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Support to Flood Affected
Standard Project Report 2017

World Food Programme in Nepal, State of (NP)



World Food Programme

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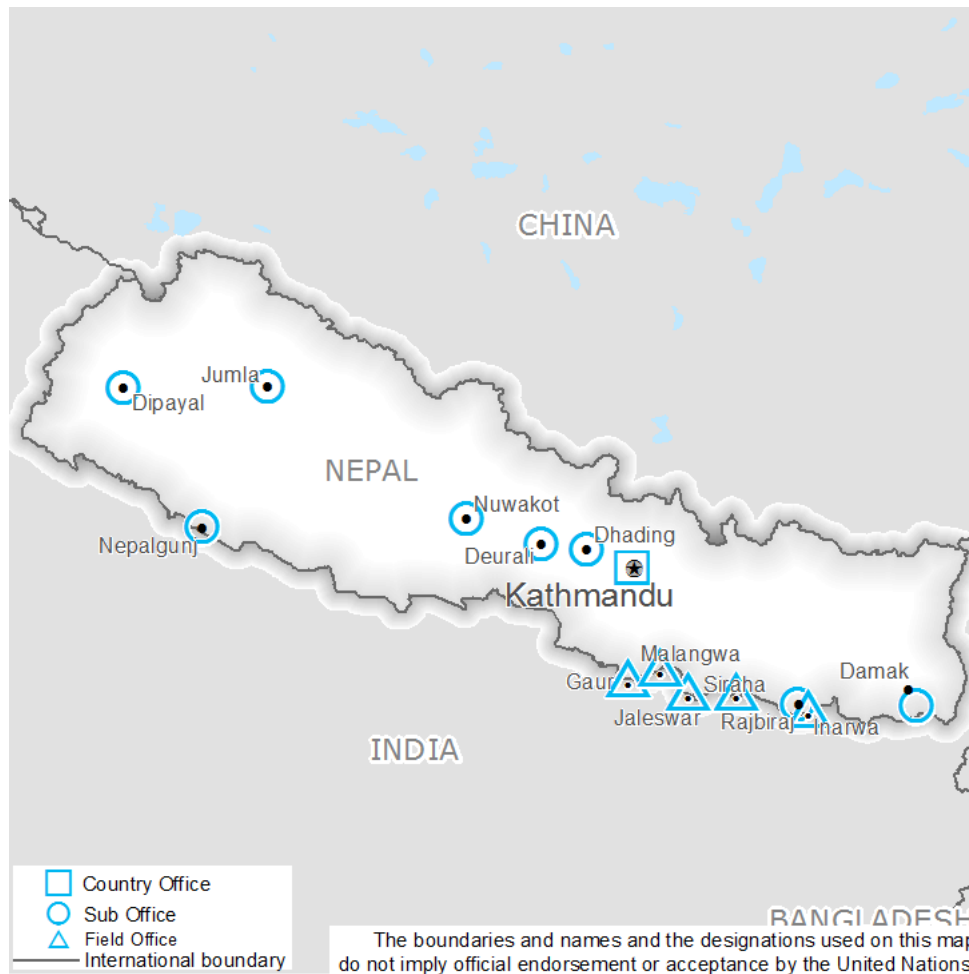
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Country Context and WFP Objectives



Achievements at Country Level

In 2017, WFP supported the Government of Nepal to increase the food and nutrition security of vulnerable communities through diverse interventions.

In August, following floods in the Terai region, WFP provided life-saving food, cash and nutrition assistance to the most vulnerable flood-affected populations under immediate response emergency operation (IR-EMOP 201098). The Nepal Food Security Monitoring System (NeKSAP), supported by WFP, was first to provide an overview of the flood's impact. Regular updates were issued and included information from the Nepal Red Cross's initial rapid assessment, satellite imagery, and reports from affected areas. These updates helped WFP and partners to focus efforts on populations with the greatest needs.

IR-EMOP 201098 was followed by an emergency operation (EMOP 201101). Under this project, WFP continued cash-based assistance to the most vulnerable flood-affected households, and WFP and partners implemented programmes for the prevention of acute malnutrition and treatment of moderate acute malnutrition. Simultaneously, WFP expanded logistics and supply chain preparedness for floods, landslides and other emergencies under special operation 200999.

WFP introduced its complaint and feedback mechanism, *Namaste WFP*, in two flood-affected districts, Saptari and Rautahat. The complaint and feedback mechanism was initiated to enhance the protection of flood-affected beneficiaries, to provide them access to information on WFP's distribution and enable them to raise their concerns. *Namaste WFP* was extended to the school meals programme in Dailekh, Sindupalchowk and Bardiya districts.

Under the country programme (CP 200319), WFP and the Ministry of Health provided nutrition support to women and children in the Karnali region through the mother and child health and nutrition activity, which reached beneficiaries quickly—WFP pre-positioned stocks of fortified food, which drastically reduced response times. Where WFP provided cash-based transfers, market monitoring was also conducted. The affected population showed adequate food intake, as evidenced in post distribution monitoring.

Developments in government policy strengthened the case for continued school meals programming, in which WFP has recognised expertise in Nepal. As a result of WFP advocacy, school health and nutrition were added as a cross-cutting strategy in the School Sector Development Plan (2016-2020), and school meals and education were included as priority interventions to improve nutrition. Similarly, school meals were recognised in the Multi Sector Nutrition Plan II government education policy for helping to improve nutrition.

