



**NEPAL TRANSITIONAL INTERIM COUNTRY STRATEGIC PLAN  
(YEAR 2018)**

<b>Duration</b> (starting date – end date <sup>1</sup> )	<b>1 January 2018 – 30 June 2018</b>
<b>Total cost to WFP</b>	<b>USD 24.3 million</b>
<b>Gender and Age Marker Code * <sup>2</sup></b>	<b>2A</b>

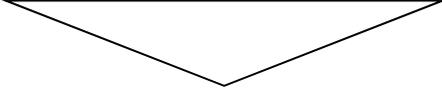
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<sup>1</sup> The end date cannot exceed 30 June 2019

<sup>2</sup> See [WFP Gender Marker Guide](#) for how to calculate a Gender Marker Code.

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



The Government of Nepal has developed the “Vision 2022” plan to graduate from a least developed country status in 2022 and enters the era of the Sustainable Development Goals having reduced poverty in recent years. However, more remains to be done to achieve the key goals of SDG 2; ending hunger and malnutrition.

WFP’s work in Nepal during the Transitional-Interim Country Strategy Plan (T-ICSP) will continue to support the Government in reducing hunger and malnutrition through five Strategic Objectives (SOs): i). School-aged children in food insecure and remote rural areas have sustainable access to food by 2022; ii). Refugees from Bhutan in eastern Nepal maintain access to adequate food. Iii). Children 6-23 months old, Pregnant and Lactating Women and Girls (PLWG) and other vulnerable persons in Nepal have improved nutritional status by 2030; iv). Improved availability of pro-smallholder public goods and services in vulnerable communities in central and western Nepal by 2030; v). Capacities of national and local authorities are enhanced to prepare for and respond to food insecurity and emergencies by 2030.

Vulnerable populations such as refugees, and particular groups such PLWG and children under five years and poor households in remote locations will be targeted for direct assistance, both food and cash transfers. This includes school children in basic education (grades 1 to 8) in public schools in the targeted areas. Gender equality and women’s empowerment will remain an important component of programme activities as a prerequisite for all people (women, men, girls and boys) to have access to sufficient food to lead healthy lives. Capacity strengthening at national and sub national level will continue with a focus on emergency preparedness and logistics augmentation. Activities that have been planned but hitherto not implemented due to lack of resources (such as treatment of moderate acute malnutrition) will be discontinued. A key strategic change envisaged during the T-ICSP is the change of commodities in the school meals programme: from fortified blended food to a locally available, culturally appropriate meal of rice and lentils.

The objectives and activities proposed in this T-ICSP are in line with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework for Nepal, the Government’s development priorities as set out in the 14<sup>th</sup> National Development Plan and the Sustainable Development Goals.

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## **1. COUNTRY ANALYSIS**

### **1.1. COUNTRY CONTEXT**

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1. Nepal is a low-income, least developed country (LDC) hampered by slow economic growth and an unstable political climate. Remote and mountainous geographic terrain, poor roads and transport infrastructure and market access, and the unavailability of quality agricultural land play a critical role in determining the degree of household food insecurity for the 26.5 million strong population. Reflecting the existing low levels of human development, Nepal is ranked 145 out of 187 countries on the 2015 Human Development Index and is further ranked as “serious” in the 2015 Global Hunger Index.
  2. Vulnerability to natural disasters particularly strong seismic activity, also places Nepal at a disadvantage. Major earthquakes in 2015 took the lives of over 9,000 people and caused overall damages estimated at USD 5.15 billion across housing and infrastructure, social and production sectors, adding to already existing disparities across the country's five development regions and between rural and urban areas, gender, caste and ethnic groups.
  3. The 2015 Gender Inequality Index ranks Nepal at 115th out of 188 countries. This ranking reflects the status of women and girls who are among the most marginalised, with lower levels of education and a lesser voice in decision-making, as well as having considerably less economic independence. Women are the most important agents in the enhancement of food security and agriculture in Nepal; yet they face greater constraints than their male counterparts in gaining access to public services, social protection, employment opportunities, leadership positions, information, innovations and local national markets and institutions, as well as balancing unpaid care-giving work.
  4. Remittances from migrant workers (mainly from the Middle East and India) have been the mainstay of the country's economy for the past few decades. They constitute around 30 percent of Nepal's gross domestic product (GDP) and serves as a vital coping strategy for recipient households. The vast majority of Nepali migrants are men from rural households, and this leaves women behind to cope with not just house work, care-giving and social obligations but also tilling the fields to produce food for the family. While this has placed an added burden on women, it has nevertheless provided an opportunity for rural women to engage in social activities and develop knowledge and skills. This increased awareness could eventually lead to a more independent outlook and an increased ability to voice their needs to rise above existing discriminatory practices.
  5. Nepal has undergone consecutive changes in government throughout the past two years. A new Constitution depicting a federal system of governance was promulgated in 2015 and was met with violent opposition from ethnic groups in the lowlands, upon which a blockade of the border with India ensued for nearly five months. The resulting restriction of imports of fuel and other essential goods during this period reached near crisis levels with high inflation further affecting the low income population groups in the post-earthquake period.
  6. Given the high levels of poverty and household food insecurity, social safety nets form a key government strategy to place food and cash grants in peoples’ hands. Herein, the Rural Community Infrastructure Works (RCIW) has played a critical role in reducing hunger and poverty by providing short term work geared towards creating protective and productive community assets, for which food insecure, participating households receive food or cash assistance during the agricultural lean seasons. Nepal also has a long-standing National School Meals Programme (NSMP) spanning over 40 years, which uses two delivery modalities: food items or cash resources for schools to cook meals or outsource food items. Collectively, the food and cash-based NSMP reaches more than half a million school children enrolled in basic education (grades 1 to 8), representing 16 percent of the net

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enrolment in primary schools<sup>3</sup>. The NSMP represents one of the largest social safety nets for school-aged children in the country.

7. Through the “Vision 2022” strategy, Nepal has set a target to graduate from the status of a LDC to a middle income country by the year 2022. The level of the income threshold to attain this requires per capita income growth of nearly 10 percent per annum in the next five years.
8. Nepal held its first local elections in 20 years in May 2017 to vote for more than 700 village and municipal assemblies, paving the way for national and state elections to be conducted later in 2017, based on the federal system proposed in the new Constitution. Having local and municipal bodies in place is expected to accelerate stagnant development initiatives through a more inclusive consultation process with the local populace. The initial results have indicated that a significant number of women candidates (especially from the marginalised Dalit caste) in the rural municipalities have secured their places in the assemblies, reflecting changing cultural perspectives of the voting populace. The increased numbers of women political leaders are expected to have a positive impact on improving social opportunities for women and upgrading their lives.

## **1.2. PROGRESS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDG) 2**

### **➤ *Progress on SDG 2 targets***

9. Despite having been engulfed in a decade long armed conflict during the initial years of Millennium Development Goals (MDG) implementation, Nepal has made progress on meeting some of the MDG targets in advance of the 2015 deadline. Working towards achieving SDG 2, Nepal has already halved the rate of absolute poverty (using the national definition of the poverty line<sup>4</sup>). The 14th National Plan (2018-2021) of the Government of Nepal envisages to reduce the population living below the poverty line to 17 percent (from the current 21 percent) and achieve an end target of 4.7 percent growth in the agriculture sector. However, significant challenges still remain in achieving the different targets of SDG 2, particularly in reducing the high rates of malnutrition among children under five years of age. The National Planning Commission (NPC) is currently revising a previous position paper on Nepal’s plans to achieve the SDGs with updated post-earthquake baseline data and a costing and financing strategy. Although Nepal has achieved substantial progress in ensuring equal access to education, with gender parity in primary and secondary level education, discrimination and violence against women and girls remain high. The 2030 targets therefore include eliminating gender disparity at all levels of education, wage discrimination in similar types of work and physical and sexual violence, and all harmful practices. Increasing the presence of women in the national parliament and in decision making positions in the public service are also key areas.

### ***Access to food***

10. A fifth of Nepal’s 26.5 million population has inadequate food consumption and 38 percent does not consume sufficient calories. The hilly and mountainous areas of the Mid- and Far-Western development regions are particularly affected by food insecurity and insufficient calorie intake. Low availability of arable land, inaccessibility of remote terrain, poor roads

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<sup>3</sup> Department of Education—Government Flash Report-1, 2014.

<sup>4</sup> Set at by the 1995-96 and 2003-04 Nepal Living Standards Surveys (NLSS-I and II)

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and transport infrastructure and the vagaries of the annual monsoon season all contribute to insufficient food production by primarily fragmented small holdings. The winter drought of 2015/2016 in the grain producing, mid western Karnali region, further exacerbated food availability and contributed to rising prices during that year, however grain prices have since stabilised due to 2016 summer harvests arriving in the markets. The earthquakes of 2015 severely impacted household food security especially in the poor wealth quintile in the most heavily damaged areas along the seismic belt (almost 1.1 million people). A major concern for both immediate and longer term food security were widespread losses of household food stocks as nearly 80 percent of households had lost their entire food stocks, affecting food consumption and dietary diversity. Food assistance (mainly cereals and pulses) was critical in ensuring that food insecurity did not escalate further, and increased remittances<sup>5</sup> were a key coping strategy in the post-earthquake period.

11. Since 1992, Nepal has been hosting over 100,000 refugees (of Nepali origin) that arrived from Bhutan. 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. The refugee population who cannot own land or gain legal employment, has been supported with food rations provided by WFP.

### ***End malnutrition***

12. Over 30 percent of children under five years of age are underweight, while stunting (low height for age) and wasting (low weight for height) for children in this age group are both very high at 37.4 percent and 11.3 percent respectively, reflecting the extent of chronic and acute undernutrition in the country. Anaemia remains a critical problem, which affects 46 per cent of children under five years, and as high as 69 per cent of children aged 6-23 months. Poor dietary diversity, inappropriate feeding and child care practices and inadequate knowledge on behaviours of basic health and sanitation, as well as factors such as food prices and seasonality have contributed to inefficient food utilisation with the result that the overall prevalence of micro nutrient deficiencies in Nepal ranges from 6.2 percent to 59 percent with different rates for different types of micronutrients.<sup>6</sup>
13. The Government's integrated approach to sustainably tackling the causes of malnutrition has led to a multi-sector nutrition response involving government, non-government and United Nations agencies with the goal to improve maternal and child nutrition over the next five years, which will result in the reduction of Maternal Infant and Young Child (MIYC) under-nutrition, in terms of maternal body mass index (BMI) and child stunting, by one third. The Government has also focused on rice fortification as a means to address micronutrient deficiencies through a five-year pilot project. A landscape analysis of the available rice production capacities has been completed. Given that rice is a staple consumption in Nepal, the findings of the rice fortification pilot will also provide opportunities for a strong public private partnership where local production plants will develop processing capacity to locally produce fortified rice.

### ***Smallholder productivity and incomes***

14. About 68 percent of the population is engaged in the agriculture sector for livelihoods and subsistence. However, only 28 percent of Nepal's total land area is arable. Small holdings and fragmented parcels are typical characteristics of land holdings. Over 80 percent of land in the hills and mountains have an average size of 0.5 hectares and in the lowlands the average is 1 hectare. While there was surplus food production over the past five year period,

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<sup>5</sup> A rise of 27.6 percent in three months upto June 2015 compared to the same period in 2014.

