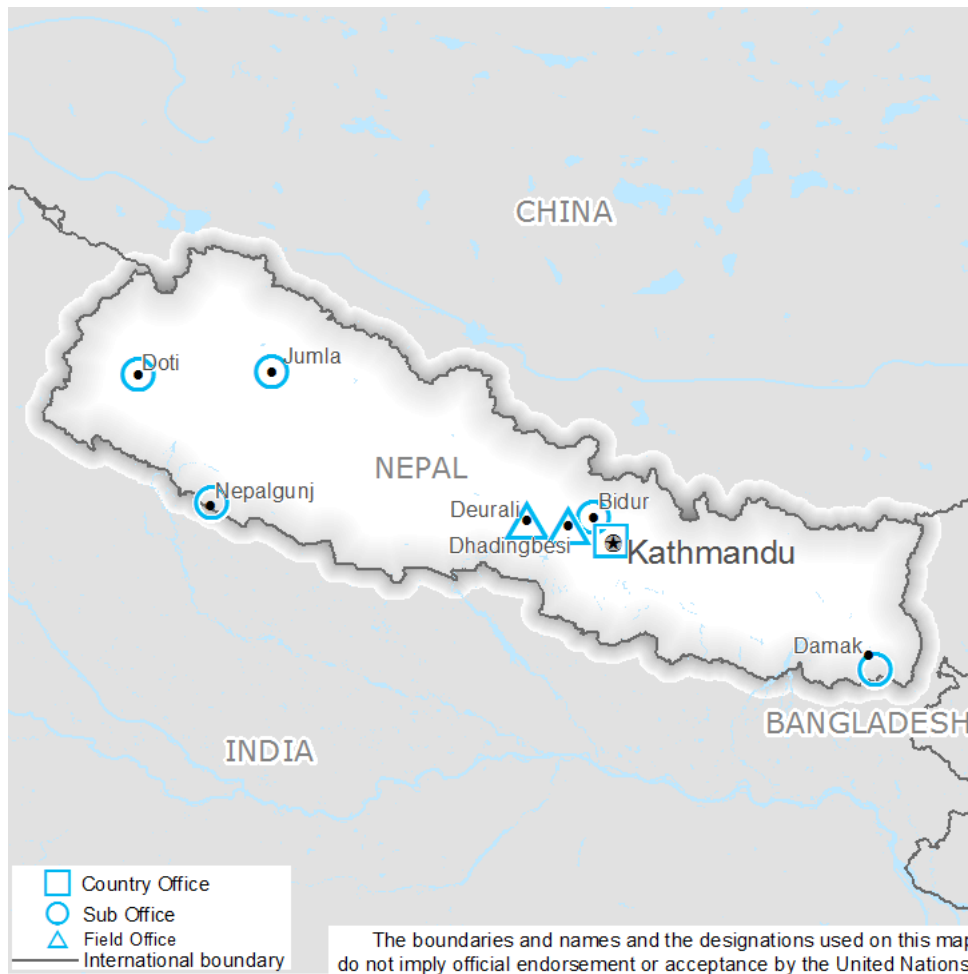
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Country Context and WFP Objectives



Country Context

The Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal is a landlocked country located between China and India. With a population of 26.5 million [1], and classified as a least-developed country [World Bank, 2016], Nepal is characterised by slow economic growth, an unstable political climate, and low levels of human development. Nepal ranks 145 out of 187 countries on the 2015 Human Development Index [2]. Over the past two decades, there have been significant gains in the reduction of poverty—absolute poverty has declined from 42 percent in 1995 to 23.8 percent in 2015 [3]. Geography plays a critical role in determining the degree of food insecurity in Nepal. High elevations of hills and mountains, remoteness, difficult terrain, poor road infrastructure and market access, and the availability of quality agricultural land contribute to defining the livelihood options for the population. Poor dietary diversity and inadequate knowledge of hygiene and sanitation has contributed to the prevalence of malnourished communities in many parts of the country.

Nepal was ranked as 'serious' on the 2015 Global Hunger Index [4]. A fifth of the population has inadequate food consumption, and 38 percent of the population does not consume sufficient calories. Inevitably, this has led to over 30 percent of children aged 0-59 months being underweight, while stunting (low height for age) and wasting (low weight for height) for children aged 0-59 months are both very high at 37.4 percent and 11.3 percent respectively [5]. Anaemia remains a major health problem for almost half [6] of Nepal's children, with considerable differences in their nutritional status based on gender, caste and ethnicity according to Nepal's Demographic Health Survey (DHS) of 2011. The 2011 DHS also showed that 35 percent of women aged 15-49 years were anaemic. The prevalence of anaemia varied across ecological zones mainly caused by the differences in dietary intake between the different communities living there.

Development in Nepal is highly vulnerable to disasters, climate change, economic failures, political instability, financial crises, and global shocks. With its geophysical location on top of the Indo-European tectonic plate, Nepal is highly prone to strong seismic activity, as was tragically witnessed in April and May 2015 when large earthquakes and aftershocks killed nearly 9,000 people, injured 22,000 and affected almost a third of the country's population. An additional three percent of the population was estimated to have been pushed into poverty as a direct result of the earthquakes. The Post-Disaster Needs Assessment led by the Government of Nepal estimated the overall damage at USD 5.15 billion across housing and infrastructure, social and production sectors. Losses in personal income alone were estimated at USD 1.9 billion [7]. With such extensive needs in vital sectors, the country requires continued support to strengthen and maintain its social safety nets, particularly in nutrition and education.

Remittances from migrant workers (mainly from the Middle East and India) constitute around 30 percent of Nepal's gross domestic product (GDP), and they have been the mainstay of the country's economy for the past few decades. The role of remittances as a vital coping strategy became evident as remittance inflows rose dramatically after the earthquakes of 2015 and the subsequent five-month long trade blockade that severely affected the country [8]. Cross-border trade with India was disrupted from September 2015 to February 2016 during a five-month period of civil unrest that prevailed in opposition to the new Constitution. As Nepal relies predominantly on imports from India, the border crisis significantly reduced the availability of fuel, consumer and industrial items in the country and drastically increased market prices of essential goods during the period.

Since 1992, Nepal has been hosting over 100,000 refugees (of Nepali origin) that arrived from Bhutan. They have been accommodated in camps situated in eastern Nepal and are considered foreigners. Hence, they cannot own land or gain legal employment outside the camps. The Government has since been supporting this population with food, health care and other humanitarian assistance with the support of WFP, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and other agencies. While the refugee population initially numbered 107,810, a successful third country resettlement programme, which started in 2008, has reduced the number of refugees still living in the two camps to 11,213 as of 2016. It is projected that by the end of 2017, 8,500 refugee will remain in Nepal who are either unwilling to resettle in a third country or as persons who are ineligible for resettlement.

The agriculture sector contributes 34 percent to Nepal's GDP [9]. About 68 percent of the population is engaged in this sector for livelihoods and subsistence; however, only 28 percent of Nepal's total land area is arable and the country suffers from frequent natural disasters and low agricultural productivity. Nepal slid back into a food deficit at the national level in 2016 after recording surpluses for the last five years, when the edible grain output in 2015 became 71,387 mt short of meeting the requirement of 5.34 million mt [10]. One of the multiple reasons for this was identified as the significant damage caused to crops and arable land during the magnitude 7.8 earthquake in 2015. The border crisis also limited the importation of fertilizers for agriculture, which—coupled with below average rainfall during the monsoon season and colder than average winters—has contributed to the country's food deficit of 2016. Other reasons include the further reduction of the already low production from predominantly small-holding farmlands, mainly due to the increasing shortage of labour for cultivation as more rural people leave Nepal for jobs abroad. The difficulties associated with cultivating on rugged topography, complex geographical structures and variability in terms of climate conditions also affect the annual food production. Cultivation is also mostly dependent on the annual monsoon rains as only 37 percent of the farmlands in the mountains, 41 percent in the hills and 69 percent in the lowlands have access to year-round irrigation facilities according to the Ministry of Agricultural Development. WFP's vulnerability analysis and mapping (VAM) unit and the national food security monitoring system (NeKSAP—*Nepal Khadhyia Surakshya Anugaman Pranali*) recorded that the severe winter drought in the mid- and far-western region in 2015-2016, which occurred as a result of a failed monsoon season, led to a significant decrease in winter crop production.

Nepal has made good progress in the education sector during the past two decades, with the national education policy framework being further strengthened by the School Sector Development Plan 2016-2023 approved in October 2016, which focuses on integrating quality education with access and equity. Primary education (grades 1 to 10) has been universal and free of charge since 2000. The national literacy rate has increased to 65.9 percent (75.1 percent for males and 57.4 percent for females) [11] and net enrollment rates in primary education has reached 96.2 percent [12]. However, the existing high malnutrition rates would seem to indicate that the increase in education and literacy levels has not successfully contributed to generating wider knowledge about food choices and consumption patterns and has not affected significant behaviour changes that would contribute to reducing malnutrition.