WFP advocated for national rice fortification to be included into existing government social safety net programmes, as supported by a landscape analysis that was conducted in late 2016. Rice fortification is planned to provide iron and other essential micronutrients to the most vulnerable populations in the country. In December, WFP supported the Government to hold the first national rice fortification conference which reviewed fortification strategies and cases. The deliberations are intended to help lead to a national plan of action on rice fortification.

WFP used SCOPE, the corporate beneficiary and transfer management platform, to reach affected populations more efficiently and effectively. WFP previously used SCOPE for cash-based assistance only, but in 2017 SCOPE was expanded to cover in-kind food assistance. This led to an enrolment of over 297,000 beneficiaries, the largest amount for WFP in the South Asia region.

Country Context and Response of the Government

Nepal is a small, landlocked Himalayan country. Despite making significant headway in poverty reduction in recent years, Nepal is considered a least developed country, ranking 144 out of the 187 countries on the 2016 Human Development Index. The gross domestic product (GDP) per capita is USD 707, and 25 percent of Nepal's population live on less than USD 1.25 per day. Approximately 80 percent of the country's population of 31.8 million people [1] depend on agriculture for their livelihoods, and agriculture accounts for over 30 percent of GDP.

Nepal is ranked "serious" on the 2017 Global Hunger Index [2], and one-fifth of the population has inadequate food consumption. This has led to 27 percent of children aged 0-59 months being underweight, while stunting (low height-for-age) and wasting (low weight-for-height) among children aged 0-59 months are both very high at 36 percent and 10 percent, respectively.

The Government of Nepal places strong emphasis on reducing poverty and food security and has promoted targeted policies and programmes to end stunting in children, increase access to quality education, and improve sustainable family agriculture, while enhancing emergency preparedness. Coordination with the Government is primarily through the National Planning Commission and other government agencies.

Given the high levels of poverty and household food insecurity, Rural Community Infrastructure Works (RCIW) programme has provided an important social safety net. Since 1995, WFP has contributed to the RCIW programme by providing food-assistance-for-assets activities through the distribution of food rations and cash-based transfers. These activities help to improve the food security of rural communities while providing them with community assets.

Development in Nepal is highly vulnerable to disasters, climate change, economic failures, political instability, and financial crises. The annual monsoon rains often bring devastating floods to the low-lying Terai region of the country. In August 2017, Nepal experienced the worst floods in 15 years, affecting over 1 million people in the Terai. In addition, Nepal's geophysical location on top of the Indian and Eurasian tectonic plates makes the country highly prone to strong seismic activity, as was witnessed during the 2015 earthquakes.

In an effort to strengthen national capacity for emergency preparedness, WFP and the Ministry of Home Affairs jointly provided land for a humanitarian staging area, and the Government will provide land for future logistics bases. In addition, WFP continued to collaborate with the Ministry of Agricultural Development and the National Planning Commission to strengthen and institutionalise the Nepal Food Security Monitoring System (NeKSAP), which has enabled evidence-based decision-making for food security policies and programmes. NeKSAP monitoring proved vital during the August 2017 floods in the Terai emergency response.

Social exclusion has been entrenched in Nepal's political, economic, and social fabric and is a defining feature of its historical development. Moreover, the prevalence of child marriage and adolescent pregnancies in rural parts of Nepal contribute to the challenges women and girls face in actively engaging in education and work, creating a cycle of undernutrition. Gender inequality continues to pervade across the private, public, economic and political spheres and is reflected in Nepal's rank at 144 out of 188 countries in the 2015 Gender Inequality Index.

Since 1992, Nepal has hosted over 100,000 refugees from Bhutan [3]. A third country resettlement programme has reduced the refugee population to 9,000, which was maintained in 2017 [3]. International agencies including WFP have supported the Government of Nepal over the last two decades to ensure that the refugees' basic needs are met.

Over the past decade, enrolment rates for basic education increased to 87 percent, with a ratio of 99 girls for every 100 boys, but access to quality education remains a challenge—30 percent of children drop out before completing grade eight [4]. In particular, disadvantaged and minority children traditionally attain lower educational levels.

The National School Meals Programme, led by the Government, has been in existence for over four decades. The programme uses two delivery modalities—food items for schools to cook meals or cash resources for schools to outsource the meals. WFP has been an integral part of this school meals programme for the last 40 years, providing midday meals.

[1] Central Bureau of Statistics, 2017, Government of Nepal.

[2] 2017 Global Hunger Index, International Food Policy Research Institute, Concern, et al.

[3] Figures as noted by WFP Nepal.

[4] Ministry of Education. 2012. Flash Report 2011–2012. Kathmandu.

WFP Objectives and Strategic Coordination

WFP's activities in Nepal are guided by the **country programme (CP 200319, 2013–2017)**, operating in partnership with the Government of Nepal and other humanitarian organizations active within the country to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 2: Zero Hunger by 2030. At the national level, WFP works with line ministries and related institutions, including the National Planning Commission. At the local level, WFP works with provincial and federal authorities to implement programmes in areas with high levels of food insecurity.