<sup>6</sup> Nepal Micro-Nutrient Status Survey, Government of Nepal, 1998.

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low production resulting from earthquake-destroyed agricultural land, the limited availability of fertilizer and below average rainfall caused a national level food deficit in 2016. Subsistence or labor intensive and organic manure-based farming practices still predominate as access to technologies is particularly limited for poor and marginal men and women farmers in remote hilly areas. They are further hampered by insufficient access to markets, quality inputs, extension services, functioning roads, transport services, and institutional credit. Poor people and farmers lacking income and purchasing power, are limited in their ability to invest their own resources, which leads to poor agricultural productivity and high food-insecurity, particularly in the remote mountainous districts. Agriculture production heavily depends on seasonal rainfall and is thus prone to droughts and erratic weather patterns increasingly brought on by climate change.

15. With donor support, the Ministry of Agriculture Development has been implementing several projects across the lowland and hill areas to adopt improved farming techniques and rehabilitate essential infrastructure such as irrigation systems and bridges, to build resilience against natural disasters. Technologies such as integrated pest management, post-harvest storage and produce marketing has helped small holder farmers to more than double their income. Technologies introduced include improved maize production to increase yield, income and household food security for poor, disadvantaged farmers. New drought-tolerant and pest resistant grain varieties are helping to lower crop loss and contribute to higher yields. However, to achieve the SDG targets, more pro-poor extension services and supporting interventions need to be done, especially to improve land use, increase small holder farmers' capacities and increase production. The Government's Agricultural Modernisation Project launched in 2016, aims to enhance productivity through introducing mechanisation to increase the output currently realised through traditional methods.

### *Sustainable food systems*

16. One of the key challenges faced by the Nepali agriculture sector is producing more food per unit of area to feed a growing population, while concurrently conserving the environment and the natural resource base. In addition to population growth, food needs also rise as family incomes increase. There is the need for new technologies and technical know-how on non-chemical pest control and use of manures in order to protect the soil while increasing yields.
17. To create and maintain sustainable food systems, family farmers and strong grassroots community based initiatives such as cooperatives, mothers' groups, farmers' organizations, school gardens, community non-timber farming and seed banks have to join together as key allies and future custodians of local systems. Such groups need to be supported with quality inputs at the local level and a supportive policy environment at the regional or national level. Increased observation and measurement of results are needed to measure results of new technologies such as crop diversification, crop rotation, mulching, organic recycling and soil-water conservation. Illiteracy or lack of skills in many farmers hamper the ability for record keeping, observations and interpretation of results. Negative practices such as deforestation, soil degradation and nutrient mining, mono cropping and excessive use of chemical pesticides and fertilisers need to be managed to avoid detrimental effects. Adapating to the increasing effects of climate change through institutionalisation of disaster risk reduction, developing river management systems, increasing agricultural investment in micro-irrigation, flood and drought resistant seeds, fertilizers and other inputs and upscaling successful climate resilient livelihood projects to diversify income in food-deficit areas are required in order to successfully build and maintain sustainable food systems across the different ecological zones.
18. With support from the United Nations agencies and donors, the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation and the Ministry of Agricultural Development have taken the lead on several

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initiatives to promote the growth and maintenance of sustainable food systems. Water shed management and increasing irrigation methods, soil conservation and efforts to arrest river bank erosion as well as promoting sustainable land use form some of these key initiatives launched country wide. These are included as part of the 14<sup>th</sup> National Plan which envisages to increase the growth of the agriculture sector by over seven percent and increase the amount of irrigated land by over 1 million hectares in the next three years. Climate smart agriculture is also promoted with a view to make farmers adapt to the effects of changing weather patterns, especially in the high hills. Agricultural extension services have been increasingly focused towards poor and disadvantaged farming groups, and crop and livestock insurance schemes have been launched with a pro-poor focus, in which subsidies upto 80 percent are granted on the payable premium. Through such projects the Government aims to reach the targets of SDG 2.

➤ ***Macro-economic environment***

19. In the fiscal year 2015/16, Nepal's real Gross Domestic Production (GDP) was estimated to rise only by 0.77 percent. The low growth rate of the agriculture sector, non-agriculture sector activities being highly affected by the earthquakes, and difficult supply situation due to border obstructions were attributable for low economic growth. Agriculture production grew by 1.3 percent. A structural change could be observed with the contribution of agriculture sector to the GDP declining (from 36 to 31 percent) and services sector increasing (from 63 to 68 percent). The surge in remittances during the last quarter of 2015 and the improvement of trade after the end of the blockade in early 2016, served to decrease inflation and offset the negative effect on the current account balance and maintained it at a surplus of USD 1.3 billion for the first nine months into 2016. Another reason for the surplus was due to persistent under-utilization of the annual budget allocated for government expenditure<sup>7</sup>.
20. The Government's 14<sup>th</sup> National Development Plan while aiming to achieve a growth rate of 7.2 percent in three years, also plans to grow the agriculture sector by 3.4 percent. With current and future initiatives in the agriculture and irrigation sectors, the Government plans to increase the amount of irrigated land to 15.2 million hectares from the current 13.9 million. Such plans will depend on favourable weather patterns, a steady flow of remittances and stability in governance and security both at the centre and periphery (in the bordering lowland districts in particular) where entry points for international trade are situated.
21. Women's participation in the agriculture labor force in Nepal had increased from 36 percent in 1981 to about 70 percent in 2016. Despite this increasing role, traditional social norms and laws that are biased in favor of men act as barriers to women's equitable access to productive resources, particularly agricultural lands (most often still under the control of men due to traditional laws of succession), credit, tools and technology. The amendments made to the clauses relating to women's land tenure rights in the Muluki Ain (Civil Code), Gender Equality Act 2006, Constitution of Nepal 2015 which provide the daughter-in-law and unmarried daughters under age 35 the same rights, prevailing patriarchal traditional practices continue to marginalise women in terms of land ownership. There is also negligible participation of women in water users' groups formed by the Department of Irrigation and although more women than men are involved in caring of farm animals, in most communities, men make the major decisions on buying and selling of livestock, thereby limiting women's access to income.

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<sup>7</sup> At the end of the 2016, only 21 percent of allocated capital expenditure had been utilized, within the 41 percent of the total budget expended from the allocated fund - Economic Survey 2015/2016, Ministry of Finance, Government of Nepal.

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➤ **Key cross-sectorial linkages**

22. Considering the international benchmark for extreme poverty of an income of US\$ 1.25 per day, less than 25 percent of the Nepali population are living below this line. The poverty gap ratio has narrowed to 5.6 percent, while per capita gross national income (GNI) stood at US\$ 776 in 2016. Poverty has fallen not just nationally but across all of its major dimensions. Poverty (as defined nationally) is targeted to decline from 23.8 percent to 5 percent by 2030 (SDG 1). Achieving this result will have a significant impact on ending hunger (SDG 2) however ending all forms of malnutrition (SDG 2.2) will require improvements in micronutrient distribution coverage and compliance along with the proposed (rice) fortification initiative.
23. The achievements in education (SDG 4) has been significant resulting in the national literacy rate increasing to 65.9 percent (75.1 percent for males and 57.4 percent for females), significantly since 2002. As a result of the free primary education policy, the net enrollment rate in primary schools has reached 96.2 percent with gender parity achieved. The national school meals programme of food<sup>8</sup> and cash based modalities in public schools also contribute to these achievements, functioning as a key social safety net and an incentive for poor households to enrol and regularly send children to school. However, approximately 87 percent of children who enroll in grade one reach grade five, while just 74.6 percent reach grade eight and students' reading and math abilities are far below grade level. To equip students to access better livelihoods and increased income leading to reduced poverty (SDG 1) and ending hunger and household food insecurity (SDG 2), most public schools will need to meet at least the minimum enabling standards set by the Government over the next 10 years.
24. Health care services in Nepal are provided by both the public and private sector. Disease prevalence is higher in Nepal than in other South Asian countries, especially in rural areas. Periodic epidemics of infectious diseases, epizootics and natural hazards like floods, forest fires, landslides and earthquakes put people at risk of infection and communicable diseases, malnutrition and other health-related events which particularly affect the poor living in rural areas. However, some improvements in health care have been made, most notably significant progress in maternal-child health where the maternal mortality rate has decreased from 850 in 100,000 in 1990 to 190 in 2013. Infant mortality has also decreased from 136.9 per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 39.5 in 2015. In terms of water and sanitation (SDG 6), while a majority of households (93 percent) had access to improved drinking water sources, an improvement is needed in increasing the use of better sanitation from the current 60 percent of households.<sup>9</sup> By the end of 2015, 27 of Nepal's 75 districts were declared open defecation free. However, improvements in water supply have been more limited in less remote and more densely populated areas. At any rate, such improvements have led to an increase in life expectancy from 58.5 years to 68 years over a period of 22 years. However, a lot more remains to be done to reduce malnutrition in children under five years to attain the SDG 2.
25. The Government is committed to attaining the objectives of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Constitution of Nepal promulgated in 2015 was a major step forward for gender equality and women's empowerment. The percentage share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector is increasing and now stands at 44.8 percent nationally. The proportion of seats held by women in the national parliament increased to 29.5 percent in 2014. While Nepal is on

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<sup>8</sup> WFP supports 200,000 school children in grades 1 to 8 (basic education) with school mid-day meals in 10 food-insecure districts in the mid and far western regions.

<sup>9</sup> Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2014, Government of Nepal.

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the right track for promoting the objectives of gender equality and women's empowerment, these achievements vary among women across different locations, income and social groups. Despite the increase in educational attainment and policy changes in favour of women, prejudicial social norms hold back gender equality (SDG 5). A large proportion of women in Nepal suffer from lack of access to improved livelihoods, education and health facilities which curtails their economic autonomy and weaken their bargaining position with the family. This translates into little or no voice in household decisions, differential feeding and caregiving practices favouring boys and men, food and nutrition insecurity and lower health and nutrition outcomes. The low social status of women and girls has a direct bearing on the nutrition status of women and girls, marriage, childbirth, disease prevalence and overall health and wellbeing of women. Nepal occupied 115<sup>th</sup> ranking out of 155 countries in the Gender Inequality Index in 2015.

26. Nepal's national social protection framework identifies the country's social protection needs that are required towards the attainment of the SDGs 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 (v) employment promotion schemes. The Government 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.
27. The high risk of strong earthquakes, annual floods and other calamities in Nepal point to the key requirement for disaster risk reduction for achieving safe and sustainable dwellings, livelihoods and overall human development. Post-earthquake reconstruction and resettlement costs amounted to more than USD seven billion and emphasised the need for a substantial up-scaling of national efforts along with enlarged international technical and financial support to achieve the goal of making human settlements safe, decent, adequate and affordable (SDG 11).
28. At the concluding year of the MDGs, the Government undertook a review on implementation of the MDGs and looked at the way forward in implementing the SDGs in terms of identifying capacity gaps. The position paper produced, is currently being updated with post-earthquake baseline data and has emphasised that the institutional, physical, information technology-related, and human resource-related capacity gaps should be prioritized interventions and solved in time to enable the achievement of the SDGs. Ensuring access to justice and security; formulating pro-poor, pro-gender, and pro-growth policies; engaging all local stakeholders in formulating and implementing the SDGs; and making public services more accountable and public policies, programmes and implementation more transparent and result-oriented are key areas that will need performance improvement over the next 15 years to end hunger and other cross sectoral SDGs.