References:

- [1] 2011 National Census, Central Bureau of Statistics, 2012, Government of Nepal.
- [2] 2015 Human Development Report (HDR) Work for Human Development.
- [3] Measured as the percentage of the population that lives on less than USD 1.25 per day.

- [4] 2015 Global Hunger Index (International Food Policy Research Institute, Concern et al).
- [5] Nepal Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (NMICS), Central Bureau of Statistics 2014.
- [6] The Nepal Ministry of Health (2011). Nepal Demographic and Health Survey 2011. Kathmandu: Ministry of Health and Population, New Era and Macro International Inc.
- [7] 2015 Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) (Government National Planning Commission).
- [8] Growth of 27.6 percent in three months to June 2015 compared to the same period the year before—"Nepal Development Update", World Bank, May 2016.
- [9] World Bank data on agriculture (percent of GDP), 2014.
- [10] The Nepal Ministry of Agricultural Development, 2016.
- [11] Goals established through several programmes, including the Education for All - National Plan of Action (2004-2007) and most recently the School Sector Reform Plan (2009-2016).
- [12] Nepal Education in Figures 2015. Ministry of Education, Government of Nepal.

Response of the Government and Strategic Coordination

Nepal's national social protection framework identifies the country's social protection needs and encompasses the broad areas of (i) food security, livelihood recovery and emergency assistance, (ii) child protection, (iii) essential health services, (iv) free education up to grade 10, and (iv) employment promotion schemes. The Government of Nepal continues to work towards expanding existing social protection schemes by increasing expenditure to scholarships, expanding short-term employment programmes, and reintegrating conflict-affected populations into socio-economic life to promote peace and security. However, weak institutional capacity at the central and local levels, lack of access to more inclusive public goods and services, and low budgets have hindered the reach and expansion of these services.

Nepal has a longstanding National School Meals Programme (NSMP) spanning over 40 years, which uses two delivery modalities: food items or cash resources for schools to cook or outsource food items. WFP has been an integral part of this school meals programme for 40 years, providing mid-day meals made from corn-soya blend, vegetable oil and sugar to 200,000 school-aged children across the country. Collectively, the food and cash-based NSMP reaches more than half a million school children enrolled in basic education (grades 1 to 8) in 29 out of 75 districts, representing 16 percent of the net enrolment in primary schools [13]. The NSMP represents one of the largest social safety nets for school-aged children in Nepal.

Given the high levels of poverty and household food insecurity, another social safety net of similar importance is the Rural Community Infrastructure Works (RCIW). Since its inception in 1995, RCIW has played a critical role in reducing hunger and poverty by providing employment geared towards creating protective and productive community assets, for which food insecure, participating households receive food assistance during the agricultural lean seasons. The programme operates mainly in the districts of the mid- and far-western region which has particularly high food insecurity levels and underdevelopment. WFP has been a contributor to the RCIW programme by supporting improvements in the food security of rural communities through food-assistance-for-assets projects that use both food rations and cash transfers as assistance modalities.

WFP works in partnership with United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) on a joint programme for rural women's economic empowerment (RWEE). WFP has also worked together with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to implement school-based water and sanitation activities and to develop a guideline for the integrated management of acute malnutrition. In 2016, through the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Adaptation Fund, WFP assisted vulnerable households in the mountains to adapt to climate change through improved management of community assets for livelihoods.

WFP also implements the Community Development Programme (CDP) which works to improve the existing governance system by ensuring effective participation along with enhancing coherence between stakeholders at all levels for effective delivery of quality assets and services that benefit the poor while gradually bringing them into the local development process.

WFP continues to collaborate with the Ministry of Agricultural Development and the National Planning Commission to strengthen and institutionalise the nationwide Nepal Food Security Monitoring System (NeKSAP), enabling evidence-based decision-making for food security policies and programmes. WFP continues to support the Ministry

of Home Affairs in capacity augmentation to respond to seismic events through developing the humanitarian staging area launched in early 2015. It proved to be a vital example of preparedness when the earthquake struck in April 2015. To further support with resilience and disaster mitigation, WFP has designed the second phase of emergency preparedness and capacity development initiative that builds upon the 2013-2015 emergency preparedness project, to sustainably enhance national-level emergency logistics capacities to respond to future emergencies.

In 2016, the Government prioritised the need to explore the possibilities of rice fortification as one of the best nutrition interventions for Nepal in the long term, and requested WFP's support to carry out a landscape analysis for a potential rice fortification initiative. This landscape analysis assessed the current capacity of the Government and the private sector to implement the necessary activities in the recommended roadmap towards rice fortification in the country. In the longer term, fortified rice is expected to be used as a part of food assistance packages in various social safety net programmes across the nation. The Government's high-level advisory committee is expected to provide their feedback to the recommendations.

The Government established the National Reconstruction Authority (NRA) to lead and coordinate the reconstruction and recovery plans of the humanitarian response to the magnitude 7.8 earthquake that struck the country in April 2015. However, lengthy bureaucratic procedures and government changes in mid-2016 affected the pace of progress. Starkly visible was the slow progress in the disbursements of grants to the affected people for rebuilding earthquake-damaged homes, which took nearly a year to begin. Despite the slow progress, the major earthquake disaster has paved the way for the Government to explore the possibility of linking existing social safety nets as responsive instruments for disasters, as evidenced by the linkage of various line Ministries to the NRA and the Ministry of Home Affairs for the recovery.

Several plans and strategies of the Government of Nepal have laid the framework for assistance and implementation of the development agenda for the United Nations and other development partners, in particular, the Multi-Sector Nutrition Plan, Nepal Education Act and the School Sector Development Plan (2016-2022) as well as the Agricultural Development Strategy. The United Nations Development Assistance Framework (2013-2017) for Nepal, developed in close consultation with national agencies, supports the Government in the development process. Coordination with the Government is primarily through the National Planning Commission and other government agencies, while steering committees meet regularly to coordinate the development agenda among all stakeholders.

References:

[13] Department of Education—Government Flash Report-1, 2014.

Summary of WFP Operational Objectives

WFP has two ongoing projects that serve Bhutanese refugees in Nepal: the country programme (CP) 200319 and the protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) 200787. These projects aim to prevent undernutrition and enable year-round access to food for vulnerable groups, including pregnant and lactating women and young children. They directly contribute to four of the five pillars of the Zero Hunger Challenge. The CP, lasting from 2013-2017, is implemented in the mid- and far-western region (MFWR) districts and is aligned with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and the Country Programme Action Plan signed with the Ministry of Finance.

Through PRRO 200787, WFP supports Bhutanese refugees in Nepal with food assistance. The project is implemented in partnership with the Government and mainly the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR). Together with the Government and UNHCR, WFP started a targeted, needs-based food distribution system in January 2016 in light of gradually declining numbers of people in refugee camps.

Having launched humanitarian operations to support the populations affected by the major earthquakes that hit Nepal in 2015, WFP continued its emergency operation (EMOP) 200668 until January 2016 and the logistics cluster and telecommunication services special operation (SO) 200848 until April 2016 to address remaining needs in promoting household food security and delivery of food and supplies to high mountainous locations. The earthquake in April 2015 caused almost 9,000 deaths and widespread damage to infrastructure, and the scale of the response required regional augmentation of capacity and resources. As a follow-up to the EMOP, WFP launched PRRO 200875 to support the rehabilitation of the three earthquake-affected districts—Gorkha, Dhading and Nuwakot. As the planned rural community infrastructure works of the project were postponed due to delays in government approvals, the planned nutrition services were the first activities that were started within the framework of the PRRO in these the earthquake-affected districts.

From 2014 to 2015, the failure of the monsoon season gradually led to consecutive poor summer harvests in October and November of 2015 in the MFWR districts, and rains continued to fail during winter cropping in the first

quarter of 2016. In addition, the economic blockade from September 2015 to February 2016 at the Nepal-India border resulted in high transport costs and greatly inflated commodity prices. It also adversely affected household food security and income in the region. In response, WFP supported over 19,000 drought-affected people with food and nutrition support through an immediate response emergency operation (IR-EMOP) 200983 in Mugu and Jumla districts of the MFWR in mid-2016.

The CP, PRROs and the emergency operations directly contribute to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 1: No poverty, SDG 2: End hunger and SDG 4: Quality education, while the special operations contribute to SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals.