The country programme supports the Government to enhance the food and nutrition security of vulnerable communities and increase their resilience to disasters. It is implemented in the mid- and far-western regions and is aligned with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and the Country Programme Action Plan, signed by the Ministry of Finance. The country programme covers four areas: 1) livelihoods and asset creation; 2) education support; 3) nutrition support; and 4) capacity strengthening.

Component 1: livelihoods and asset creation—WFP supports the rehabilitation of rural roads and trails, irrigation channels and other community assets while providing livelihoods;

Component 2: education support—WFP supports the Ministry of Education's efforts to improve access to education through the School Meals Programme and a food-assistance for assets programme to improve school infrastructure. In addition, WFP provides technical support and awareness raising on nutrition and proper hygiene;

Component 3: nutrition support—WFP continues to support the mother and child health and nutrition (MCHN) programme in partnership with the Ministry of Health to prevent chronic malnutrition among expectant mothers and children aged 6 to 23 months;

Component 4: capacity strengthening—WFP supports capacity development across project components 1-3 and in food security monitoring.

A **protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO 200875)** supports local communities and the Government to “build back better” in the most food-insecure, earthquake-affected communities. WFP provides food assistance for assets to build or rehabilitate infrastructure such as rural roads, bridges and water systems. WFP also provided a treatment of moderate acute malnutrition programme to pregnant and lactating women and children aged 6–59 months.

WFP supports refugees from Bhutan in Nepal with food assistance through an additional **protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO 200787)**. The project is implemented in partnership with the Government and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). WFP and partners started a targeted, needs-based food distribution system in January 2016, in response to gradually declining numbers of people in refugee camps, and in 2017, WFP increased coverage of the gardening project to improve livelihood opportunities.

A **special operation (200848)** augments logistics and telecommunications capacity and strengthens coordination following the earthquake in Nepal. In 2017, WFP continued to rehabilitate trails in some of the earthquake-affected districts.

An additional **special operation (200999)** builds national and district level emergency logistics capacities to respond to future disasters. This special operation builds on lessons learned from the first phase of the project, which saw the construction of the humanitarian staging area in Kathmandu.

The **immediate response emergency operation (IR-EMOP 201098)**—support for flood-affected populations—was launched to ensure that the food and nutrition needs of the flood-affected populations were met in a timely and effective manner. This operation was followed by the **emergency operation (EMOP 201101)**—emergency response to critically food-insecure populations in severely flood affected districts of southern Nepal. The emergency operation continued to provide cash-based assistance to the most vulnerable flood-affected households to help them buy food supplies lost in the floods. WFP and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) launched a nutrition intervention to treat children aged 6-59 months and pregnant and lactating women with severe and moderate acute malnutrition.

In 2017, WFP Nepal began the development of a five-year Country Strategic Plan (CSP) with the support of the Government. A Zero Hunger Strategic Review was commissioned to inform the CSP. The review, led by the Government's National Planning Commission, was undertaken to provide evidence-based guidance on the overall food security and nutrition situation of the country and to identify the challenges and best choices available to the Government and partners to achieve Zero Hunger by 2030. WFP will officially begin implementing a Transitional Interim CSP in January 2018, which will be replaced by the five-year CSP beginning in mid-2018.

Country Resources and Results

Resources for Results

WFP Nepal currently receives multi-year contributions from the Republic of Korea, the United States of America and the United Kingdom for activities under country programme 200319 and special operation 200999. These multi-year resources enable WFP to plan more effective interventions with longer time horizons and broader outcomes. Multi-year funding allows for earlier procurement and delivery of food, which brings down costs. It also promotes effective programming and prioritization of resources.

In 2017, the country programme was underfunded, and WFP was unable to fully implement planned activities. The Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) provided a significant contribution for the livelihoods and asset creation component of the project. Funding levels for the country programme's education component were similar to those of 2016, with 74 percent of received funding used for the implementation of this component. WFP was successful in securing a multi-year (2018-2021) grant from the United States Department of Agriculture McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program towards the education support component.

In 2017, WFP supported the Ministry of Education to conduct a cost-benefit analysis of the Nepal school meals programme, building on WFP's global partnership with MasterCard. This analysis served two important purposes. First, it builds an evidence base for decision-making in Nepal's national school meals programme. Second, it contributes to advocacy for greater investment in school meals, leading to developing a fully home-grown and sustainable national school meals programme.

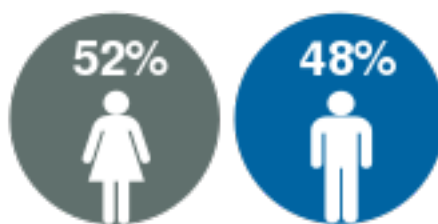
WFP received contributions from the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to support flood-affected families in the Terai region along with contributions from the governments of the United Kingdom and Australia to support nutrition activities. These contributions were supplemented with in-kind donations from the Government. The nutrition component of the emergency operation for the flood response (EMOP 201101) was fully funded, while the food security component was only partially funded.

For the two protracted relief and recovery operations (PRROs), WFP maximised the use of limited resources by supporting the most vulnerable beneficiaries. For PRRO 200875, WFP took the additional measure of reducing the target area from seven to three districts in response to low funding levels in 2017.