### **1.3. HUNGER GAPS AND CHALLENGES**

29. A "serious" classification in the Global Hunger Index (score of 16.4 in 2014) for Nepal, points to the existing significant disparities in food security that prevail between ecological zones, development regions and rural-urban divide. Compared to the lowlands (24 percent), the population living with insufficient calorie intake is higher in hilly (36 percent) and mountainous (38 percent) areas. By development region, the two western (Mid and Far-Western) regions are more calorie deficient compared to three eastern (Eastern, Central and Western) regions. Twenty percent of households have inadequate food consumption while the dietary diversity is poor

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in nine percent of the households.<sup>10</sup> In many areas, annual food production is sufficient for basic food needs for three to six months. Subsistence farmers constitute the majority of the farming community in the country. They can neither produce adequate food for their family nor afford to buy food from the market to be self-reliant in their consumption as volatile market prices further diminish their purchasing power. Women and children under five years of age are highest at risk of the resulting micronutrient deficiencies and malnutrition, as evidenced by high national rates of stunting and wasting.<sup>11</sup>

30. Compared to August-November 2015, the price of coarse rice and wheat flour increased by 1.9 percent and 1.8 percent respectively in 2016,<sup>12</sup> particularly relating to the prices in hill and mountain districts than in Nepal's main agricultural production belt; the lack of roads and transport systems influence the prices in these remote areas. Agriculture is Nepal's dominant but least productive sector: two-thirds of the work force is engaged in agriculture but it generates only one third of GDP. In the past decade, the budget allocation to agriculture has been 3 percent or less however, the Government envisages to increase the growth rate of the agriculture sector by 3.4 percent in the next three years.<sup>13</sup> Low agricultural investment has led to high dependence on weather, with visible increases in the frequency, intensity and duration of extreme weather conditions over the past few years. The winter drought of 2015/2016 in the grain producing Karnali region was a factor that contributed to the national level food deficit in 2016. Adverse weather patterns continue to contribute to diminishing yields in vulnerable regions and increasing food price volatility, health and nutrition risks and water scarcity.
31. The National Adaptation Programme of Action identifies food security as one of the sectors most vulnerable to climate change. The Nepal Food Corporation (NFC) of the Ministry of Commerce and Supplies is responsible for stabilizing markets, managing a food security reserve and selling subsidized rice to people. The NFC currently manages 33,000 mt of rice - national and South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Food Bank stocks. Nepal's spending for social safety nets is 1.32 percent of the GDP.
32. 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 the services included in the Government's action plans defined through this policy framework. Despite recent encouraging trends, Nepali households remain vulnerable to the vagaries of life as the existing social protection system has yet to provide reliable safety nets, as evident from the high food and income insecurity that people face after natural disasters such as floods and landslides that happen every year. Social assistance schemes – including cash transfers and scholarships – have had a limited impact on overall poverty reduction, due to limited benefits and weak targeting.<sup>14</sup>
33. Despite the Government's prioritisation of gender equality and women's empowerment in the development agenda, women have yet to become regular recipients of social assistance schemes and development initiatives. A cultural divide that place women second to men results in women being most often marginalised over men who are considered the head of the household and the recipient of benefits. The low literacy and overall education levels of women contribute to their inability to demand redress, not only in the social sphere but also at the household level. This then translates to their reduced ability to improve and maintain household food security through engaging in improved livelihoods bringing

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<sup>10</sup> Nepal Living Standards Survey III, 2006

<sup>11</sup> 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. Nepal Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (NMICS), Central Bureau of Statistics 2014.

<sup>12</sup> Nepal Food Security Bulletin, Issue 49, WFP.

<sup>13</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> National Development Plan, Government of Nepal.

<sup>14</sup> Nepal Overview, World Bank, November 2016.

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increased income, better knowledge to put more nutritious food on the table and improved practices of family health and hygiene. This challenge of achieving gender equality needs to be addressed and overcome with suitable means in order to meaningfully achieve household food and nutrition security.

#### **1.4. KEY COUNTRY PRIORITIES**

##### **➤ Government priorities**

34. The Government's 14<sup>th</sup> National Development Plan released in 2017, envisages to reach an economic growth rate of 7.2 percent at the end of three years. The population below the poverty line is expected to further reduce to 17 percent (from the current 21.6 percent). To achieve this, the GDP per capita income is expected to rise to NPR 116,500 (approximately USD 1099). The Government aims to significantly raise other key indicators such as the population with improved drinking water by seven percent, net enrolment in school by eight percent and increase irrigated land by 1.3 percent, as the way forward to reaching SDG 2.
35. The Nutrition Assessment and Gap Analysis (NAGA) carried out in 2009 outlined the multi-sectoral determinants of malnutrition in Nepal, and called for a multi-sectoral approach to tackling malnutrition. Accordingly, the Government produced a multi-sectoral nutrition plan for the first 1,000 days of a child's life, under the Scaling Up Nutrition initiative, managed by a national food and nutrition security steering committee established for strengthened multi-sectoral policy guidance and coordination, with technical expertise of WFP and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). Furthermore, the Agricultural Development Strategy aims to improve productivity and competitiveness and includes a ten-year food and nutrition action plan developed by the Ministry of Agriculture Development. Nepal's development partners also support the school sector development plan for enhancing the quality and accessibility of education. In addition, the Government is committed to providing school meals as a tool for securing equitable access to education, and includes school meals in its annual work plan and budget.
36. In 2003, the Intensification of the Maternal and Neonatal Micronutrient Program addressed some of the coverage constraints that existed by establishing community distribution of supplements via health workers and female community health volunteers (FCHV). The 2005, the introduction of the Safe Delivery Incentive Program, which provides cash to women giving birth in a health clinic and gives incentives to health workers for attending deliveries, was specifically designed to overcome the widespread problem of physical isolation and cultural barriers for women.
37. Access to improved water sources has improved greatly in Nepal, reaching 93 percent.<sup>15</sup> However, still only 60 percent of households have access to toilets hence the universal national target of has been set to achieve full access to sanitation facilities by 2017. The "Community Led Total Behaviour Change in Hygiene and Sanitation" focuses on key hygiene behaviours involving hand washing, safe waste disposal, drinking water, personal hygiene. The government's Hygiene and Sanitation Master Plan 2010 aims to promote commitment, advocacy and capacity building at district and village development committee (VDC) levels.
38. The recurrent natural disasters that Nepal faces primarily affects food production systems and takes a toll on household food security hence the National Strategy for Disaster Risk Management in Nepal (NSDRMN) developed in 2008, aims to provide guidance for improving the policy and legal environment and prioritise strategic interventions,

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<sup>15</sup> Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2014, Government of Nepal.

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encouraging disaster risk reduction (DRR) and preparedness planning at all levels including mainstreaming DRR strategies into the food security and poverty alleviation agenda.

39. The ongoing national school meals programme using both food and cash based modalities and reaching about 600,000 children altogether, aligns with the Government's priority on achieving the goals of the "education for all" policy by functioning as an incentive for increased school enrolment and attendance, especially of girl children from marginalised groups and food insecure households, fitting well in to the national social protection system.
40. The Government of Nepal has prioritized gender equality and women's empowerment throughout its development agenda by implementing a gender responsive budgeting system, where a minimum of 10 percent of the total development budget is required to be allocated for activities that promote gender equality and women's empowerment.

➤ *United Nations and other partners*

41. To address the array of implementation gaps on the path to achieving the SDGs, the United Nations system in Nepal assists the Government through the United National Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) Outcome One, the UNDAF promotes equity in policy frameworks, planning processes, resource allocation, systems delivery, monitoring mechanisms and community utilization.. Most of the national MGD targets set for 2015, particularly in the areas of poverty, education, women empowerment, child health, maternal health and HIV/AIDs have been achieved, however significant disparities remain across gender, social groups and geographical areas. The Government's 14th Development Plan presents an opportunity for the United Nations to continue supporting the localization of the SDGs, in particular with regard to tackling inequalities, closing data gaps and improving information management systems, in addition to technical support to the thematic areas through the new UNDAF from 2018.
42. Both the World Bank group and the Asian Development Bank who are Nepal's key development partners have structured their country strategies to provide development assistance towards the realisation of the SGDs. The World Bank's development priorities have shifted from a post-conflict assistance outlook towards a longer term development assistance perspective through their 2014-2018 Country Strategy. For increased economic growth, the World Bank supports hydroelectric power generation, enhancement of transport connectivity and improvement of the business environment. In addition, improving agricultural productivity and equalising access to healthcare, skills development and social protection form key strategic directions while contributing to improving the effectiveness, efficiency and accountability of public expenditure. The Asian Development Bank meanwhile, has focused their development assistance around the sectors of agriculture, natural resources and rural development, education (primary and secondary school, teacher education and technical education and vocational training) energy production (hydropower and alternative energy sources) transport (strategic roads, air transport, rural roads, information and communication technology) urban infrastructure (water supply and sanitation, urban and environment improvement) among other capacity development, encompassing principles of gender equality and social inclusion.
43. Aiming towards SDG 2, WFP, FAO and UNICEF lead efforts to end hunger and malnutrition through food and cash assistance to improve household food security, addressing chronic and acute malnutrition through stunting prevention and moderate acute malnutrition treatment programmes, immunisation and micronutrient supplementation for children under five years and PLWG. WFP further develops government capacity (SDG 17) in augmenting national logistics and disaster response capabilities through creating

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and supporting the operations of humanitarian staging areas, providing humanitarian air transport when required, training in disaster response and emergency preparedness. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) focuses on promoting reproductive health for young women of child bearing age; crucial in Nepal's traditional practice of early marriage for girls. WHO's strategies priorities include control of communicable and non-communicable diseases, strengthening health systems within primary healthcare, supporting policy dialogue for universal health coverage, reducing post-disaster health consequences, addressing the environmental determinants of health and promoting health over the life cycle through an overall focus on underprivileged and vulnerable groups.

44. Similarly Nepal's key development partner the United States Government<sup>16</sup> supports democracy and economic growth, promotes agriculture development, health and alternative livelihoods and education development in early grade literacy, girls' education and provides food for the school meals programme implemented through WFP with the goal of encouraging school attendance and reducing drop-outs. The school meals programme being one of the largest safety nets in Nepal, contributes to maintaining nutrition in school aged children through mid day meals made from nutrient fortified corn-soya blend.
45. The numerous non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and their networks throughout the country have a proven track record in promoting improvements in food security, nutrition, agriculture, health, sanitation and women's empowerment and WFP partners with local and international NGOs based on their prior experience in the thematic area of operations. Private sector partnerships have been limited to service provision; for example, banks that provide financial services under the "branchless banking" concept to distribute cash assistance. While there have been no major joint food projects implemented with the private sector in recent years, the proposed rice fortification initiative will create the space for joint partnerships with the private sector rice millers and related food processing companies.