Country Resources and Results

Resources for Results

Throughout 2016, the country programme (CP) 200319 continued to suffer from a lack of resources, and WFP was unable to fully implement planned activities. Out of the total funding received, 67 percent was to be used in implementing the education support programme, which left the assets and livelihoods (Component 1) and nutrition support (Component 3) components seriously under-funded. As a result, the Livelihoods and Asset Creation component reached fewer beneficiaries with a substantially reduced number of work days and the Nutrition component could only work in three out of the planned six districts. During 2016 however, a significant contribution was received from Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and the central emergency response fund (CERF). The CERF funding was received to support drought-affected families in the Karnali region alongside the in-kind contribution of the Government of Nepal, while the KOICA funds were for the Saemaul Zero Hunger Community project implemented in Doti district.

The education support component was fully funded from the multi-year grant of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) McGovern-Dole Food for Education Programme, which covers activities from 2015 to 2017. The grant included in-kind donations of food for school meals (corn-soya blend and vegetable oil) and a cash contribution to carry out school infrastructure, water, sanitation and hygiene activities and early grade literacy. Additionally, the Ministry of Education contributed USD 150 per metric ton (mt) of food commodities, towards bearing the cost of inland transport, storage and handling (ITSH) to deliver food to the schools. In order to align WFP activities to the amended Education Act that stipulated basic education to include grades 1 to 8 plus one year of pre-school, WFP increased the coverage of school children in 2016, bringing the total beneficiaries to 270,000 children.

The Government continued to provide support for implementation of the nutrition programme in six districts (five Karnali zone districts in the mid- and far-western region (MFWR) and Solukhumbu in the eastern development region) by making available 549 mt of Super Cereal. To support the Government's efforts, WFP mobilised resources for the associated costs of this in-kind contribution, from CERF and internal funding mechanisms.

As the third-country resettlement process of the Bhutanese refugee population living in camps in eastern Nepal continued at a faster pace in 2016, the reduction in the refugee population encouraged WFP and partners to adopt measures to maximize the remaining resources of the PRRO 200787. Therefore, after more than twenty years of support to the refugee population providing a full food basket (rice, pulses, sugar, vegetable oil as well as Super Cereal as supplementary food), WFP introduced a needs-based food assistance scheme in January 2016 where only the most vulnerable refugee families received a full food ration and the remaining refugee population received 70 percent of the full ration. In July 2017, WFP also replaced the Super Cereal with rice for the vulnerable refugees, and phased out the supplementary feeding programme (SFP) which earlier served pregnant and lactating women (PLW), people living with HIV (PLHIV) and tuberculosis (TB) patients. This allowed WFP to cover the full resource requirements in 2016, with the contributions from the United States of America and funds received from the strategic resources allocation committee (SRAC).

The PRRO 200875 addresses post-earthquake food and nutrition needs while supporting the Government and local communities to "build back better" infrastructure and resilient livelihoods. However, the food-assistance-for-assets component in the PRRO went through a long start-up process and could not be implemented in 2016. The reasons for this included lengthy delays in obtaining government approval for the community asset creation projects due to unclear bureaucratic procedures and changes in government in 2016. The significant resources given for immediate relief assistance and increasing needs in other humanitarian crises elsewhere in the world, are likely reasons that funding levels of major donors for recovery activities were lower than expected. Given the resource limitations in 2016, WFP in coordination with the Government, limited the planned activities to implement in three out of the planned seven districts. The planned number of beneficiaries was also decreased from 381,000 to 65,700 people. Despite not being able to reach the original planned beneficiaries, WFP continues to monitor their food security levels through the NeKSAP (the Nepal food security monitoring system) district network in the earthquake-affected districts so that any concerns can be highlighted to the Government for appropriate interventions.

Engaging with projects at the community level has helped WFP to increase coordination and collaboration wherever possible, and to ensure that there is no overlap of programme resources.

In the CP 200319, WFP worked to leverage resources and other development partners in the three operational activities of assets and livelihoods (resilience), education and nutrition support. Notably, under the McGovern-Dole funded school meals and education support programme, WFP coordinated with Save the Children, who also implemented early grade reading (EGR) activities in schools in the MFWR districts where WFP provides early grade

literacy support along with school meals. This helped to map out overlaps among the schools selected by Save the Children and WFP, and put funds into schools without an ongoing EGR programme. Similarly, WFP ensured that schools where other partners implemented their activities also received WFP mid-day meals, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) awareness and school infrastructure development activities. Close coordination with fora such as the “WASH in Schools” thematic group, the National Early Grade Reading Programme and UNICEF’s education and WASH teams, has helped WFP to avoid duplication and engage in joint planning where applicable. Through working together with other stakeholders in the same schools, WFP was able to extend the impact of funds used for school meals to include a comprehensive package of services for the children.

In a new venture, WFP initiated preliminary support to the Ministry of Education to conduct a cost-benefit analysis of the Nepal school meals programme in 2017, building on WFP’s global partnership with MasterCard. This exercise will serve two important purposes: i) build the evidence base for decision-making in Nepal’s national school meals programme; and ii) contribute to advocacy for greater investment in school meals, leading to developing a fully homegrown and sustainable national school meals programme.

WFP continued to partner with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) on a joint programme for rural women’s economic empowerment. Each agency provided its expertise to support women beneficiaries with opportunities in agricultural livelihoods. This joint activity helped WFP to leverage funds to extend WFP’s impact in the project.

As more beneficiaries gradually left the Bhutanese refugee camps in eastern Nepal on third-country resettlement, WFP and UNHCR with government partners started the needs-based assistance scheme in 2016, in an effort to work toward a more sustainable food response, ensuring that the use of limited project resources were maximized. To this end, a strategy based on a ration reduction for all non-vulnerable households was developed. This was complemented with a communication campaign to ensure refugees were able to adequately prepare for the changes. A strong surveillance system helped to identify emerging problems related to reduced rations. Non-vulnerable households who wanted their status reviewed, used an appeal mechanism to reach the Government, WFP and UNHCR with their concerns.

Achievements at Country Level

Through an ongoing partnership with the Government for more than 50 years, WFP helped vulnerable communities to increase their food security through diverse interventions. Through WFP’s country programme (CP), short-term employment provided over the years in food-assistance-for-assets (FFA) projects, has helped vulnerable households to meet their immediate food needs and gain additional income through food rations and cash transfers. As a result, the percentage of separate households headed by men and women having an acceptable food consumption score (FCS) has surpassed the target of 80 percent in 2016. The extra cash received for participating in asset creation projects has likely increased household purchasing power, ensuring better access to food. However, as a result of numerous natural disasters such as droughts and floods regularly affecting the country, most communities continue to need support to build their resilience.

Through a long standing partnership with the United State Department of Agriculture (USDA) McGovern-Dole Food for Education Programme and the Ministry of Education, WFP has been providing mid-day meals in over 2,500 public schools across the country. Mid-day meals serve as a strong incentive for children to attend school as shown by the high attendance rates (nearly 75 percent) for boys and girls in 2016, although the attendance rates have yet to reach WFP’s target of 90 percent. WFP added complementary activities, such as early-grade literacy support, distribution of laptops and digital materials, constructing school infrastructure such as kitchens and school water and sanitation facilities to the school meal programme from 2013, creating an overall package of education support activities enhanced by community and government capacity development through trainings in logistics, food handling, and hygienic food preparation, promotion of good practices in hygiene and sanitation in schools.

Despite these contributions, a negative rate of change in the school enrolment numbers for both boys and girls in public schools has persisted for the past two years. A government study (FLASH I Report, 2071/2072) explaining the reasons for this trend, stated that it was likely caused by more children being enrolled in private schools which are perceived by parents as offering better quality education and services than public schools.

Through the nutrition programme, WFP has been providing Super Cereal, a specialised nutritious food, in support of the Government’s efforts in the prevention of stunting in the districts of Jumla, Mugu of mid-western region and Solukhumbu in the east. Following the severe drought in the Karnali region of mid-western region in 2016, WFP was able to successfully scale up this intervention in three more districts in the mid-west with one additional district in the far west upon receiving additional resources for the drought response. These efforts contributed to a gradual increase in the proportion of children aged 6-23 months consuming a minimum acceptable diet, at over 65 percent

in 2016, drawing closer to WFP's minimum corporate target of 70 percent. Another key achievement was that from 2015, the Ministry of Health sustained continuous procurements of Super Cereal for the nutrition programme through the allocation of national resources. Following WFP's training of government health staff both at the central, district and or village level in the areas of logistics, storage and handling of specialised nutritious food, distribution management and record keeping, the logistics of delivering the food to the district warehouses have also been managed by the Ministry for the past year.

WFP provides support to the Government of Nepal through the REACH (Renewed Efforts Against Child Hunger and Undernutrition) partnership with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). It also co-facilitates the United Nations network for the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement, and works towards improved stakeholder and multi-sectoral coordination at national level for a harmonised nutrition information system, developing the capacity of relevant government institutions on nutrition-specific and sensitive interventions at national and local levels, and supporting the government food and nutrition secretariat.