Annual Country Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries	Male	Female	Total
Children (under 5 years)	91,858	90,794	182,652
Children (5-18 years)	163,353	167,488	330,841
Adults (18 years plus)	87,149	109,208	196,357
Total number of beneficiaries in 2017	342,360	367,490	709,850



Annual Food Distribution in Country (mt)

Project Type	Cereals	Oil	Pulses	Mix	Other	Total
Country Programme	525	439	40	4,834	455	6,293
Single Country EMOP	-	-	-	647	-	647
Single Country IR-EMOP	720	-	120	187	-	1,027
Single Country PRRO	1,686	24	180	33	2	1,926
Total Food Distributed in 2017	2,931	463	340	5,700	457	9,892



Cash Based Transfer and Commodity Voucher Distribution (USD)

Project Type	Cash	Value Voucher	Commodity Voucher
Country Programme	480,232	-	-
Single Country EMOP	562,297	-	-
Single Country IR-EMOP	292,877	-	-
Single Country PRRO	2,436,520	-	-
Total Distributed in 2017	3,771,927	-	-

Supply Chain

WFP has over four decades of experience within Nepal, contributing to the country's efforts to eradicate hunger. Located between India and China, and home to the highest mountain range in the world, Nepal has difficult terrains, requiring multiple methods of in-land transportation. WFP maintains sufficient storage facilities and transportation capacities to ensure access to the most remote communities.

WFP used its experience in the country to train humanitarian actors in emergency logistics preparedness and response. WFP also helped with the storage and mobilization of emergency logistics equipment in the humanitarian staging area and forward logistics bases. WFP facilitated several training sessions on the installation of mobile storage units and prefabricated offices for the Nepal Security Forces and other humanitarian actors, strengthening national capacity for humanitarian response. In addition, WFP supported training on food quality, quantity controls and food warehouse management for national authorities such as the Department of Food Technology and Quality Control and the Nepal Food Corporation.

In support of the national Logistics Cluster, WFP utilised its transport and warehousing network to collect and provide information on road access for activities during the August flood response.

Food procurement

When possible, WFP procured food from markets that were as close to targeted communities as possible to strengthen the local economy. However, under the country programme 200319 education support component, commodities were sourced both nationally and internationally as large volumes of fortified food contributions were received through in-kind donations. Under immediate response emergency operation 201098 and emergency operation 201101, WFP procured specialised nutritious food (wheat soya blend) locally. For the nutrition component of emergency operation 201101, ready-to-use supplementary food was not available in-country, and hence it was procured internationally.

In 2017, under protracted relief and recovery operations 200787 and 200875, WFP purchased the majority of the rice and lentils in Nepal, while bulk cooking oil was purchased internationally for reasons of cost effectiveness.

Logistics Management

WFP transports food directly to sites where local partners distribute to beneficiaries, or to sites where government stakeholders take over the delivery to reach the final distribution site.

Nepal's challenging topography, coupled with inclement weather and security restrictions, often hinders the movement of trucks, resulting in delays in the delivery of goods to vulnerable families. WFP addressed these challenges by maintaining strategically located, high quality storage and logistics facilities—in Damak, Gorkha, Nepalgunj and Dhangadhi districts—close to all distribution sites.

Post-delivery losses

Similarly to previous years, in order to limit damages and losses, WFP and partners maintained a schedule of regular warehouse inspections and cleaning programmes. WFP provided regular training on food quality control and warehouse management for WFP and partner staff. WFP also provided training on safe and secure transport of commodities for privately contracted truck and transport companies.

The monitoring of the “best before use” date of food items through WFP's logistics execution support system (LESS) helped to improve commodity management. Third party surveyors maintained food, minimised losses and damages during handling at the warehouses, and scheduled warehouse cleanings, stack rotations, inspections, and control fumigation to ensure that food quality standards were met.



Annual Food Purchases for the Country (mt)

Commodity	Local	Regional/International	Total
Rice	2,238	-	2,238
Split Peas	165	104	269
Sugar	148	63	211
Vegetable Oil	6	-	6
Wheat Soya Blend	1,089	-	1,089
Total	3,646	167	3,813
Percentage	95.6%	4.4%	

Annual Global Commodity Management Facility Purchases Received in Country (mt)

Commodity	Total
Ready To Use Supplementary Food	244
Total	244

Implementation of Evaluation Recommendations and Lessons Learned

WFP Nepal's monitoring, evaluation and reporting system helped to ensure accountability and operational effectiveness by measuring results against desired programme outputs, process and outcomes. This was guided by the Nepal Country Office Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy 2013-2017, which focused on beneficiaries' experiences and perceptions—individual, household and community level feedback—using third-party monitoring for independent, unbiased results using electronic monitoring tools for real-time data. Throughout 2017, WFP continued to use COMET—the Country Office Tool for Managing (programme operations) Effectively—with plans to extend its use to include cooperating partners under this single platform for managing and combining operational data for effective reporting in 2018.

Evaluation activities

In 2017, WFP conducted a mid-line evaluation of the livelihoods and asset creation component of the country programme (CP 200319). The final report for this evaluation is expected to be ready in January 2018. Moreover, WFP conducted a baseline study on the protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO 200875), which helps earthquake-affected communities to recover their livelihoods. Recommendations included prioritization of interventions and increasing awareness activities for better participation.