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## **2. STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS FOR WFP**

### **2.1. WFP'S EXPERIENCE AND LESSONS LEARNED**

46. Through various vulnerability assessments undertaken in previous years, it is recognised that a direct link exists between improved access infrastructure (particularly rural trails), and long term improvements in household food security. WFP's community asset creation projects in support of the national Rural Community Infrastructure Works have contributed to improving access to remote, high altitude regions particularly in the mid and far western development region where the impact of implementing food/cash assistance for work combined with education and nutrition activities in the Country Programme (CP) have brought about synergy between interventions and expanded their impacts on food security and nutrition.
47. WFP has learned that the impact which the construction of trails and improved roads in remote areas has on household food security can be improved in the short run through greater involvement of marginalised groups and women in the construction activities (immediate impact on household access to food); and in the long run by ensuring that the roads and trails improved are better aligned with the existing network of improved trails and roads, including the District Transport Master Plan and by improving maintenance systems. This would maximise the benefits arising from lower transport costs, including potentially reducing the costs of key food items, improving access to a wider variety of nutritious foods

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<sup>16</sup> Primarily through USAID and United States Department of Agriculture.

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through better market integration and farmers' access to markets, in addition to broader development benefits such as improved access to services.

48. WFP's long experience in building rural roads and trails in remote, mountainous districts gives it a comparative advantage over other partners in the upgrading of trails and rehabilitation of roads using local unskilled and semi-skilled labour in remote and inaccessible regions. The remote access operations conducted to rebuild high-altitude, earthquake-damaged trails during the 2015 humanitarian response is a case in point. Moreover, WFP has been integral part of both the RCIW and school meals programme in Nepal for many decades (providing food rations or cash transfers for RCIW and also mid-day meals to school-aged children across the country), and this gives WFP a distinct comparative advantage over others, to build resilience and support the government to achieve the goals of the "education for all" policy.
49. WFP's global expertise in logistics and supply chain management and particular experience in Nepal, has led to government, donor and humanitarian community expectations that WFP has to take a leading role in the enabling and facilitation of the logistical support systems (including the establishment of disaster response platforms) which the Government and humanitarian community use to respond to major emergencies. This includes the training of Government (central, regional and district), and NGO staff on the management and use of the systems.
50. Although, the synergy between activities of asset creation activities, nutrition and education implemented in the same highly food insecure areas would lead to magnified impacts on household food security and nutrition, different donor and government funding priorities sometimes pose difficulties in achieving this geographic alignment. However, WFP's technical capabilities in vulnerability analysis, national food security monitoring and augmentation of logistics capacities have been well received by the Government, donors and the wider humanitarian community, with a steady inflow of funding for their implementation.
51. WFP has adopted a twin-track strategy of 'Gender Mainstreaming' and 'Targeted Actions' to integrate gender equality and women's empowerment into all of its work and activities. Gender considerations therefore have been mainstreamed into all phases of the programme cycle, from the initial needs assessment to the final evaluation. When gender and age analysis indicates that one population group is particularly vulnerable or at risk, actions targeting that group have been promoted. A case in point is WFP's successful pilot implementation of the Rural Women's Economic Empowerment (RWEE) programme jointly with UNWOMEN, FAO and IFAD which is targeted towards rural women. The programme has provided rural women with technical material and awareness raising support to improve food and nutrition security and increase opportunities for livelihoods. Lessons learnt from the RWEE which overall supported rural women on agriculture production through kitchen gardening, commercial vegetable production, construction of community assets and capacity strengthening through leadership trainings, shall continue to be an important element of the programme subject, to resource availability.
52. WFP will also consider the recommendations of the Operations Evaluation of the CP 200319 which was conducted in 2016. During the six months' implementation of the T-ICSP, they will be incorporated in the activities; especially those on gender considerations and mapping and clarifying its comparative advantages and distinct competencies that WFP has within the development community, such as strong logistics capabilities, long experience on resilience building etc. The present activities of the T-ICSP already reflect these to some extent. Moreover, the evaluation recommendations will be a key basis for decisions on the follow-on CSP.

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## 2.3 OPPORTUNITIES FOR WFP

53. The T-ICSP provides opportunities to change the strategic focus of programming for the longer term Country Strategy Plan (CSP), incorporating a gender-transformative approach to achieving the Strategic Outcomes and national food and nutrition security goals (such as through the RWEE project (refer no.48). WFP will intergrated gender equality and women's empowerment into all of its activities to ensure that different food security and nutrition needs of women, men, girls and boys are addresseed.The following details reflect the priority actions and recommendations that were identified for the T-ICSP.

i. Nutrition - Phasing out of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) treatment in earthquake recovery areas - PRRO 200875

54. The PRRO 200875 was implemented in three distrcts most affected by the 2015 earthquakes. Although WFP expected that that the levels of acute malnutrition in these districts would be higher due to the resulting post-earthquake food insecurity, it has proven much lower than was anticipated during the immediate aftermath of the earthquake and therefore planned for (in agreement with Ministry of Health and UNICEF) when the PRRO was approved. After a comprehensive screening process, the number of children afflicted by MAM was found to be much lower than planned. The performance records of the MAM treatment also indicate that the overall default rate in 2016 was 11 percent - lower than the benchmark of 15 percent; while the recovery rate for all districts was 82 percent, well over the 75 percent target. Although the non-respondent rate is estimated at seven percent, no mortality figures were reported during the period of assistance. The most likely reason for these results is because food security levels in the affected districts have recovered more quickly than anticipated. Both the Ministry of Health and donors have not indicated interest in continuing the programme, therefore WFP has decided to phase out the programme in mid-2017. Although the planned MAM treatment programme was not implemented due to lack of resources and it has therefore been withdrawn from the T-ICSP, it is still a corporate priority and within WFP's mandate hence, this activity will be reviewed for inclusion when the CSP is being prepared.

ii. Nutrition - Removal of MAM treatment from CP 200319 (part of Activity 4)

55. While there has been direct Government contribution by way of local procurement of fortified food to the mother and child health and nutrition (MCHN) MAM prevention programme under the CP, there has been no interest shown by donors in the treatment of MAM and this activity has never been implemented under the CP. It has therefore been decided to remove MAM treatment from the CP for the T-ICSP period.

iii. Education – Commodity change to enable sustainability and eventual exit of WFP support.

56. School meals will undergo a gradual commodity change from Super Cereal and sugar to fortified rice, pulses, oil and salt. The change will begin in the current McGovern-Dole School Meals Programme (pilot area) and become complete during the next phase of 2018-2021. This strategic shift will pave the way for school meals to eventually transition into a home grown school feeding programme with menu planning around locally available food. It will help to improve the sustainability of the school meals programme and prepare the Government for WFP's eventual exit. This is also in line with the proposed in-country rice fortification strategy, where school meals is regarded as a major entry point for the introduction of fortified rice to the population.

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#### iv. Capacity strengthening

57. In the context of the local level restructuring of administrative units in the country and the holding of long awaited local level elections, there is a significant opportunity for WFP to support local bodies to enhance governance and capacity of local level policy and service delivery. WFP therefore, will undertake these activities through the Community Development Programme (Trust Fund 200992), considering ways of promoting women's participation in local governance and service delivery wherever possible.

### 2.3 STRATEGIC CHANGES

58. This T-ICSP plan incorporates 10 projects and activities into one for the period January – June 2018. These include the following:

- a) **CP 200319** - The Nepal Country Programme;
- b) **PRRO 200875** – Restoring Food and Nutrition Security and Building Resilient Livelihoods in Earthquake-Affected Areas;
- c) **PRRO 200787** – Food Assistance to Refugees from Bhutan in Nepal;
- d) **Special Operation 200848** – Logistics and Telecommunications Augmentation and Coordination in Response to the Earthquake in Nepal;
- e) **Special Operation 200999** – Augmentation of National and District Level Emergency Logistics Preparedness in Nepal;
- f) **Special Operation 201025** - Construction of New Country Office for WFP Nepal;
- g) **Trust Fund 201062** – Capacity Strengthening and sub-national level crop yield forecasting for agricultural outlook assessments in Nepal
- h) **Trust Fund 200992** - Community Development Programme (CDP)
- i) **Trust Fund 200958** – Adapting to Climate-Induced Threats to Food Production and Food Security in Karnali Region in Nepal;
- j) **Trust Fund 201063** – Provision of Technical Advisory Services and Institutional Capacity Enhancement for the Government of Nepal Food Security Monitoring System (NekSAP)<sup>17</sup>

59. This consolidation is in line with the Policy on CSPs and the financial structure outlined in the Financial Framework Review. While the activities included within the documents cited above all fall within the strategic framework described within WFP Nepal's CP which was approved by the Executive Board in July 2012, their geographic footprint reflects a wider implementation arising from the social and economic impact of the earthquakes in 2015.

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## 3. WFP STRATEGIC ORIENTATION

### 3.1 DIRECTION, FOCUS AND INTENDED IMPACTS

60. The direction, focus and intended impacts of the strategy are similar to those included within the present CP, the Refugee PRRO and following the earthquakes in 2015, include support to a reinvigorated government programme to strengthen the national capacity to respond to natural disasters. It supports the Government in tackling food insecurity, focussing on social safety nets in education, nutrition and productive assets for livelihoods support and reflect

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<sup>17</sup> This activity is planned based on the expected new funding for a new phase in 2018.

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the Government's development plans, the United Nations Development assistance Framework (2013-2017).

61. Short term activity shifts including phasing out of MAM treatment within PRRO 200875 and the removal of MAM treatment from CP 200319. These reflect short-term resources considerations and given that this activity is within WFP's mandate and is a corporate priority, it is currently under review with a view to its inclusion within the CSP.
62. The activities and outputs of this T-ICSP will advance gender equality, protection, nutrition and disaster risk management factors. WFP's approach will be to continue to provide direct support for Government activities where specifically requested, while building capacity within Government, civil society and the private sector with a view to eventual exit from direct implementation activities.

### **3.2 STRATEGIC OUTCOMES (SO), FOCUS AREAS, EXPECTED OUTPUTS AND KEY ACTIVITIES**

**SO 1:** School-aged girls and boys in food insecure and remote rural areas have sustainable access to food by 2022.

#### *Outcome description*

63. One of the goals included within the national School Sector Development Plan is improved access, equity and quality in education. The Government has asked WFP to help it achieve this goal by providing support to the School Meals Programme in the most food insecure and remote districts of western Nepal, which is implemented in partnership with the Department of Education.

#### *Focus Areas*

64. School meals are used as an entry point to increase access by school-aged girls and boys, to pre-primary and basic education – leading to greater opportunities for individuals when adult, to find more fulfilling work, pursue more effective livelihood strategies and improve their nutritional status for healthy and productive lives. They focus on the root causes of food insecurity and contribute to the achievement of WFP Strategic Outcome 1, WFP Strategic Result 1 and SDG targets 2.1 and 2.2. They also contribute to SDG 4 on quality education and to SDG 1 on reducing poverty.

#### *Expected outputs*

65. The main outputs include the conditional resources that are transferred and its recipients (number of boys and girls receiving food transfers; total amount of food transferred to beneficiaries - fortified rice, lentils and salt distributed; quantity of non-food items distributed; quantity of fortified food provided). Training of education staff consists of the outputs for capacity development (number of people trained in early grade and digital literacy, menu planning, health and hygiene practices, logistics and food preparation according to the planned complementary activities; number of capacity development activities provided; number of teacher support activities provided). In addition, a country specific indicator will be: number of school infrastructure constructed (WASH facilities, school kitchens, improved cooking stoves etc). WFP will also focus on improving and scaling-up core nutrition 'sensitive' interventions with particular focus on enhancing adolescent girl's parental education, life skills and nutritional status. Such outputs lead from reduced hunger to improved attentiveness in classrooms; increased enrolment amongst

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school-aged children, especially girl children from marginalised groups; increased attendance and retention rates thereby decreasing probability of early marriage; improved quality education through complementary activities, and improved school infrastructures and health and hygiene (in particular of adolescent girls).