WFP continued to assist the most vulnerable refugee families in Bhutanese refugee camps with full food rations in 2016, even though a needs-based food distribution scheme was launched to increase project efficiency and maximise dwindling resources. This has contributed to both improved food security, as evidenced by the zero and near zero (0.90) percentages of households headed by women and men respectively that reported a poor Food Consumption Score (FCS) in 2016. Refugee families were helped to grow vegetables in vacant land through the reclamation gardening programme, adding to their dietary diversity.

In terms of creating sustainable programmes, a significant achievement in 2016 was handing over the Nepal food security monitoring system (NeKSAP) to the Ministry of Agricultural Development in June. Established by WFP as a field surveillance mechanism in 2002, the NeKSAP evolved as a nationwide food security monitoring system based on strong collaboration between the Government, WFP and other national institutions. The Government has now started implementing NeKSAP regular activities through its own resources with technical support from WFP.

The humanitarian staging area (HSA) constructed by WFP in 2015, proved to be invaluable for the post-earthquake emergency response in 2015. Functioning as the main logistics hub, the HSA enabled over 60 humanitarian partners to store and transport relief items to affected districts through the Logistics Cluster, led by the Ministry of Home Affairs and WFP. Training of government and humanitarian partners in emergency logistics, food management logistics and emergency telecommunications ensured that partners had the required knowledge to expedite an unbroken supply chain of relief materials. WFP's remote access operations (RAO) team combined with the engineering unit started repairing rural transport infrastructure in order to enable access. The RAO provided jobs to local people from earthquake-affected families when they hired them as porters to carry humanitarian goods to remote high-altitude villages, helping them to earn an income and avoid hunger and food insecurity after the disaster.

To enhance the protection of beneficiaries, WFP introduced a complaints and feedback mechanism (CFM) in 2015 consisting of a toll-free telephone line "*Namaste WFP*" with the objective of giving beneficiaries access to a simple and safe means of seeking information, providing feedback or voicing complaints, allowing WFP to resolve them. Following the success and lessons learned after the EMOP, the CFM will be extended initially to the school meal programme in 2017 and later to other WFP projects in Nepal.

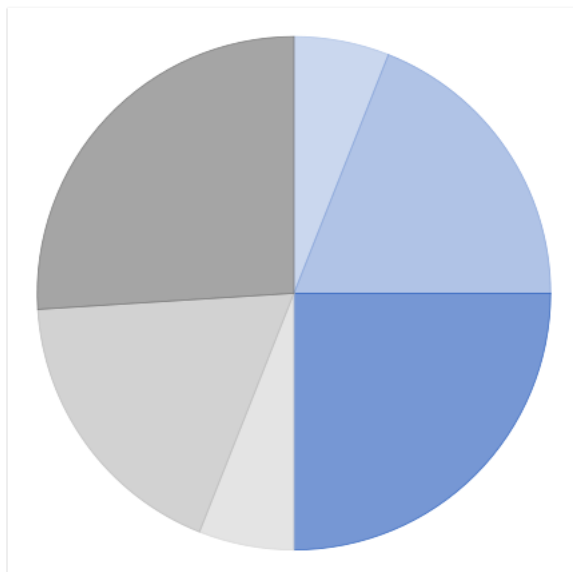


Annual Country Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries	Male	Female	Total
Children (under 5 years)	47,433	47,433	94,866
Children (5-18 years)	150,205	142,299	292,504
Adults (18 years plus)	197,638	205,543	403,181
Total number of beneficiaries in 2016	395,276	395,275	790,551

Country Beneficiaries by Gender and Age

- Children (under 5 years)
- Children (5-18 years)
- Adults (18 years plus)
- Children (under 5 years)
- Children (5-18 years)
- Adults (18 years plus)



Annual Food Distribution in Country (mt)

Project Type	Cereals	Oil	Pulses	Mix	Other	Total
Country Programme	1,727	422	-	4,058	391	6,598
Single Country EMOP	2,922	-	582	-	-	3,504
Single Country IR-EMOP	-	-	-	128	-	128
Single Country PRRO	1,794	113	344	47	8	2,305

Project Type	Cereals	Oil	Pulses	Mix	Other	Total
Total Food Distributed in 2016	6,442	535	926	4,232	399	12,534

Cash Based Transfer and Commodity Voucher Distribution (USD)

Project Type	Cash	Value Voucher	Commodity Voucher
Country Programme	475,637	-	-
Single Country EMOP	4,000,113	-	-
Total Distributed in 2016	4,475,750	-	-

Supply Chain

WFP has over 40 years of experience importing, locally procuring and distributing food assistance in Nepal. The country's terrain, landlocked and along the world's highest mountain range, requires multiple methods of in-land transportation (trucks, tractors, pack animals and porters) to reach programme beneficiaries. WFP has developed the necessary storage facilities and transportation infrastructure that is sufficient to reach beneficiaries in all programme locations. Furthermore, WFP has a logistics plan that will prevent spoilage and waste, while maximising the project's benefits. Specifically for this purpose, WFP's partners—international and local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and government agencies—maintain a schedule of regular warehouse inspection and cleaning. WFP also provides regular training to own and partner staff on food quality control and warehouse management, while privately contracted truck and transport companies are trained on safe and secure transport of commodities. Tied to WFP's in-country rice fortification strategy are future plans to transition to local production and procurement of food commodities, to be developed from 2017.

Food procurement

WFP imports all commodities for all projects into Nepal completely free of customs duties. No taxes or duties are applicable for food items provided through WFP, as per the umbrella agreement signed between WFP and the Government. WFP requests exemption certificates from the Government for each imported consignment and also for local purchases where taxes are applicable.

For all food procurements, local purchases are prioritised to motivate and strengthen local markets and gain value for money in cheaper prices and shorter delivery times. However, this also depends on the availability of food items within the country, their cost-effectiveness and also on the preference of donors.

In 2016, 90 percent of food was sourced from the local markets supported under the country programme (CP), and the remaining requirement was received as international contributions. Given the large volume of in-kind rice contributions from the Government for Component 1 and Super Cereal for Component 3 and the immediate response emergency operation, the amounts procured by WFP from local manufacturers was limited. The PRRO 200787 and the PRRO 200875 both purchased the majority of food (over 95 percent) from the local market. Only vegetable oil for the PRRO 200787 was primarily procured internationally, mainly because of higher cost-effectiveness. International purchases consisted only of the ready-to-use supplementary food (RUSF), Plumpy'Sup, which was not available in Nepal. The EMOP which was launched to support earthquake-affected populations, concluded in early 2016, hence the required quantity of rice was purchased from the local market.

Logistics management

WFP uses two modalities to deliver food: 1) direct delivery of food up to the final distribution point (FDP) where the partners distribute food to the beneficiaries, and 2) delivery of food up to the extended delivery point (EDP), where the field-based government structure takes over the further transport of food to the FDPs; thereafter the community becomes responsible to deliver the food to the distribution sites, such as schools. In order to more effectively manage the delivery of food, WFP rolled out the logistics management tool—Logistics Execution Support System (LESS)—in 2016.

Bearing in mind that the last leg of transport through high mountainous terrain is done by the community, including most often women, WFP ensures that rice, lentils and Super Cereal are packaged in mostly 25 kg bags and vegetable oil in 4 litre canisters. For the nutrition programme in particular, Super Cereal is packaged in 3 kg bags so that it is easier to be carried by the beneficiaries (pregnant and lactating women).

Post-delivery losses

The monitoring of the “best before use” date or the “expiry” date of food items through LESS helped to improve commodity management. The control exercised by WFP's third party surveyors minimised losses and damages during handling at the warehouses. Scheduled warehouse cleanings, stack rotations, inspection and control fumigations also helped in this aspect. Furthermore, training provided on food quality management to WFP and partner staff helped to improve quality control. As such, no significant losses were reported in the CP 200319, and the PRRO 200787. Similarly, losses of Plumpy'Sup were at a minimum in the PRRO 200875, but there was a small loss of other commodities which were earlier returned by the partners under the EMOP 200668, and carried forward to the PRRO 200875. This food was disposed of, because of the damage caused by prolonged storage at the partners' warehouses. WFP recovered the cost of the loss from the relevant partners.

As the EMOP 200668 ended in January 2016, only a small quantity of food was handled during the month and losses were kept to a minimum. Similarly, minimal losses were reported for the IR-EMOP 200983. This was achieved through the prompt delivery and distribution of the food and RUSF, the regular monitoring of expiry dates of the food and the partners' improved capacity in food handling.