WFP also commissioned an evaluation of education grant cycles that pertain to the country programme. This included a first end line evaluation of the 2014-2016 grant and a baseline study of the new 2018-2021 grant. These evaluations will be conducted in the first half of 2018.

Previous evaluation recommendations and learning implementation

In 2016-2017, WFP carried out two evaluations—a mid-line evaluation of CP 200319 and a mid-line evaluation of the McGovern-Dole programme. The evaluation recommendations centred on a gender and social inclusion approach and are being incorporated into the Country Strategic Plan process for Nepal and the new grant cycle of the CP's education support component.

The current Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy 2013-2017 is being reviewed to align with WFP's 2017-2022 Corporate Results Framework. As recommended by the evaluations, WFP will simplify the McGovern-Dole programme's performance management plan by narrowing down the number of indicators from 85 to 22.

Partnerships and Visibility, and Cluster Coordination

Partnerships and visibility

The executive boards of several United Nation's Country Team agencies [1] visited Nepal from 17–21 April 2017. The delegation consisted of 20 board members who visited project sites in four different parts of the country. Their final report [2] underscored the success of WFP's infrastructure and food security support in earthquake affected areas and the inter-agency humanitarian staging area.

WFP also hosted international visitors from different governments and organizations including the Norwegian State Secretary, the German Crisis Preparedness team, the assistant private secretary to the Minister of State of the United Kingdom, the International Federation of Red Cross Asia Pacific team, and the Humanitarian Country Team. Moreover, a high level visit to the humanitarian staging area was jointly organised by the Government, the United Nations' Resident Coordinator in Nepal and the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID). These visits provided an opportunity for Nepal's donors and partners in the Logistics Cluster to learn how food, medical, health and shelter items were stored and transported to effectively reach earthquake-affected populations.

In 2017, WFP welcomed visits from the Republic of Korea, United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and private sector partners from Japan to observe progress in activities under the livelihoods and education components. Field visits were also conducted for DFID to observe the flood response in the Terai and country-wide activities of the Nepal Food Security Monitoring System (NeKSAP).

WFP also participated in a joint donor field trip organised by the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), DFID and USAID to the mid- and far-western development regions to look for opportunities to build stronger collaboration and coherence between disaster risk management programmes.

Cluster coordination

WFP Nepal was involved in several clusters activated by the Government and the humanitarian community in response to the emergency caused by the Terai floods.

Together with the Ministry of Home Affairs, WFP co-led the Logistics Cluster, providing critical information on road access to the humanitarian community. Staff carried out logistic assessments to identify transport and storage capacity. Road access maps and other information management tools were made easily available through the Logistics Cluster website and were helpful to plan daily operations. The Ministry of Home Affairs designated the Humanitarian Staging Area as a central warehouse to collect, store, handle and dispatch non-food items during the flood response. Additionally, the premises continued to provide storage services for pre-positioned emergency relief supplies for the wider humanitarian community.

The Ministry of Agricultural Development co-led the Food Security Cluster with WFP and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), ensuring that humanitarian agencies were continuously informed of the changing number of food-insecure and vulnerable populations through assessments conducted by NeKSAP. Information disseminated by this cluster was widely used by humanitarian agencies in their beneficiary targeting.

WFP was also a part of the Nutrition Cluster, who conducted a nutritional assessment of over 10,000 children in the Terai region. Results showed alarming rates of global acute malnutrition. In coordination with all partners, the cluster was instrumental in reaching children aged 6-23 months and pregnant and lactating women with assistance as part of the emergency response to the floods in the Terai. The Nutrition Cluster also initiated the scaling up of the national integrated management of acute malnutrition (IMAM) programme, for the management of severe acute malnutrition.

[1] Agencies with executive boards in attendance included: WFP, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women).

[2] Report of the joint field visit to Nepal by members of the executive boards of UNDP, UNFPA, UNOPS, UNICEF and UN Women from 17-21 April 2017. *DP/FPA/OPS-ICEF-UNW-WFP/2017/CRP.1*, 17 July 2017.

Project Results

Activities and Operational Partnerships

In August 2017, widespread monsoon rains triggered severe floods and landslides in 35 out of Nepal's 75 districts, mainly in the Terai lowlands of the country. The floods claimed 160 lives, injured 45 people and displaced 20,900 families [1]. At the request of the Government of Nepal to support the response, WFP initiated an Immediate Response Emergency Operation—IR-EMOP 201098—to assist flood-affected populations with food, cash and nutrition assistance. The overall objective of the IR-EMOP was to save lives and protect livelihoods in emergencies, under Strategic Objective 1 of the WFP Strategic Plan, 2014-2017.

The Nepal Food Security Monitoring System (NeKSAP), supported by WFP, conducted an assessment within 72 hours of the floods that provided a comprehensive overview of the floods' effect on household food security. An overview of socioeconomic, food security, and nutrition data was consolidated, and satellite imagery was used to analyse the impact of floods on settlements [2]. The assessment found that a total of 942,000 people [3] were highly or severely food-insecure, and WFP, government agencies, and humanitarian partners mobilized their support to these populations.

Despite being considered the food basket of the country, the Terai region has high rates of malnutrition. The levels of acute malnutrition (12.2 percent wasting) and underweight (32.5 percent) for children aged 6-59 months in this region are among the highest in the country [4]. A rapid nutrition assessment conducted during the flood response in 16 flood-affected Terai districts revealed a global acute malnutrition (GAM) rate of 24 percent, which is significantly higher than the critical level stipulated by the World Health Organization's guidelines for the management of acute malnutrition in emergencies [5].