66. Moreover, WFP in collaboration with other development partners, will continue to advocate for the recruitment of women teachers in primary grades and for the implementation of the equity strategy to create gender-friendly spaces in schools. The outputs will be measured through school attendance records, government reports and corporate tools such as Country Office Project Management Effective Tool (COMET) and Logistics Executive Support System (LESS). An analysis of attendance records in participating schools and monitoring of the provision of training courses and construction of improved physical facilities will be done through the normal monitoring and evaluation activities.

### ***Key activities***

67. The activities were selected so that where implemented as a package they will improve the educational outcomes of pupils attending the participating schools and the livelihoods and incomes of the communities in the most remote and food insecure regions in Nepal. More specifically: providing technical as well as managerial support for implementing the “education for all” policy of the Nepal Government; providing fortified food to all school children of basic education at the government managed schools in the target areas; and capacity development of government and NGO partners working in the education sector.

68. The immediate direct beneficiaries will be 200,000 school-aged children in 2,000 schools who will be provided with a daily school meal – directly implemented by teaching staff in partnership with community volunteers through a Food Management Committee. The construction of improved school infrastructure (classrooms, water supplies, latrines etc) is carried out by local NGOs or contractors using locally recruited skilled and unskilled labour, supervised by the Engineering Section of the Country Office. The supply of improved teaching materials and training of teachers to use them (e.g. early grade reading programmes) is provided through an international NGO (World Education Inc) with skills and experience in these areas. Open Learning Exchange will provide digital libraries and materials as well as train teachers on digital literacy, Partnership for Child Development will introduce the school menu planner package an on-and offline digital tool to plan and create nutritionally balanced and fully costed school meals using locally available food. Parents of especially adolescent school girls will receive awareness training on good nutrition, types of food and hygienic preparation practices. Training of teachers and pupils (especially female) on awareness of good health and hygiene practices will be delivered by two local NGOs: Centre for Development and Disaster Management and Integrated Development Society. WFP staff of Education unit and Logistics unit will provide management training for community school support committees and educational administrators prioritising selection of women participants, on food transport, storage and handling, and food preparation and nutrition.

**SO 2:** Refugees from Bhutan in eastern Nepal maintain access to adequate food.

### ***Outcome description***

69. This project is implemented by WFP in coordination with United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the National Unit for the Coordination of Refugee Affairs which is incorporated within the Nepal Ministry of Home Affairs. Approximately 8,000 Bhutanese refugees in eastern Nepal receive food rations under the General Food Distribution (GFD) and will be similarly supported during the six month

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period of the T-ICSP. The number is gradually falling as families are relocated to other countries through the refugee resettlement programme managed by UNHCR. The

### ***Focus Areas***

70. The refugee population was expelled from Bhutan in 1996. They are not permitted by the Government of Nepal to settle in or work in Nepal. The rations are therefore provided unconditionally with the objective of responding to a crisis. The distribution contributes to the achievement of WFP Strategic Outcome 2, WFP Strategic Result 1 and SDG target 2.1. It also contributes to SDG 8 on eradicating human trafficking and to SDG 10 by supporting the implementation of well-managed migration policies.

### ***Expected outputs***

71. The key outputs are conditional resources transferred and its recipients (number of men and women, boys and girls receiving food transfers; quantity of food provided; and quantity of non-food items distributed - seeds, seedlings and others for reclamation gardening programme); and capacity development conducted (number of people trained) ensuring that refugee households and individuals maintain adequate access to food. A monthly ration is distributed to all refugees based on their vulnerability, based on criteria established by a joint WFP and UNHCR assessment carried out in 2016. Seventy one percent of refugees receive a ration equivalent to 1,587 kilocalories per day. A higher ration – 2,100 kilocalories per day - is distributed to more vulnerable refugees – the elderly, lactating and pregnant women, children under five years of age and those with special needs. Data on separate male and female-headed households will inform the identification and prioritisation of beneficiaries and provision of food assistance, especially for vulnerable groups such as women-headed households and PLWG. Other outputs include the production of fruits and vegetable from the reclamation gardening programme, the beneficiaries supported and trained. WFP will track the amount of food distributed and beneficiaries reached using corporate tools such as LESS and COMET and measure outcomes through annual monitoring.

### ***Key activities***

72. All activities - General Food Distribution and Reclamation Gardening - are implemented towards the common objective of ensuring that refugees have immediate access to food. According to the GFD's needs-based approach, PLWG and children aged 6-59 months are considered as vulnerable groups and receive the full GFD ration. It is understood that the full food basket given for children will be shared within the family.
73. Complementing the monthly needs-based, targeted food rations, WFP will support a reclamation gardening project for vegetable production in vacant land plots available in the camps. Training on vegetable gardening will be provided to the participants, prioritizing households headed by women, households having single women and at-risk groups. The community and kitchen gardens provide an opportunity for enhancing self-reliance while increasing household dietary diversity adding fresh vegetables and fruits to meals. Social and behavior change messages around healthy and adequate diets are also being imparted through training and awareness sessions to the participating families. WFP will continue to implement these activities through long term partner Lutheran World Federation. Moreover, WFP will promote to include at least 50 percent of women members in leadership positions in the Camp Management Committees.

**SO 3:** Children 6-23 months old, Pregnant and Lactating Women and Girls and other vulnerable persons in Nepal have improved nutritional status by 2030.

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### *Outcome description*

74. Some of the goals included within the national Multi Sector Nutrition Plan (2013-2017) is reduced maternal and child under-nutrition, as well as strengthened capacity of central and local governments on nutrition to provide basic services, and improved coordination on developing policies, plans and multi-sector nutrition activities.

### *Focus Areas*

75. The Ministry of Health has asked WFP to help it achieve the goal of reduced maternal and child under-nutrition through a partnership with the Child Health Division to implement the Mother and Child Health and Nutrition (MCHN) programme in the mid and far western Karnali region<sup>18</sup>. The Government through the Ministry of Health, Child Health Division, has also requested WFP to help it draft its rice fortification programme and then assist with implementation.

### *Key Outputs*

76. The key outputs of the MCHN programme consist of conditional resources transferred and their recipients (number of men and women, boys and girls receiving food transfers; quantity of fortified food provided; and the quantity of special nutritious food provided) in one of the most food insecure regions in Nepal, where stunting rates range between 40-60 percent. Another key output is the delivery of nutrition counselling and education (number of targeted caregivers (male and female) receiving three key messages delivered through WFP supported messaging and counselling) under the MIYCH component of the MCHN programme. This will eventually lead to improved health and nutritional status amongst women and children. WFP's technical support in the rice fortification programme will build technical expertise and knowledge amongst Ministry of Health policy makers and amongst food standards technical staff and national legislators. These outputs focus on the root causes of food insecurity and contribute to the achievement of WFP Strategic Outcome 3, WFP Strategic Result 2 and SDG target 2.2. WFP will track the amount of food distributed and beneficiaries reached using corporate tools such as LESS and COMET and measure outcomes through annual third party monitoring.

### *Key activities*

77. The key activities are to provide fortified food to ensure adequate nutritious food consumption by the target population (PLWG and children aged 6-23 months); and train targeted PLWG and government health staff in nutritional counselling and education; planned under the MCHN (stunting prevention) programme. The Child Health Division of the Ministry of Health purchases Super Cereal and delivers it to external distribution points (EDP) while WFP distributes through its partner NGOs working in government health centres. The Super Cereal is provided as an in-kind contribution by the Government of Nepal, setting aside funds and purchasing this commodity to contribute to the WFP activity. Attempts to modify the commodity and add dried milk to the Super Cereal have not been successful, given that local factories are not equipped or technically capable of this venture. Other reasons include the increased financial implications and the higher risks of contamination of such a delicate commodity, in a country with high food quality issues resulting from difficulties in road access in remote locations.

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<sup>18</sup> This differs from the MAM treatment programme that was 1). planned but not implemented in the same mid-and far western Karnali region due to lack of resources, and 2). carried out in the earthquake affected central region of the country, which is being discontinued due to a less-than-anticipated number of MAM afflicted children in those districts. Hence MAM treatment activities are not included in this T-ICSP.

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78. This activity increases the proportion of children aged 6-23 months of age who consume a minimum acceptable diet and raises awareness amongst care-givers of the value of improved nutrition, which in the long run, results in improved nutrition amongst families in the community. Adopting a gender transformative approach to nutrition programming, WFP works particularly with the female cadre of Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs) and ensures that partner NGOs working under Field Level Agreements (FLAs) in nutrition, have good representation of females amongst their staff.
79. Nutrition activities in the community are targeted towards women and girls specifically. Since caregivers who bring their children for growth monitoring under the MCHN programme are women, and the programme also targets PLWG to receive supplementary food, women are prioritized in all field activities under MCHN and tend to be the exclusive recipients of nutrition counseling on maternal infant and young child feeding (MIYCF).
80. WFP is helping the Government, through the Ministry of Health, to plan and implement a road map for the introduction of fortified rice in Nepal. The road map provides for the gradual establishment of official technical standards for fortified rice which will be sold into the market or distributed through social protection network programmes. Through a series of technical consultancies and workshops for Government, civil society and the private sector, WFP will provide support to the legislative process and awareness programmes to enable it to happen. Fortified rice will be included within the school meals programme starting in late 2017.

**SO 4:** Improved availability of pro-smallholder public goods and services in vulnerable communities in central and western Nepal by 2030.

*Outcome description*

81. Strengthening the resilience of the most vulnerable households and marginalised groups in rural communities in Nepal is highlighted in both the Three Year National Plan (2017/18-2020/21) and the Post (earthquake) Disaster Recovery Framework and its associated Five Year Plan (2015-2035).

***Focus Areas***

82. The improved availability of pro-smallholder public goods and services in vulnerable communities (targeted low-income households, farmers cooperatives, womens' groups ect) has several outputs which strengthen smallholder and community resilience to the impacts of shocks and climate change. The focus will be on improving income earning capacities and opportunities, improving access to markets, and the availability and access to adequate food.

***Expected outputs***

83. In the earthquake affected regions in central Nepal and in the highly food insecure districts in western Nepal, the key outputs within the current CP 200319, the Earthquake PRRO (PRRO 200875) and the Climate Change Adaptation Trust Fund (TF 200958) consist of conditional resources transferred and their recipients (number of men, women, girls and boys receiving food and cash based transfers/commodities; quantity of food provided) and the community capacity development conducted (number of people trained and the number of assets built, restored or maintained by targeted households and communities (by type and unit of measure). These outputs focus on the root causes of food insecurity and

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contribute to the achievement of WFP Strategic Outcome 4, WFP Strategic Result 3 and SDG targets 2.3 and 2.4. WFP will track the tonnage of food distributed, assets created and beneficiaries reached using corporate tools such as LESS and COMET and measure outcomes through annual third party monitoring.