Annual Food Purchases for the Country (mt)

Commodity	Local	Regional/International	Total
Chickpeas	67	-	67
Iodised Salt	17	-	17
Ready To Use Supplementary Food	-	22	22
Rice	4,219	-	4,219
Split Peas	288	-	288
Sugar	200	132	332
Vegetable Oil	32	68	100
Wheat Soya Blend	137	-	137
Total	4,960	222	5,181
Percentage	95.7%	4.3%	

Implementation of Evaluation Recommendations and Lessons Learned

Monitoring activities in Nepal

WFP's country office in Nepal has operated a comprehensive internal monitoring and evaluation (M&E) and reporting system that plays a critical role in ensuring accountability and achieving operational effectiveness. This is done by measuring results against desired programme outputs and outcomes. WFP's internal monitoring strategy outlines M&E activities and best approaches for all newly designed programmes focusing on the beneficiaries' own

experiences and observations—individual, household and community level feedback—using a third-party monitoring approach to obtain independent, unbiased information using semi-structured questionnaires and electronic devices for real-time data collection.

At the end of 2016, WFP completed outcome monitoring of the country programme (CP) and the PRRO 200787 through an independent third party to track the outcome results of project activities. In addition, regular monitoring of project activities during their implementation was done throughout the year. WFP used different innovative monitoring tools such as photo monitoring (a pictorial depiction of the project's status before the start, during implementation and after completion) along with remote monitoring (beneficiary interviews through telephone to gather feedback of WFP's project activities) as well as through regular face-to-face interviews using paper based questionnaires to gather data.

WFP also rolled out the global online tool COMET (Country Office Tool for Managing (programme operations) Effectively) in 2016. It is a corporate tool and a single platform for combining operational data, providing quality evidence on programme performance in a standardised format. Corporate and other donor reporting was done using automated and consolidated data collected and validated in the COMET system.

In 2016, WFP in Nepal also used the country office's eSPR database (electronic system for project reporting) for collecting data on output indicators at the origin (at separate district level) which is uploaded into the system by each individual implementing partner for their respective district. The eSPR is also used by the Ministry of Education to report district level education indicators. WFP in collaboration with the Ministry of Education is exploring the option of integrating the eSPR database with the Ministry's central database—the education management information system (EMIS).

As the COMET system is currently geared to capture data from the area office level (a larger geographical area comprised of several districts), to bridge the gap in the flow of data from the district to the area offices (where consolidated district data is entered into COMET), the eSPR system was used. However, once the COMET system is expanded to capture data at the district level, and the eSPR is fully integrated with the EMIS, WFP in Nepal will then discontinue the eSPR after which, the COMET system will be the only platform for combining and managing operational data.

Evaluation activities in Nepal

WFP Nepal was among the few country offices to take part in the piloting of WFP's decentralised evaluation policy launched in 2016. Accordingly, the Nepal country office conducted a mid-term evaluation of the country programme's education support component in 2016 as a part of the decentralized evaluation for the Asia region. School meals and other education support components such as early grade literacy, school infrastructure and school water, sanitation and hygiene support projects and their activities were evaluated during a two-month period with visits to project sites and discussions with stakeholders. The final report is expected in February 2017. In addition, the country programme went through its mid-term evaluation in the middle of 2016. The components of assets and livelihoods and nutrition support were evaluated through visits to project sites and discussions with all stakeholders, including government and non-governmental organization (NGO) partners.

Moreover, WFP conducted the baseline survey of its Saemaul Zero Hunger Community Project funded by the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA). The survey was carried out in the district of Doti in mid-western Nepal where the project activities are implemented. The final survey report is expected in February 2017. Similarly, the preliminary activities of the baseline survey for the PRRO 200875, such as contracting a research team, developing the tools and training the enumerators, was done in 2016. Although the PRRO 200875 was launched in 2016, the implementation of a majority of activities was delayed till 2017; hence the baseline survey was not carried out at the time.

In 2016, WFP also continued to implement the recommendations that were provided after the evaluation of the impact of food for assets on livelihood resilience undertaken by WFP's office of evaluation in 2013.

In 1996, WFP's Nepal country office, in working with the Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development and other stakeholders, initiated FFA in the Government's social safety net, the rural community infrastructure works (RCIW) programme, aiming to help poor households living in remote areas to cope with food insecurity, unemployment and environmental degradation. Initially, FFA was a modality within the RCIW and intended to improve the short-term food security for poor households. This approach has since formed a major element of the country programmes implemented in subsequent years, with a focus on rural road rehabilitation alongside other projects which include a focus on natural resource management and asset construction including water resources management, plantations and agriculture.

In the two years of 2012 and 2013, WFP designed a series of impact evaluations to be managed by the office of evaluation which examined the impact of FFA in five countries (Guatemala, Nepal, Bangladesh, Senegal and Uganda). This impact evaluation series enabled a methodological approach to be used for each country to support

comparative analysis but also enabled them to adapt to the 'in-country' FFA context. Some of the key recommendations of the Nepal evaluation and the continuing responsive actions of the Nepal country office are described below.

1. Adopt a more flexible programming approach for cash- and food-assistance-for-assets (CFA/FFA) that is better adapted to Nepal's diversity and geography in site-specific operational contexts by employing the twin tracks of: i) wide coverage and short-term interventions focused on meeting the immediate food needs of the greatest number of the poorest and most vulnerable groups; and ii) more focused, longer-term programming aiming at building the livelihood resilience of vulnerable groups.

In response, WFP Nepal country office has taken into consideration the seasonal variation of food security, while conducting community-based participatory consultations and longer-term capacity strengthening of local government development planning at the village development committee (VDC) level when designing the CFA and FFA projects in mid-west, far-west, Karnali and western regions.

2. Undertake a partnership review and develop and implement a strategy for partnerships that deliver the short- and long-term objectives of FFA and CFA.

A five-year joint programme with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) for the economic empowerment of rural women in Nepal (RWEE), was one of the new partnerships that WFP Nepal started in 2015 to support gender-responsive implementation of the Government's Agricultural Development Strategy.

3. Reach an agreement with the Government on the development of a functioning and sustainable government system for responding to food insecurity, to enable the eventual managed hand-over of FFA and CFA implementation.

WFP started the community development programme (CDP, 2016-2018), which covers 18 districts in the mid-west and far-west regions, aiming to empower the local government's capacity in sectoral and integrated development planning at the village and district level. This three-year programme will ensure local governments are more capable, through intensified support for 18 districts that have particular problems delivering services in an inclusive, accountable and transparent manner. WFP will seek the opportunity to organize joint monitoring visits with the Government and plan an exposure visit to similar projects for government and partners stakeholders.

Trust Funds and Visibility

Trust Funds

WFP's project activities throughout 2016 were supported by a number of Trust Funds established by development partners. The Nepal food security monitoring (NekSAP) project benefitted from four Trust Funds provided by the Government of Germany, the European Union (EU), the Department for International Development (DfID) and the International Water Management Institute respectively, supporting food security monitoring, crop yield forecasting and nutrition management. Similarly, WFP is supported through the Adaptation Fund for Resilience Building against Climate Change to implement food-assistance-for-assets (FFA) activities with rural households adversely affected in the Karnali region; the project activities will start from 2017. Capacity development of rural communities to improve the voice of citizens and ensure effective participation was supported by the community development programme trust fund in order to improve existing governance and enhance service delivery to rural communities. In addition, WFP received support from the emergency preparedness trust fund to maintain the humanitarian staging area (HSA) and to develop capacity of government and humanitarian partners to respond to any future large-scale emergencies.

Visibility

In 2016, WFP welcomed high-level visits from development partners including representatives from the Government of the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Sweden, Germany and the Republic of Korea to observe progress in project activities, especially in the country programme, the emergency preparedness project and the PRRO 200787 for assisting the Bhutanese refugees.

The emergency preparedness project provided an opportunity for Nepal's donors and partners in the Logistic Cluster to learn how food, medical, health and shelter items were stored and transported to reach earthquake-affected populations effectively. WFP hosted international visitors from different organizations, such as the High Commissioner of Great Britain, the Ambassador of the United States of America and the operational team of the Austrian Development Cooperation at the HSA during 2016. Similarly, many students from around the world visited the HSA to study the operations of an emergency response. These included a group of 20 students from the International Honors Programme from many countries, in addition to students from the United States of America, Japan and the United Kingdom. Details of these visits were published on social media, which helped to leverage further visibility for the project.

Having completed the earthquake emergency response successfully in 2016, WFP held an official ceremony to commemorate the humanitarian response on the first anniversary of the earthquakes. A publication and a photo exhibition entitled "Moving Mountains—A one-year Retrospective of WFP's Earthquake Response in Nepal" detailed WFP's support to the Government and the affected communities. Additionally, several videos on WFP's trail rehabilitation work under the remote access operation, was released publicly. All of these activities contributed to increased public awareness at both the national and international level.