Objective: Improve and stabilize the food security of targeted women, men, girls and boys in affected areas

Activity: Unconditional food and/or cash assistance in four targeted districts (Saptari, Rautahat, Bardiyia and Banke)

Upon the request of District Disaster Relief Committees (DDRCs), WFP provided assistance in the form of food rations and/or unconditional cash transfers to the most food-insecure families across the four worst affected districts—Saptari, Rautahat, Bardiyia and Banke. Families who were provided food rations were given rations consisting of 5 kg of lentils and 30 kg of rice—standards set in place by the Food Security Cluster Contingency Plan—to meet the minimum daily requirement of 2,100 kcal for 15 days for a household with an average family size of five. In areas with access to functioning markets, WFP provided cash assistance of NPR 3,750 per family, equivalent to the local market price of the ration size provided by WFP, which was adequate to purchase food for 15 days. The unconditional cash transfers provided families with the flexibility to purchase their own food while supporting the re-establishment of local markets.

DDRCs supported WFP to identify the most vulnerable and critically food-insecure families, while the District Agriculture Development Office led the food security cluster in each district. In Banke and Bardiyia districts, as per the request from the Government, commodities were handed over to the DDRC and other local government authorities, who distributed the food to affected populations with oversight and monitoring from WFP.

WFP partnered with the Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) in Rautahat and Saptari districts for secondary transport of food, distribution and registration of beneficiaries through SCOPE, WFP's digital beneficiary and transfer management system. NRCS was a strategic partner due to their vast local knowledge and past experience working with WFP in the 2014 flood response.

For cash-based transfers, WFP partnered with a financial service provider, Nepal Investment Bank Limited, who carried out cash distributions through its local remittance agents in the form of cash-camps at various distribution points in local villages.

Objective: Stabilize the nutritional status of pregnant and lactating women, and children 6-23 months

Activity: Blanket supplementary feeding programme for the prevention of acute malnutrition in 13 districts (Mahottari, Sarlahi, Saptari, Rautahat, Jhapa, Morang, Sunsari, Dhanusha, Dang, Kailali, Siraha, Banke and Bardiyia)

The emergency nutrition response included blanket supplementary feeding to prevent acute malnutrition among children aged 6-23 months and pregnant and lactating women. The IR-EMOP originally targeted ten flood-affected districts. However, upon request from the Government, an additional three districts were added, bringing the total to 13.

WFP, with the Ministry of Health, distributed pre-positioned stock of Super Cereal (a special blend of nutritious food to prevent malnutrition) from Country Programme 200319. To ensure a rapid response to the emergency, districts were allocated among nutrition cluster partners. WFP led distributions in four districts [7] while the Ministry of Health, with support from WFP and other nutrition cluster partners, led the distribution in the remaining nine districts [8].

WFP had initially also planned a treatment programme for moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) to be implemented under the IR-EMOP. However, the Government advised WFP to focus on the programme for the prevention of MAM. The MAM treatment component was then incorporated into WFP's Emergency Operation, EMOP 201101. As a result, no ready-to-use supplementary food was distributed under this IR-EMOP.

WFP collaborated with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), which was already present in the affected areas, and other nutrition cluster partners to identify children suffering from malnutrition through mid-upper-arm-circumference measurements during food distribution. Children who were found to have severe acute malnutrition were then referred to outpatient therapeutic centres for further treatment, while caregivers of those found to have MAM were given nutritional counselling.

The coordination between WFP, nutrition cluster partners, the Ministry of Health and local non-governmental organizations (NGOs), namely Himalayan Health and Environmental Services (HHES) and Nepal Public Health and Education Group (NEPHEG), helped to effectively reach vulnerable women and children with nutrition assistance across WFP's target districts in a timely manner. Assistance in the remaining districts was supported by partners such as Save the Children, World Vision, Suaahara and Aasaman Nepal. The Ministry of Health provided both technical assistance in implementation and storage of the commodities. Through mutual arrangement, WFP provided training to government and NGO staff on how to perform mid-upper-arm-circumference measurements and commodity management, strengthening their capacities as well as that of local health systems.

[1] Ministry of Home Affairs, Nepal. 2017. Nepal Disaster Risk Reduction Portal.

[2] Satellite imagery was acquired and processed by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD).

[3] NekSAP & WFP. 2017. *Nepal 72 hour assessment*, Version 1. 21 August 2017. Reliefweb.

[4] Ministry of Health, Nepal & New ERA. 2017. *Nepal Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS) 2016*.

[5] Results revealed a global acute malnutrition (GAM) rate of 24 percent, severe acute malnutrition (SAM) of 6 percent, and moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) of 18 percent.

[6] Dashain is the longest and the most auspicious festival in the Nepalese annual calendar and is celebrated throughout the country.

[7] Rautahat, Sarlahi, Mahottari and Saptari.

[8] Jhapa, Morang, Sunsari, Dhanusha, Dang, Kailali, Siraha, Banke and Bardiya.