### ***Key activities***

84. Activities to be implemented by NGO partners in coordination with local communities and the local district government authorities are: provide food and cash transfers to the communities for building community assets to improve food security; and provide training to the targeted communities to adequately manage the assets created. The construction and rehabilitation of community assets include trails, irrigation and community water reticulation systems and public buildings. As per WFP policy, women will receive equal wages as men for similar types of asset creation work. Drinking water schemes built within their villages will especially benefit women, as it will reduce the time taken to collect water. Similarly, irrigation schemes will also benefit women's kitchen gardens and commercial farming. Childcare facilities managed by communities at work sites as per convenience and consent of the beneficiaries, will facilitate the participation of mothers. Ensuring that assistance is placed directly in the hands of women either as the principal or alternate household head, will provide an opportunity for them to take a lead role in the management of such assistance.
85. The empowerment of women and gender equality will be a priority throughout the assets creation activities. By engaging women and marginalized groups in these activities WFP will effectively provide them an opportunity to participate in decision making roles in user-committees.
86. Associated training of participants concentrates on income earning skills and also on climate change and ways to reduce its impact and WFP will aim to include at least 50 percent of women participants in these trainings. Local contractors are used to construct bridges, roads and more technically complex public infrastructure, using locally recruited skilled and unskilled labour, including women. These activities improve the productivity and incomes of smallholders, enhancing food security at household level and the capacity of the local communities to undertake joint actions to reduce the impact of climate change.

**SO 5:** Capacities of national and local authorities are enhanced to prepare for and respond to food insecurity and emergencies by 2030.

### ***Outcome description***

72. The strengthening of national institutions so that they are able to forecast, prepare for and respond to food insecurity and emergencies are goals which are incorporated into the Agricultural Development Strategy of 2015-2035, the National Strategy for Disaster Risk Management (2009) and the National Disaster Response Framework (2013).

### ***Focus Areas***

73. WFP support has two major dimensions (i) strengthening of capacities of national institutions and systems to forecast, prepare for, monitor and respond to food insecurity and emergencies, and (ii) maintaining a capacity to support the Government and humanitarian community to respond to large scale emergencies – through a physical presence in emergency prone areas (floods and drought) and the development and management of a national logistics response platform in combination with rapid access to resources to support

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the response. Capacity development of national institutions also include local government agencies at the sub-district level, aiming to empower the local government's capacity in sectoral and integrated development planning at the village and district level. WFP will ensure business continuity to respond to disasters by establishing safe facilities. The focus area of both dimensions is resilience building to and support SDG implementation, i.e. WFP Strategic Outcome 5, and Strategic Result 5, and the achievement by Nepal of SDG 17.9 while also contributing to the achievement of SDG 2 targets 2.1 and 2.c.

### ***Expected outputs***

74. Outputs for the first dimension include (i) improved capacity of Government institutions and partners to monitor the food security situation at the local, regional and national level and to strengthen the capacity to forecast crop yields and agricultural outlook assessments (ii) improved capacity of local government institutions to use planning tools to improve coordination and direction of public and private investments in ways which will improve achievement of all Sustainable Development Goals.
75. Outputs for the second dimension include (i) the construction of a national logistical infrastructure to provide a platform for national and international response to emergencies, (ii) improved logistics information in remote areas to enable use of logistics emergency response platform in all areas, (iii) improved capacity of Government institutions and partners to manage/use emergency logistics response platform, (iii) improved commodity supply management to enable adequate supply to all areas in emergencies and (iv) National Food Corporation and SAARC capacities strengthened, leading to improved access to commodities during emergencies.
76. In coordination with the government agencies, WFP's programme staff both at the centre and districts will regularly monitor the project implementation and outputs being achieved. The WFP country office will undertake regular reporting to the donors under each project and Trust Fund.

### ***Key activities***

77. Activities which will be implemented to produce first dimension outputs include the training of local government institutions to use the newly developed district planning tools and the annual plans developed; the preparation of advance estimates for the winter wheat crop in April/May; seventy-five District Food Security Network meetings in March and five regional review meetings in April (NeKSAP).
78. Activities which will be implemented to produce second dimension outputs include (i) the construction and equipping of twenty regional Humanitarian Staging Areas (HSA), (ii) Access mapping for remote western high altitude region of Nepal to inform emergency response, (iii) training of government institutions (national & district) and NGOs to enable effective operationalisation of HSAs, prioritizing women's participation in emergency preparedness and food security monitoring trainings (iv) the strengthening of National Food Corporation's capacity to manage commodity supply chain so that it can respond to shocks which affect local commodity supplies and (iv) technical assistance, consultancies and associated workshops to develop technical agreements and commodity management procedures which will enable utilization of food bank reserves by the National Food Corporation and the Government of Nepal in the event of humanitarian emergencies.

## **3.3 TRANSITION AND EXIT STRATEGIES**

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79. WFP's transition strategy will focus on developing government and community capacities to improve resilience to food insecurity and reduce the underlying causes of malnutrition. Advancing gender equality will be a key requirement to achieve this sustained food and nutrition security. Such a strategy will lead to increasing WFP's ability to eventually handover the interventions to the Government.

***Activity: School Meals Programme (SO1)***

80. In 2015, WFP conducted the SABER exercise as a means of capturing the existing national capacity and identify gaps which need improvement to implement a road map towards achieving a sustainable national school meals programme. Furthermore, WFP had made significant progress in strengthening the Government's financial and institutional capacity to effectively manage and sustain the NSMP. During the 2018-2022 project period, WFP will transition school meals districts to the government-led cash-based NSMP based on the progress made in improving markets and access to local commodities in such districts. WFP's transition support to the Government will also continue to include capacity building trainings to key staff of the Ministry of Education and the Food for Education Project on supply chain aspects, including commodity management, food storage and handling, as well as trainings to teachers, Parent Teacher Association and Food Management Committees promoting community engagement and ownership through the process. These activities will be implemented through the next four years of the McGovernDole 2018-2022 project.

***Activity: Support Bhutanese refugees to maintain access to food (SO2)***

81. By the end of 2015, it was recognised that the level of vulnerability among refugees had changed due to alterations in the camp composition, increased remittances from abroad, and increased opportunities for the remaining refugee population. Shifting donor priorities to other global emergencies also reduced project resources significantly. Based on these developments, WFP, UNHCR and the Government redefined the strategy and shifted assistance from general distribution to all beneficiaries to a needs-based approach prioritising socio-economically vulnerable refugees—women at risk, persons with disabilities, elderly persons aged 60 and above, children aged 6-59 months, and people with specific needs—and provided them with full support. Other refugees were supported with a reduced ration. A successful third country resettlement programme has reduced the number of refugees to about 11,000 in 2016. It is projected that by the end of 2017, around 8,500 refugees will remain. WFP expects to transition the project to the Government by the mid 2018.

***Activity: Nutrition (SO3)***

82. Resulting from the prioritised focus of the Government on addressing malnutrition, and several years of WFP capacity enhancement activities, the Ministry of Health has increasingly taken ownership of the MCHN interventions implemented with WFP's support. A key development is that overall procurement of specialised nutritious food (fortified Super Cereal) is fully procured locally by the Ministry of Health with government funds and delivered up to the external distribution points through the Department of Health Services, mobilizing the support of the Logistics Management Division. The level of ownership has increased at the implementation level with District Health Officers taking a lead role in overall management of the programme. An increased number of health workers and female community health volunteers run the operations of the monthly clinics. The existing reporting and monitoring system is being integrated with the Health Information Management System. The Government continued to provide local funds for recruiting

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additional health workers and also endorsed and approved the MCHN implementation guideline towards improving service quality of the programme in remote areas. Such improvements in programme management and implementation paves the way for eventual transition of the MCHN programme to the Government's ongoing integrated programme on management of acute malnutrition.

***Activity: Food / Cash Assistance for Assets (SO4)***

83. The Government's Rural Community Infrastructure Works (RCIW) project has institutional and operational structures in place within the Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development which ensure strong ownership of projects. The already established links between WFP and the Government help to successfully implement quality projects and eventually hand them over to the Government. Strengthening the capacity of key community personnel and government structures by WFP has allowed the Government to own the food assistance for asset projects ensuring their sustained capacity to maintain achievements. As a result, the Government started independently establishing and managing their own food assistance programme in 14 out of the 21 RCIW districts. The coordination mechanism led by the Ministry at the central level and expanding to the district level, is complemented by the partnerships with regional or area-based NGOs and innovative financial service providers. In addition, the programme is also linked with or leveraged by programs and activities of other development partners for obtaining complementary funds. These same institutional arrangements will be in place beyond the T-ICSP period and eventually lead to transitioning of all projects to government ownership.

***Activity: Capacity Strengthening to respond to food insecurity and emergencies (SO5)***

84. A key achievement in WFP's capacity development initiatives was the hand-over of the national food security monitoring system NeKSAP (Nepal Khadhya Surakshya Anugaman Pranali) to the Ministry of Agriculture Development in 2016. The NeKSAP is linked to the Government's food security field surveillance system and contributes to improve the Government's ability to design, plan, and implement evidence-based food security policies. WFP continues to work with the Government on developing, infrastructure and capacity enhancement.

85. WFP also cooperates with the Government on including the humanitarian staging area (HSA) at Tribhuvan International Airport in the National Disaster Response Framework so that the resources needed for its operations and maintenance is included in national budgets. Given the great success of the HSA following the 2015 earthquake response, WFP plans to develop similar smaller and mobile HSAs to be placed in strategic locations as well a robust training for partners and government. Through this measure, WFP's emergency preparedness projects will become aligned with national priorities, leading the way to eventual handover.

86. WFP supported the landscape analysis for rice fortification under the PRRO 200875 to assess the current capacity of the Government and the private sector to undertake rice fortification in the country. In the longer term, WFP plans to influence policy that will ensure that fortified rice is used as a part of food assistance packages in various social safety net programmes across the nation. Improving local fortified rice production will help to move away from imports and ensure a sustainable supply, eventually contributing to improved nutritional status of recipients.

## 4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

### 4.1 BENEFICIARY ANALYSIS

<b>SO</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Total</b>
SO 1	School meals programme (CP Act:2)	102,000	98,000	200,000
SO 2	Support Bhutanese refugees to maintain access to food (PRRO 200787)	4,466	4,291	8,757
SO 3	Mother and Child Health and Nutrition Programme (CP Act:3)	11,500	5,167	16,667
	Rice Fortification (Earthquake PRRO 200875)	0	0	0
SO 4 <sup>19</sup>	Food / Cash Assistance for Assets (CP Act:1)	253,129	263,461	516,590
	Food / Cash Assistance for Assets (PRRO 200875)	94,473	98,329	192,802
	Food / Cash Assistance for Assets (Climate Adaptation TF 200958)	26,583	27,668	54,250
	Trail Rehabilitation SO 200848	0	0	0
SO 5	Development of local government capacity at sub-district level (CDP TF 200992)	0	0	0
	Development of National Disaster Response Platforms and Strengthening emergency preparedness and response capacity (EPR SO 200999)	0	0	0
	Ensure business continuity to enable WFP to respond to a catastrophic disaster by establishing safe facilities (SO 201025)	0	0	0

<sup>19</sup> This refers to the participant. The ration will benefit a household.