Project Objectives and Results

Project Objectives

The Karnali region of far-western Nepal has always had high levels of food insecurity. The levels of stunting (64 percent), underweight (45 percent) and wasting (nine percent) for children aged 24-59 months in this region are among the highest in the country. Government surveys on Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) conducted in the Karnali region in 2014 showed that 28.8 percent of households in this region had a minimum dietary diversity, and 20.1 percent had a minimum acceptable diet—both of these figures were significantly below national averages (Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, Karnali, 2014). The remote and mountainous Mugu and Jumla districts of Karnali are particularly vulnerable, with limited transport and market facilities. The 2015 Health Information Management System (HMIS) reports for both of these districts showed that higher rates of acute malnutrition tended to trigger higher child mortality rates in the absence of immediate interventions to prevent and treat acute malnutrition.

In this context, WFP has implemented a stunting prevention programme to support the Government of Nepal's efforts to address the high prevalence of chronic undernutrition among children aged 6-23 months and pregnant and lactating women in Mugu and Jumla. The stunting prevention programme is managed through the Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition (MCHN) component of WFP's country programme in Nepal. Under the MCHN programme, specialised nutritious food is supplied by the Government and provided to children and pregnant and lactating women on a monthly basis.

The food security situation in Karnali further deteriorated in 2016. On the one hand, inadequate monsoon rains in 2015 and 2016 caused the farming communities of the region to lose their harvests for two consecutive seasons. In addition, the economic blockade along the India-Nepal border from September 2015 to February 2016 resulted in severe shortages of fuel and other goods for many months and magnified the impact of the drought on household food security and income. WFP utilised Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping methodology to regularly monitor districts through the national food security monitoring network, and in early 2016, WFP detected an increase in household food insecurity in the Karnali region. Drawing on these findings, the Government requested WFP to provide nutrition support to the drought-affected households, in linkage with the regular MCHN programme in Mugu and Jumla districts. Subsequently, WFP launched the IR-EMOP for a three-month period from June to August 2016.

Although an emergency situation typically warrants other types of nutrition interventions, WFP continued with the stunting prevention intervention in the framework of its regular MCHN programme, targeting pregnant and lactating women and children aged 6-23 and 24-59 months in 54 Village Development Committees in Mugu and Jumla districts. The rationale was to provide immediate assistance to drought-affected households but at the same time to also ensure uninterrupted support to the Government's stunting prevention programme in the target areas. Thus, it was agreed that WFP's IR-EMOP would also implement a stunting prevention programme, in line with the existing MCHN programme and the longer-term objective of reducing prevalence of stunting among children aged 6-59 months. The reason that WFP's stunting prevention programme included children aged 24-59 months in the stunting prevention programme (in addition to children aged 6-23 months) was that there was a high level of food insecurity in the target areas as a result of the prolonged drought and a shortage of food in the region.

The Nepal Government Ministry of Health provided an in-kind contribution of 192 mt of Super Cereal and transported the food to extended delivery points, while WFP contributed the associated costs for delivery of the food to health posts and subsequent distribution to the beneficiaries. WFP also supported training on Infant and Young Child Feeding practices for health workers at the district level to facilitate the implementation of the programme. The IR-EMOP aimed to save lives and protect livelihoods of the people affected by the drought in Mugu and Jumla districts, in line with WFP's Strategic Objective 1.



Approved Budget for Project Duration (USD)

Cost Category	
Direct Support Costs	64,543
Food and Related Costs	263,280

Cost Category	
Indirect Support Costs	22,948
Total	350,771

Project Activities

WFP's prevention of stunting programme in Mugu and Jumla districts was implemented through the blanket supplementary feeding programme (BSFP) modality and lasted from June to August 2016. The programme entailed the provision of a nutritious ration of 100 g of Super Cereal per person per day to pregnant and lactating women and children aged 6-23 months and 24-59 months. In accordance with the Government's request, the programme was linked with WFP's regular Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition (MCHN) programme—under the Government's Community Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) programme—in these two districts.

In order to link the IR-EMOP with the CMAM programme, the project activities were implemented in the same health posts that were reached under the CMAM programme. Beneficiaries were therefore able to receive a package of services, such as screening, outpatient therapeutic clinic services, follow-up visits and counselling, along with the supplementary food rations. Although WFP's corporate recommendations stipulate that in a stunting prevention programme, children receive Super Cereal Plus and pregnant and lactating women receive Super Cereal, the IR-EMOP provided only Super Cereal to all beneficiaries, upon the request of the Government, which also contributed the Super Cereal to the project.

WFP planned to support 21,335 beneficiaries—4,793 pregnant and lactating women and 16,542 children between 6-59 months of age under the IR-EMOP. However, the planned number of beneficiaries and the achievement in terms of people actually reached were both affected by certain factors. Following the first round of distributions in June, the Ministry of Health decided to remove children between 24-59 months of age from the beneficiary list, citing the reason that support was available from other programmes. As a result, only children aged 6-23 months and pregnant and lactating women were provided with assistance for the remaining duration of the IR-EMOP.

In these remote areas, women require five to seven hours to walk to the health posts from their villages. The long distance and time involved in travel contributed to discouraging some of the mothers to visit the health posts regularly. Moreover, the severe drought led some affected households to migrate towards the lowland plains in order to survive. The Government's projected beneficiary figures therefore turned out to be higher than the actual numbers who were still living in the two districts. However, WFP did not undertake a budget revision to adjust the planning figures, in view of the short time frame of the IR-EMOP.

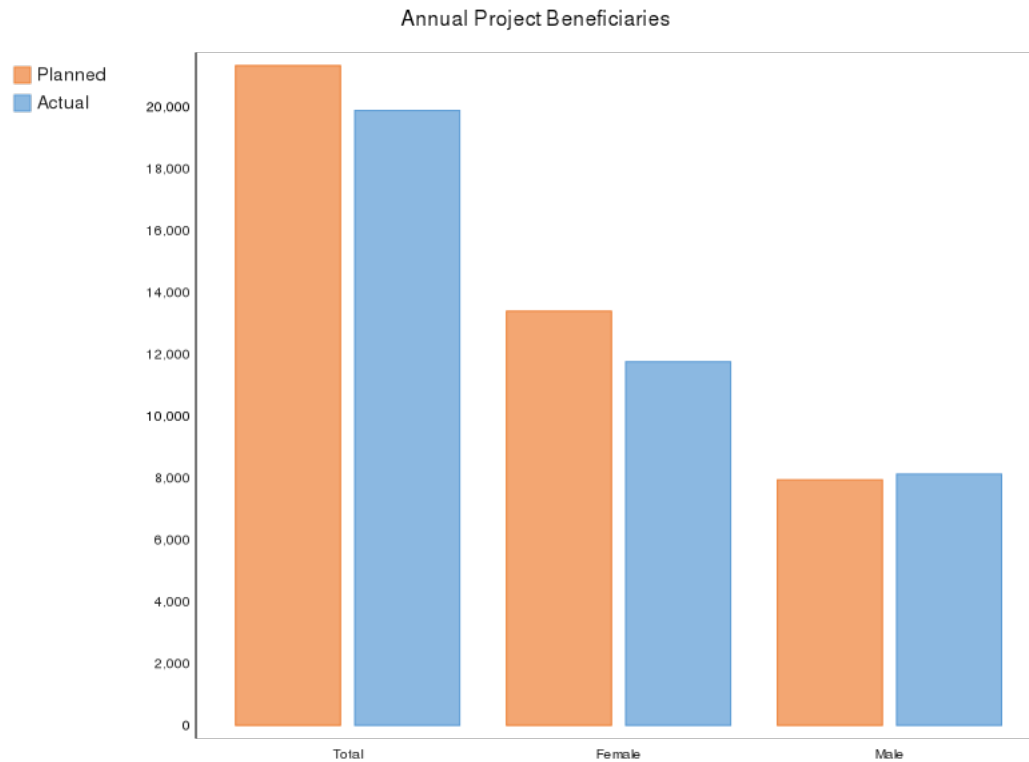
Furthermore, as a result of the Government's decision to withdraw the 24-59 month age category from the beneficiary list after June, children aged 24-59 months no longer received Super Cereal in the months of July and August. Together these factors contributed to the lower than planned percentage of beneficiaries reached and the lower-than-planned distribution of Super Cereal. The change in beneficiary numbers also led to reduced transport costs during implementation. At the end of the IR-EMOP, WFP transferred a non-utilised balance of 64.4 mt of Super Cereal to the country programme.

Through the IR-EMOP, WFP also provided training to government health personnel, particularly health workers at both district and Village Development Committee levels, female community health volunteers, and non-governmental organisation stakeholders. Six hundred and thirty-six participants were trained on counselling related to Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) and Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition (MIYCN), management of nutrition activities, and logistics and food handling. Led by nutrition focal points of the respective District Health Offices and implementing partner staff, a pool of resource persons was developed at the district level for the management of nutrition training. This resource group then organised a one-day refresher course on IYCF and MIYCN for health workers and female community health volunteers at every Village Development Committee level health post. These initiatives, and the support from Manahari Development Institute and Support for Poor Producers of Nepal, helped government health workers and the female community health volunteers to effectively manage the allocated food distribution schedule.