Results

Objective: Improve and stabilize the food security of targeted women, men, girls and boys in affected areas

Activity: Unconditional food and/or cash assistance in four targeted districts (Saptari, Rautahat, Bardiyia and Banke)

WFP's Immediate Response Emergency Operation (IR-EMOP) was able to reach all planned beneficiaries in a timely and coordinated manner. This success has been attributed to the availability of pre-positioned food stock from WFP's other projects that were ongoing in Nepal. WFP was also able to deploy field teams to the affected districts in record time owing to a roster of emergency staff created during the earthquake response. The roster contributed to a drastic reduction in time spent on recruitment and training of staff.

Post-distribution monitoring (PDM) indicated that the food, cash and nutrition assistance contributed to stabilizing the food security and nutritional status of the affected households, which was reflected through sustained food consumption scores over the assistance period.

The PDM also revealed that the families used more than two thirds of their cash entitlements on purchasing food. This contributed to significantly improving the diversity of meals in the affected households. Respondents stated that the remaining money was spent on purchasing medicines, clothes, paying rent, repaying debt and buying essential household items lost during the floods.

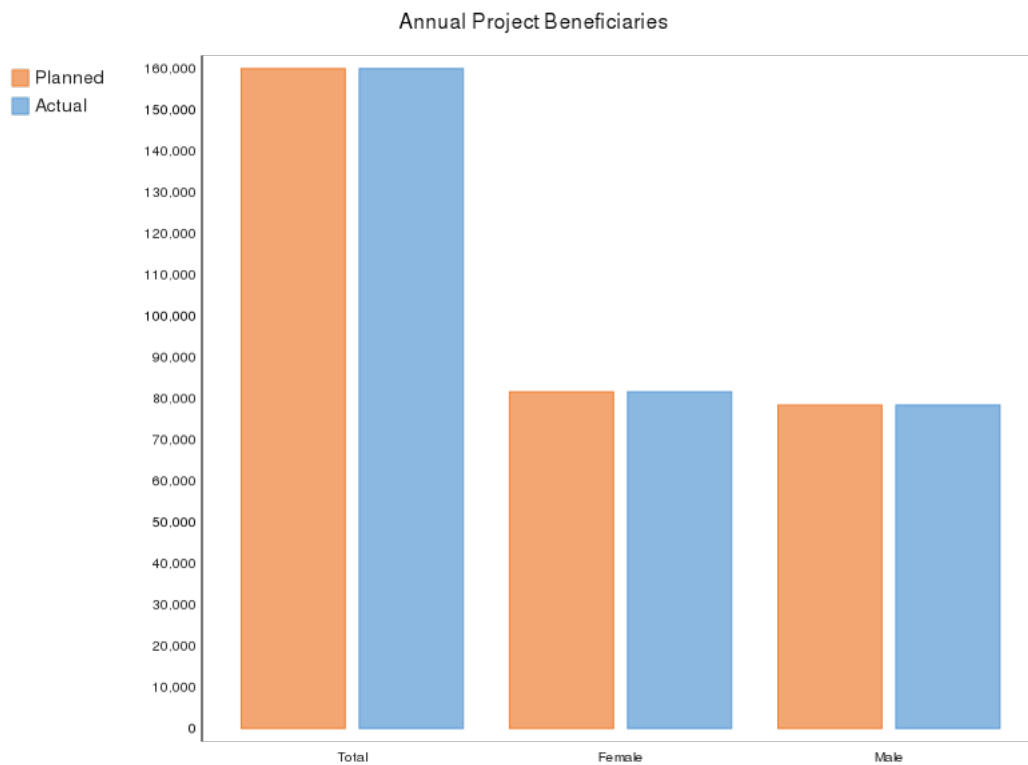
During the survey, the majority of families indicated their satisfaction with the quality and quantity of food and the amount of cash received through WFP assistance.

Objective: Stabilize the nutritional status of pregnant and lactating women, and children aged 6-23 months