	Strengthen capacities for food security monitoring and analysis (NeKSAP TF 201063, Crop Yield Forecasting TF 201062)	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>492,150</b>	<b>496,915</b>	<b>989,066</b>

87. WFP undertakes beneficiary targeting in areas with low human development and the highest priority needs. Using NeKSAP data to geographically define food insecure areas, WFP determines geographic locations and vulnerable groups for assistance through a food security and poverty analysis and an in-depth assessment of hunger, education, nutrition, and health-related problems. Sub-national geographic targeting also identifies areas with a high level of food insecurity and malnutrition and educational problems. Social indicators such as caste groups, gender dimensions and special needs are considered to target specific vulnerable groups; for example, persons with HIV/AIDS, orphans or child laborers, women-headed households and other at-risk populations groups.
88. Corporate tools such as SCOPE for registration of beneficiaries have been piloted in the earthquake response (currently in the PRRO 200875) and will be expanded to other projects when implementing the new Country Strategic Plan. Direct beneficiary groups that receive WFP's food and cash assistance consist of men and women of poor and vulnerable households in the age group of 15-65 years and children under five years of age. Vulnerable groups such as PLWG, people living with HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis patients, elderly and disabled people are also included, both citizens and those bearing refugee status, to receive direct food or cash assistance. School-aged children in the 5-12 year age group (grades 1 to 8) in public schools, directly benefit from WFP's school meals programme. Family members of food and cash recipient households and wider community members who participate in capacity enhancement programmes are considered as beneficiaries indirectly benefitting from WFP's interventions. WFP's indirect beneficiaries also consist of government staff in the Ministries of Education, Health, Federal Affairs and Local Development, Home Affairs, Agriculture Development, Commerce and Supplies and their associated agencies who receive WFP trainings on capacity enhancement.

## 4.2 TRANSFERS

### 4.2.1 FOOD AND CASH-BASED TRANSFERS

89. Nepali diets tend to be rich in carbohydrates due to the consumption of high quantities of rice.<sup>20</sup> Lentils and beans are the primary source of protein in poorer households, with wealthier households eating greater quantities of meat.
90. WFP will aim to provide equal cash wages to women and men for similar types of work in areas with functioning and well-supplied markets, based on the daily minimum wage rate in each district.<sup>21</sup>
91. In the earthquake affected areas as well as the most remote areas in the western part of Nepal, the FFA in-kind transfer provides additional food ration to households in order to align food basket between the food and cash modalities. People will be engaged in asset creation for no more than 10 days a month, for a total of 30 days during the months of the

<sup>20</sup> Thematic report of food security and nutrition, 2013

<sup>21</sup> The wage rate is per worker and will cover needs for an average family size of 4.8

lean season (February to April). This will allow programme participants to concentrate on their traditional livelihoods tasks, including those of an agricultural nature, and avoid the monsoon/planting season. In the mid-western part of Nepal under the Adaptation activity, FFA activities will be carried out for a total of 45 days between February and April.

92. Under the school meals programme, students will be receiving cooked meals with rice, pulses, oil and salt. This is culturally acceptable and close to local diets.

93. Super Cereal will be provided in areas with the highest prevalence of stunting in western Nepal.

94. It is not foreseen to change modalities during the T-ICSP period.

Strategic Objective	SO 1	SO 2		SO 3	SO 4			
Activity	School Meals	Needs-based General food Distribution		MCHN	FFA or CFA			FFA and CFA <sup>22</sup>
Beneficiary Type	Students	Vulnerable Refugees	Other Refugees	Children 6-23 months and PLWG	HH (EQ)	HH (CP)	HH (AF)	
Cereals	80	440	335		3,456	943		2,500
Pulses	20	90	60		518			
Oil	10	25	20					
Salt	0.96							
Supercereal+Sugar <sup>23</sup>				100				
Total kcal/day	445	2,114	1,589	381	14,218	3,395		9,000
% kcal from protein	10	52	38	16	362	62		165
Cash (US\$/person/day)					5	0.45	3.76 (Kalikot) 4.29 (Jumla)	2.02 (Mugu)
Number of feeding days	180	180	180	180	50 <sup>24</sup>	30	45	

<sup>22</sup> The cash transfer amount differs between districts and is informed by local district authorities.

<sup>23</sup> Locally produced Super Cereal with the addition of sugar. Donated in kind by the Government of Nepal.

<sup>24</sup> During the 1<sup>st</sup> six months of 2016, only 30 working days are planned.

**TABLE 3: TOTAL FOOD/CASH-BASED TRANSFER REQUIREMENTS & VALUE**

<b>Food type / cash-based transfer</b>	<b>Total (mt)</b>	<b>Total (US\$)</b>
Cereals	4,195	1,947,442
Pulses	574	448,296
Oil and Fats	233	260,950
Mixed and Blended Foods	300	240,000
Other	20	2,400
<b>TOTAL (food)</b>	<b>5,322</b>	<b>2,899,089</b>
Cash-Based Transfers (US\$)		5,894,955
<b>TOTAL (food and CBT value – US\$)</b>	<b>5,322</b>	<b>8,794,044</b>

#### 4.2.2 CAPACITY STRENGTHENING INCLUDING SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

95. During this T-ICSP period, capacity strengthening will be in the areas of response to food insecurity and emergencies: in-country rice fortification and emergency preparedness projects are some of the key initiatives proposed. South–South cooperation will be promoted, for example through obtaining technical expertise in evaluations and school menu planning with the WFP Centre of Excellence in Brazil. Engagement with the NFC and with the SAARC Food Bank to provide technical assistance and human resources required to identify, agree and implement actions in the proposed rice fortification initiative, will serve to strengthen the capacities of both institutions. Training of youth farmers on modern agricultural practices is also proposed.

#### 4.3 SUPPLY CHAIN

96. 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 will continue to implement a logistics plan that will prevent spoilage and waste, while maximizing the project's benefits. Specifically for this purpose, WFP's partners—international and local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and government agencies— will maintain a schedule of regular warehouse inspection and cleaning. WFP also will continue to provide regular training to own and partner staff on food quality control and warehouse management, while privately contracted truck and transport companies will be trained on safe and secure transport of commodities.

97. WFP will continue to explore on better ways to implement cash-based transfers as the modality of assistance in rural community infrastructure works projects in particular, especially in districts with well-functioning markets. WFP is well placed to implement cash based transfers through the “branchless banking” concept, reaching out to people in remote high altitude villages through financial service providers.

98. WFP, as the lead of the Logistics and Emergency Telecommunications Cluster, provided common logistics, transport and storage services to the humanitarian community during the

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post-earthquake humanitarian response. The Humanitaria Staging Area that was constructed in 2015, proved to be a vital example of preparedness when the earthquake struck in April 2015. With the Government's focus on disaster management and preparedness, 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. Additionally, WFP repaired damaged trails, roads and bridges in remote high altitude regions to enable timely delivery of humanitarian assistance. These common services will be further provided in the event of future emergencies.

#### **4.4 COUNTRY OFFICE CAPACITY AND PROFILE (OPTIONAL AS NEEDED)**

99. WFP has strong organizational capacity to effectively manage its programmes in Nepal. WFP has 186 highly skilled and experienced staff spread across the country office and seven sub offices to provide field level support and oversight in the mid and far western region, earthquake affected central region and in the eastern region refugee camps which are the target areas of operations. In line with corporate policy, WFP works towards achieving a gender balance in the different units and as a result, nearly half of the staff are female. With a good mix of international and national staff, WFP stands to gain from extensive local knowledge and international experiences in its programme and operations. The programme teams are supported by comprehensive administration, human resources, finance and information technology teams, each having more than three staff members. Through regular trainings, WFP ensures that staff have increased capacities to work on gender equality and women's empowerment, so that they can support or implement gender transformative policies, gender planning, programming, monitoring and evaluation.
100. In Nepal, WFP has been present since 1963 and supported the Government with many projects of emergency humanitarian assistance and longer term development programs, the latest of which include a CP valued at USD 216 million, a three-phase earthquake emergency operation of USD 23 million, and a follow up earthquake response Protracted Relief and Rehabilitation Operation (PRRO) valued at USD 63 million. Additionally, a three-year PRRO of USD eight million, supports long-term food security and resilient livelihoods for vulnerable Bhutanese refugees living in eastern Nepal. A three years special operation valued at USD 7 million aims at strengthening EPR capacity and the development of the national disaster response platforms. The rehabilitation of trails under Special Operaiton 200848, valued at USD 36 million, continues in the most remote areas in the earthquake affected areas. Three additional trust fund programmes - food security monitoring, emergency preparedness and a nutrition study - complement the operation. Finally, USD 5 million Special Operation for the construction of a new earth-quake resitant office will ensure business continuity to enable WFP to respond to a disaster.

#### **4.5 PARTNERSHIPS**

101. WFP's main partner in the asset creation projects was the Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development where projects were jointly implemented. WFP implemented the Saemaul Zero Hunger Communities programme in partnership with the Korea International Cooperation Agency and cooperating partner Good Neighbors International. Under the rural women's economic empowerment (RWEE) project, WFP worked in a joint partnership with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) under the leadership of the Ministry of Agricultural Development.

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102. WFP works with the Department of Education to implement the school meals modality pilot study, with the aim of exploring the preferred school meals modalities. WFP as a member of the local education development partner group, is strongly engaged in responding to needs in the education sector in Nepal.
103. The NeKSAP's operational partnerships will continue with the Ministry of Agriculture Development, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development and International Water Management Institute for use and integration of new technologies in crop monitoring and assessment such as remote sensing and crop yield forecasting.
104. WFP will continue to work with the Ministry of Home Affairs on including the humanitarian staging area at Tribhuvan International Airport in their National Disaster Response Framework.
105. The Ministry of Home Affairs and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and WFP will work together to deliver support to the Bhutanese refugees. WFP's NGO cooperating partner Lutheran World Federation will continue to implement food distributions and reclamation gardening in the refugee camps.
106. For the earthquake response PRRO 200875, WFP closely coordinates the Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development and the National Reconstruction Authority through an extensive process of discussions and joint planning during the designing of the food-assistance-for-assets (FFA) component in the PRRO. National NGOs such as Support to Poor Producers in Nepal (SAPPROS), Deutsche Welthungerhilfe E.V and Lutheran World Federation will continue to implement food and cash assistance for asset creation projects in the earthquake affected districts.
107. WFP will continue to implement trail rehabilitation activities in the remote access operations together with NGOs such as SAPPROS and DEPROSC (Development Project Service Center). WFP will also work with the Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development and the Department of Local Infrastructure Development and Agriculture to rehabilitate and open more trails in the remote districts.

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## **5. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT AND EVALUATION**

### **5.1 MONITORING AND EVALUATION ARRANGEMENTS**

108. WFP's country office in Nepal will continue to operate its 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.

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109. Regular monitoring of project activities during their implementation is done throughout the year. WFP uses 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 will also operate the global online tool COMET (Country Office Tool for Managing (programme operations) Effectively) to do corporate and other donor reporting using automated and consolidated data collected and validated in the COMET system. WFP will also use the country office's eSPR database (electronic system for project reporting) for collecting data on output indicators at the origin (at separate district level).
110. Monitoring findings are fed back to inform programme design at three stages: short term results at the implementation stage and longer term results at the end of the year to feed into the annual programme review process. Every monitoring report includes the action plan to address the recommendations, specifying the roles and responsibilities of the relevant functional units. This action plan is tracked for progress during the annual review process.
111. The Nepal CO has been practising joint monitoring where all the partners are part of the process. The Food for Education Project and partner NGOs visiting project sites to observe the implementation and review secondary records through which best practices and required improvements are captured, can be cited as examples<sup>25</sup>. The reports are shared among all stakeholders by the WFP Sub Offices on a quarterly basis. The CO will continue to implement this approach during the T-ICSP period
112. NGO partners and WFP monitoring staff are trained in gender responsive data collection and monitoring tools. During the T-ICSP six-month period, no major evaluations are planned. However, when mid-term evaluation are planned, WFP will be able to include wider indicators such as “gross enrolment rate” which requires a broader data collection plan and costing. However, WFP will use recommendations from the operational evaluation of the CP 200319 as well as the School Meals Programme mid-term evaluation carried out by McGovern Dole as well as all other documents as thematic audits and assessments, when designing the CSP.