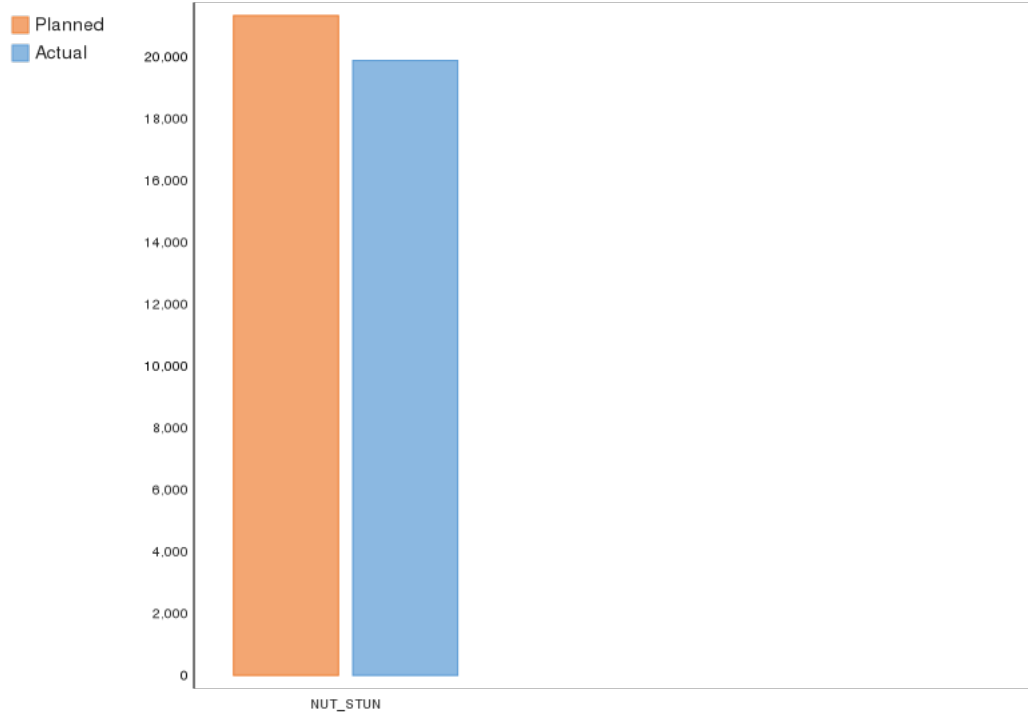
As part of nutrition counselling and education under the IR-EMOP, District Health Officers and WFP reached out to 14,250 beneficiaries, caregivers and other community members for counselling and behavior change communication on the promotion of breastfeeding and complementary feeding through ongoing IYCF activities in these two districts. These activities were carried out by female community health volunteers. WFP's non-governmental organisation partners—Manahari Development Institute and Support for Poor Producers of Nepal—worked with field supervisors at the village level to encourage pregnant women to attend clinics to access better antenatal care services. Further, according to the District Health Office, 84 percent of lactating mothers

received postnatal care services, 97 percent of children aged 6-23 months were able to benefit from growth monitoring, and 95 percent of those who attended the monthly clinics, including both direct beneficiaries of Super Cereal and caregivers (e.g. fathers, grand-parents, siblings, relatives and other community members) benefited from group counselling sessions on IYCF and MIYCN, which were organised at the health facilities during food distributions.

The project was handed over to the Ministry of Health at the end of August 2016 for further implementation of emergency nutrition interventions.

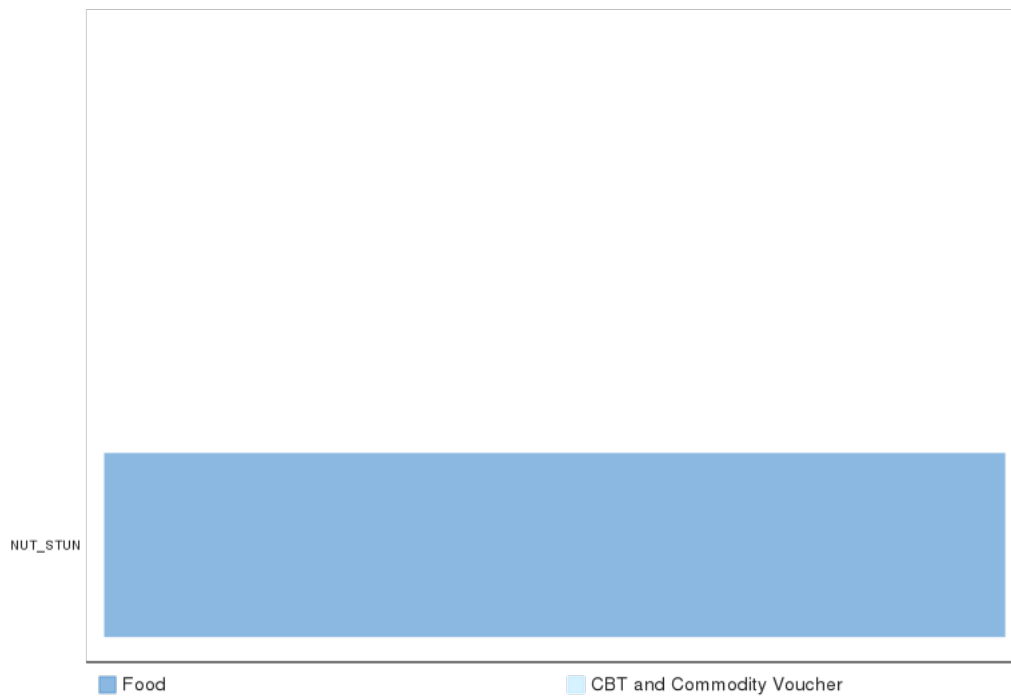


Annual Project Beneficiaries by Activity



NUT_STUN: Nutrition: Prevention of Stunting

Modality of Transfer by Activity



NUT_STUN: Nutrition: Prevention of Stunting



Annual Project Food Distribution

Commodity	Planned Distribution (mt)	Actual Distribution (mt)	% Actual v. Planned
Wheat Soya Blend	192	128	66.5%
Total	192	128	66.5%

Operational Partnerships

WFP partnered with the Ministry of Health and the non-governmental organizations—Manahari Development Institute and Support for Poor Producers of Nepal—to deliver nutrition services during the IR-EMOP. The Ministry of Health contributed the Super Cereal while WFP supported the transport, handling and distribution of the food to beneficiaries through government health posts. Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) activities were also strengthened in spite of the emergency situation, through the timely supply and distribution of vitamin A, de-worming tablets and iron or folic acid supplements by the Government, as well as nutrition counselling and education activities.

The Ministry of Health took the overall responsibility of food procurement and food delivery up to the external distribution points in coordination with the District Health Officers. WFP provided overall support for logistics handling starting with the receipt of food at the extended delivery points, storage, transportation and distribution of Super Cereal to the beneficiaries at the health posts. MDI and SAPPROS provided technical assistance and support on logistics handling and ensured that beneficiaries received their food rations and adequate services in accordance with the schedule.

At the end of August 2016, the Ministry of Health sought to continue WFP's stunting prevention programme by including it in the Government's regular Community Management of Acute Malnutrition programmes and supporting it under the longer-term Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition component of WFP's country programme in Nepal.

Performance Monitoring

Performance monitoring plans included a three-tier monitoring strategy involving WFP and the Government at central and regional levels, and the partners at the district and health facility levels. WFP carried out two joint performance monitoring missions to Mugu district and one mission to Jumla district with central and regional level stakeholders during the three-month implementation period. The missions focused on progress updates and the constraints faced by the ongoing stunting prevention programme supported by WFP and the Government in the region. WFP also continued to separately monitor the programme through its sub-office in Jumla district, which was responsible for overall monitoring and reporting in the two districts. The sub-office provided regular feedback on weekly monitoring findings and recommendations for improvement through fortnightly and monthly situation reports.

WFP's partners—Manahari Development Institute and Support for Poor Producers of Nepal—appointed food distributors and field supervisors to support government health workers in the distribution of food and the delivery of basic health services. In addition to regular field-level monitoring and supervision of overall IR-EMOP activities, the partners provided support for registering beneficiaries into the Health Information Management System database. Partner staff also supported the government health workers in the preparation and submission of timely field and district level monthly reports to the Ministry of Health.

The Government carried out its own regular monitoring of the activities at district and health facility levels. The nutrition focal point in each district agreed upon a monthly monitoring plan with each of the health facilities and linked this plan with the ongoing monthly food distribution schedule and reviewed overall performance of health facilities. This level of monitoring helped identify issues such as absenteeism of health staff, poor physical infrastructure of the health posts, lack of basic medicine and health equipment and other urgent logistical issues pertinent to the implementation of the IR-EMOP.

Results/Outcomes

Over the three-month period, WFP and the Government reached 93.2 percent of the planned beneficiaries with a full ration of Super Cereal. Due to the short duration of the response, WFP did not do any outcome monitoring. WFP further supported the Government through training of health workers and female community health volunteers, enabling the participants to maintain scheduled food distributions and deliver health and nutrition services as per plan. Initial difficulties encountered in the identification and registration of children aged 24-59 months for the first round of distribution were addressed through partner orientation sessions, which clarified distribution modalities and other pending issues. Capacity development initiatives also included provision of training to district level government and non-governmental organisation staff in nutrition counseling, management of MCHN activities, and logistics and food handling. These capacity development initiatives were expected to strengthen the implementation of the prevention of stunting programme at the district and VDC levels in the longer term, within the broader framework of the Government's community-based management of acute malnutrition programmes, supported by WFP through its MCHN programme.

Progress Towards Gender Equality

Under the IR-EMOP, beneficiary cards and maternal health cards were distributed with names of women. In the rural and sociocultural context of Nepal, men are mainly the recipients of benefits, opportunities and decision makers in social and public spheres while women face many discriminatory social practices ranging from seclusion from the family during menstruation and post-childbirth, to restrictive social norms in property ownership. In this background, providing beneficiary cards in women's names enabled them to directly access the entitlements provided, which in turn gave them a better chance of influencing household decisions on entitlements and ensuring that entitlements would be used in the best interest of the children and family. Male household members sometimes also came to collect the ration in instances where women were unable to attend, which could be an indication of increased community awareness and understanding of the importance of good nutrition for mothers during pregnancy and lactating periods, which may be attributed to the regular nutritional counselling given to parents and caregivers through the IR-EMOP.

With a view to increasing women's involvement in the management of the project, WFP supported the formation of community-based Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition (MCHN) committees for the management of IR-EMOP activities in the 54 health posts, in addition to the existing formal government committees at the local level (the Health Facility Operation Management Committee). The MCHN committees operated directly under the supervision of the Health Facility Operation Management Committee and helped implement the IR-EMOP activities in the health clinics. While WFP did not undertake monitoring of gender outcomes due to the short duration of the IR-EMOP, government records indicated that a majority of the membership of the MCHN committees were women and that about 65 percent of the leadership positions in these committees were also held by women.

The effort to involve more women in the management of the MCHN committees in turn ensured that the needs and concerns of women beneficiaries were better addressed. For instance, women members could better understand the challenges that pregnant and lactating women faced and could give appropriate and confidential counselling. Their presence during physical examinations helped pregnant women to dispel concerns and understand the importance of the check-up and monthly clinic attendance. Trained women members also ensured that correct Super Cereal entitlements were provided to beneficiaries and that records were properly maintained. The involvement of the female community health volunteers in all areas of programme management during monthly clinics, helped raise and address women's concerns for the timely delivery of high-quality nutrition-related services at the community level.

Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations

The non-governmental organisation partners—Manahari Development Institute and Support for Poor Producers of Nepal—ensured that more women staff were hired as field supervisors responsible for the delivery of antenatal and postnatal care services so that the concerns of their fellow female staff and women beneficiaries were understood and resolved. WFP and partners operated separate distribution queues for pregnant and lactating women so that they would not have to wait long to collect their entitlements. Ration entitlement boards were visibly placed so that beneficiaries could easily recognise what they would receive. Some health posts installed temporary latrines for women during the three to five day period when the monthly clinics would operate.

WFP continued to apprise the cooperating partners, District Health Officers and health post staff of the changes in beneficiary plans so that they clearly understood beneficiary eligibility criteria. Through partner staff, WFP also

communicated to beneficiaries these changes in beneficiary categories, the services available, the type of supplementary nutritious food distributed, their ration entitlement and how the Super Cereal should be utilised. WFP staff worked with the government health staff to understand whether beneficiaries, particularly women and children, had to undergo any safety problems travelling to or from their villages to the health posts, or even at the health posts, especially as most of them had to travel long distances on foot to reach the distribution sites. Beneficiaries were informed during the counselling sessions and WFP monitoring visits, that they could approach government health staff, partner staff or WFP monitoring staff with any safety and security concerns. No safety and security incidents were noted during the IR-EMOP implementation period.

Lessons Learned

As a consequence of the fuel crisis that affected the country from September to February 2016, WFP initially faced logistical challenges in implementing the IR-EMOP, such as the lack of adequate local transport and the availability of pack animals to deliver the Super Cereal. To overcome transportation delays, WFP sought the best solutions from local partners, particularly from the District Health Offices and health facility staff, Health Facility Operation Management Committees and female community health volunteers at all levels, though orientations focused on identifying potential transporters.

As the IR-EMOP continued, WFP understood that the actual needs could have been more accurately indicated if a more comprehensive review and assessment of the government antenatal and postnatal care services at the health facilities had been carried out prior to launching the programme. This would have also helped WFP to ensure more realistic planning figures. Early training of health workers would also have been instrumental in starting a smooth implementation of the activities. To develop local capacity and to address any resulting gaps in project implementation, WFP supported the District Health Offices and the cooperating partners on food management, handling and distribution, delivery of technical services and other aspects of programme management in regards to the IR-EMOP. The training on Infant and Young Child Feeding and Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition for partner staff in each district served to enhance their overall skills in nutrition programme management at the Village Development Committee level and supported government capacity at the district and health facility levels as well.

Figures and Indicators

Data Notes

Cover page photo: © WFP/Amrit Gurung.

A mother and her young children have collected their Super Cereal ration from the village health post in Ruga Village Development Committee area in Mugu District. WFP supported the Government of Nepal with a three-month emergency nutrition intervention in 2016 to prevent acute malnutrition in the severely drought-affected Mugu and Jumla Districts.

Overview of Project Beneficiary Information

Table 1: Overview of Project Beneficiary Information

Beneficiary Category	Planned (male)	Planned (female)	Planned (total)	Actual (male)	Actual (female)	Actual (total)	% Actual v. Planned (male)	% Actual v. Planned (female)	% Actual v. Planned (total)
Total Beneficiaries	7,940	13,395	21,335	8,126	11,756	19,882	102.3%	87.8%	93.2%
By Age-group:									
Children (6-23 months)	3,970	4,301	8,271	3,707	3,729	7,436	93.4%	86.7%	89.9%
Children (24-59 months)	3,970	4,301	8,271	4,419	4,190	8,609	111.3%	97.4%	104.1%
Adults (18 years plus)	-	4,793	4,793	-	3,837	3,837	-	80.1%	80.1%
By Residence status:									
Residents	7,940	13,395	21,335	8,183	11,699	19,882	103.1%	87.3%	93.2%

Participants and Beneficiaries by Activity and Modality

Table 2: Beneficiaries by Activity and Modality

Activity	Planned (food)	Planned (CBT)	Planned (total)	Actual (food)	Actual (CBT)	Actual (total)	% Actual v. Planned (food)	% Actual v. Planned (CBT)	% Actual v. Planned (total)
Nutrition: Prevention of Stunting	21,335	-	21,335	19,882	-	19,882	93.2%	-	93.2%

Annex: Participants by Activity and Modality

Activity	Planned (food)	Planned (CBT)	Planned (total)	Actual (food)	Actual (CBT)	Actual (total)	% Actual v. Planned (food)	% Actual v. Planned (CBT)	% Actual v. Planned (total)
Nutrition: Prevention of Stunting	21,335	-	21,335	19,882	-	19,882	93.2%	-	93.2%

Nutrition Beneficiaries

Nutrition Beneficiaries

Beneficiary Category	Planned (male)	Planned (female)	Planned (total)	Actual (male)	Actual (female)	Actual (total)	% Actual v. Planned (male)	% Actual v. Planned (female)	% Actual v. Planned (total)
Nutrition: Prevention of Stunting									
Children (6-23 months)	3,970	4,301	8,271	3,675	3,698	7,373	92.6%	86.0%	89.1%
Children (24-59 months)	3,970	4,301	8,271	4,381	4,154	8,535	110.4%	96.6%	103.2%
Pregnant and lactating women (18 plus)	-	4,793	4,793	-	3,974	3,974	-	82.9%	82.9%
Total beneficiaries	7,940	13,395	21,335	8,056	11,826	19,882	101.5%	88.3%	93.2%

Resource Inputs from Donors

Resource Inputs from Donors

Donor	Cont. Ref. No.	Commodity	Purchased in 2016 (mt)	
			In-Kind	Cash
Nepal	NEP-C-00007-01	Wheat Soya Blend	192	-
		Total	192	-