## 5.2 RISK MANAGEMENT

### *Contextual Risks*

113. Contextual risks such as natural disasters, political instability or economic volatility with a view to planning mitigation measures will be monitored during the six month period of the T-ICSP. Due to protests by political groups opposing the proposed federal borders, clashes between police and protestors erupt in the Nepal-India border districts and in the capital city. Moreover, general strikes called by political groups affect daily transport and economic life in Kathmandu and other border districts. Such incidents could adversely affect staff and operations, especially internal travel. Contingency planning will establish mitigation measures that maximize the continuity of operations and functions, and WFP will work with the United Nations Department for Safety and Security to ensure that adequate measures are in place for the safety of WFP staff and offices.

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<sup>25</sup> The Safety Nets and Social Protection Unit during the E-PRP has suggested the gross enrolment rate to be included into the Log Frame. If so included, the indicators has to be tracked annually for corporate reporting. Data collection for this indicator is very costly in Nepal's context; also, it is not required at such frequent intervals. Hence, Nepal CO will look into the [possibility of assessing this indicator during a longer interval.

114. WFP will focus on long-term development, but will respond to emergencies as required. The proposed change over into a federal system of governance will be closely monitored to learn of new government priorities, regulation and partner agencies to mitigate risks to project implementation.

### *Programmatic Risks*

115. The T-ICSP period will encounter seasonal monsoon rains (May-June) which will create difficulties for transportation of food commodities to remote mountainous districts. WFP will put in place mitigation measures such as maintaining adequate food stocks in warehouses to avoid pipeline breaks as well as effective transportation services for timely deliveries.

### *Institutional Risks*

116. WFP will ensure that findings of regular programme monitoring is closely factored in, and where necessary, timely remedial action taken to avoid financial and reputational losses for WFP. This also includes, considering beneficiary feedback and regularly monitoring the media. Food storage and handling is closely controlled through ensuring training of staff, regular monitoring and reporting to minimise losses to food stocks.

## **6. RESOURCES FOR RESULTS**

### **6.1 COUNTRY PORTFOLIO BUDGET**

117. The T-ICSP budget takes into consideration approved activities and corresponding budgets as well as expected contributions. The T-ICSP is bridging to the start of the CSP and over its six months duration WFP will continue activities under projects approved for the previous years, refocusing both geographically and in number of people planned to be reached and based on expected funding.

<b>TABLE 5: COUNTRY PORTFOLIO BUDGET (USD)</b>		
	<b>2018</b>	<b>Total</b>
Strategic Outcome 1	4,839,976	4,839,976
Strategic Outcome 2	646,039	646,039
Strategic Outcome 3	1,000,562	1,000,562
Strategic Outcome 4	14,761,971	14,761,971
Strategic Outcome 5	3,006,753	3,006,753
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>24,255,302</b>	<b>24,255,302</b>

### **6.2 RESOURCING OUTLOOK**

118. Funding to the T-ICSP takes into consideration historical trends, habitual donors such as for school meals, MCHN and emergency preparedness as well as existing funding that will be carried over into 2018 and beyond to the CSP, and contributions currently under negotiation. WFP will continue to maintain a strong direct relationship with traditional

donors to WFP Nepal operations particularly in light of the planned start of the CSP in mid-2018.

### 6.3 RESOURCE MOBILIZATION STRATEGY

119. Resource mobilization is a continuous process and work is already ongoing for the six-months T-ICSP needs. WFP will mitigate funding risk through continual and open communication with donors and the Government. WFP will continue to highlight requirements for supporting both immediate needs, as well as longer term resilience building and reconstruction.

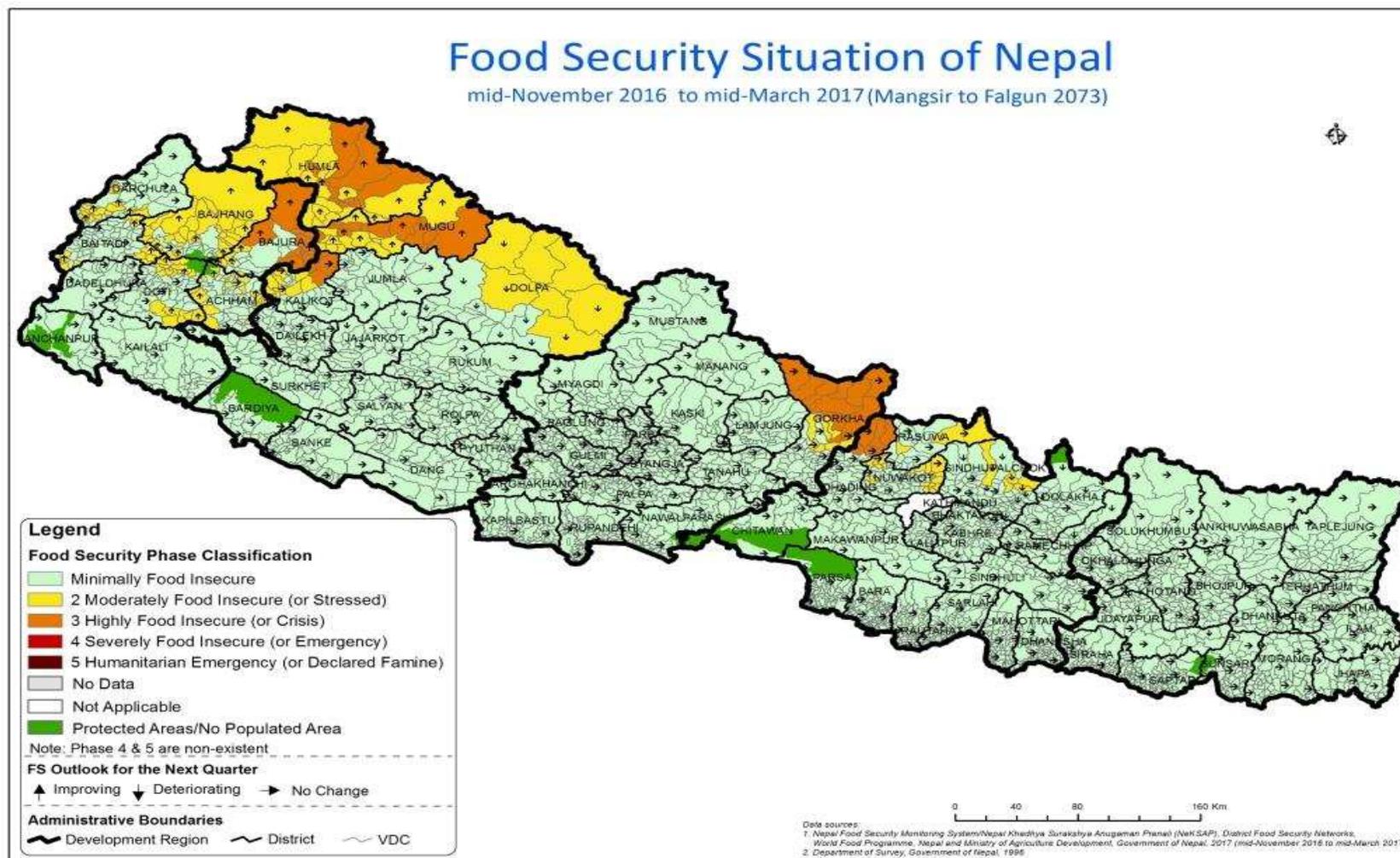
## ANNEX I: SUMMARY OF LOGICAL FRAMEWORK OF NEPAL (TRANSITIONAL) INTERIM COUNTRY STRATEGIC PLAN (JANUARY-JUNE 2018)

*SEE COMET VERSION*

### ANNEX II: INDICATIVE COST BREAKDOWN

<b>INDICATIVE COST BREAKDOWN ALONG SO's (USD)</b>						
<b>WFP Strategic Results / SDG Targets</b>	<b>SR 1/ SDG 2.1</b>		<b>SR 2/ SDG 2.2</b>	<b>SR 3/ SDG 2.3</b>	<b>SR 5/ SDG 17.9</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>WFP SO s</b>	<b>SO 1</b>	<b>SO 2</b>	<b>SO 3</b>	<b>SO 4</b>	<b>SO 5</b>	
<b>Focus Area</b>	School meals, capacity strengthening	Food assistance to Bhutanese refugees	End malnutrition	Enhance resilience and improve adaptation	Strengthen capacities of national and local authorities	
<b>Transfer</b>	3,613,497	467,789	744,473	11,663,162	1,707,759	<b>18,196,680</b>
<b>Implementation</b>	496,377	80,797	105,156	871,990	845,430	<b>2,399,750</b>
<b>Adjusted DSC (10%)</b>	413,468	55,190	85,476	1,261,082	256,860	<b>2,072,076</b>
<b>Sub-total</b>	4,523,342	603,775	935,105	13,796,235	2,810,049	<b>22,668,506</b>
<b>ISC (7%)</b>	316,634	42,264	65,457	965,736	196,703	<b>1,586,795</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,839,976</b>	<b>646,039</b>	<b>1,000,562</b>	<b>14,761,971</b>	<b>3,006,753</b>	<b>24,255,302</b>

## ANNEX III: FOOD SECURITY CLASSIFICATION MAP OF NEPAL



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## ANNEX IV: ACRONYMS

BMI	Body Mass Index
CP	Country Programme
CDP	Community Development Programme
COMET	Country Office Tool for Managing Programme Operations Effectively
DEPROSC	Development Project Service Centre
DRR	Disaster risk reduction
EDP	External Delivery Point
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FCHV	Female community health volunteer
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GNI	Good Neighbours International
HIV/AIDS	Human immunodeficiency virus
HSA	Humanitarian Staging Area
LDC	Least Developed Country
LESS	Logistics Execution Support System
MAM	Moderate Acute Malnutrition
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MCHN	Mother and Child Health and Nutrition
NAGA	Nutrition Assessment and Gap Analysis
NFC	Nepal Food Corporation
NGO	Non governmental organisation
NPC	National Planning Commission
NSMP	National School Meals Programme
NSDRMN	National Strategy for Disaster Risk Management in Nepal
NeKSAP	Nepal Khadhyo Surakshya Anugaman Pranali
PRRO	Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation
RCIW	Rural Community Infrastructure Works
RWEE	Rural Women's Economic Empowerment
SAPPROS	Support to Poor Producers of Nepal
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SCOPE	Digital Platform for Beneficiary and Transfer Management
T-ICSP	T-ICSP Plan
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund

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UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNWOMEN	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
VDC	Village Development Committee

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