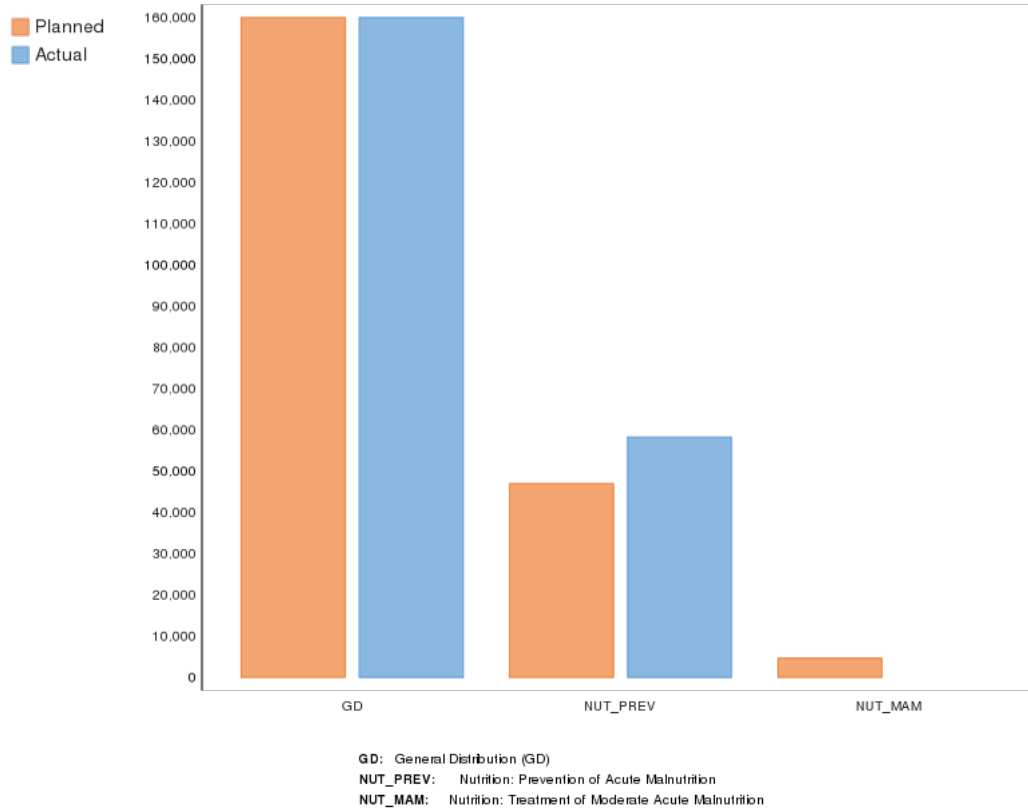
Activity: Blanket supplementary feeding programme for the prevention of acute malnutrition programme in 13 districts (Mahottari, Sarlahi, Saptari, Rautahat, Jhapa, Morang, Sunsari, Dhanusha, Dang, Kailali, Siraha, Banke and Bardiya)

WFP, the Ministry of Health and partners provided blanket supplementary feeding for the prevention of acute malnutrition programme (PAM) to the 13 most vulnerable districts where global acute malnutrition rates were critically high. WFP was well prepared to provide disaster-responsive support. Under the nutrition component of Country Programme 200319, Super Cereal stocks were already available under WFP’s Mother and Child Health and Nutrition programme and were immediately deployed to flood-affected areas. With these measures, the distribution was able to begin within ten days of the floods, and vulnerable pregnant and lactating women and children aged 6–23 months gained quick access to nutritious food at a critical time. This success was largely due to the collaborative efforts between WFP, the Ministry of Health and nutrition cluster partners, whose well trained staff with previous emergency experience were mobilized quickly to respond. WFP and the Government reached more than the planned number of beneficiaries for the PAM programme because of a change in ration size. District authorities identified additional women who required PAM assistance, and the ration size was adjusted to cover them.

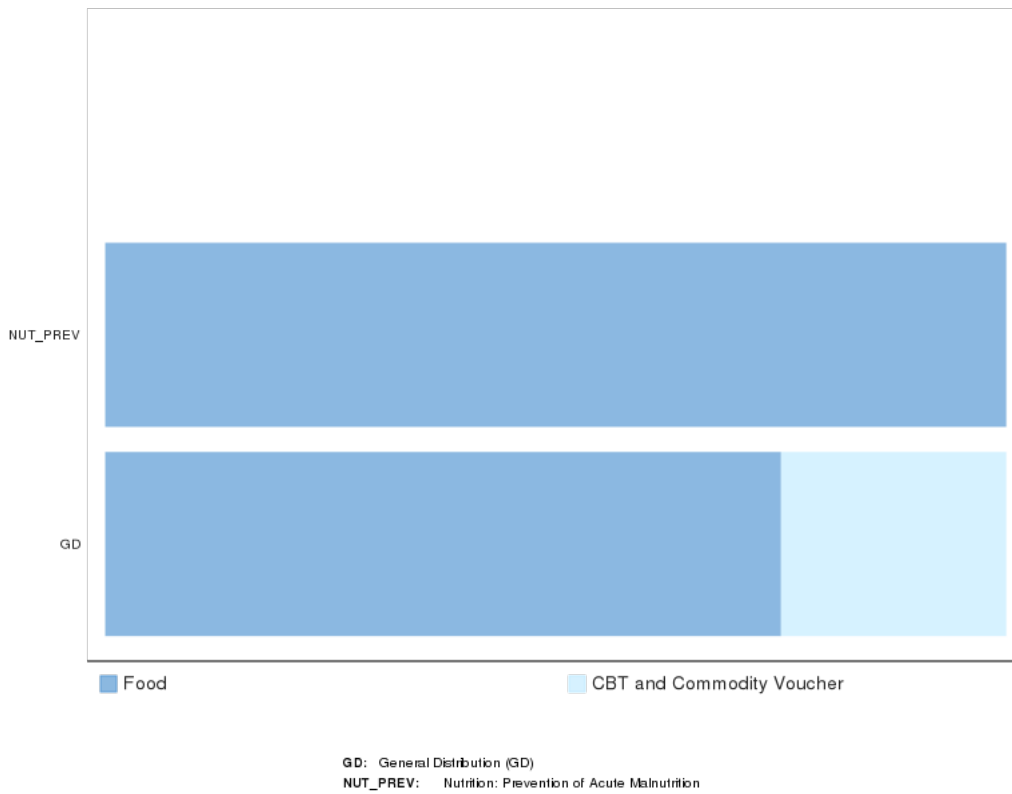
The successful completion of the IR-EMOP was followed by the launch of WFP's seven-month full-scale Emergency Operation, EMOP 201101.



Annual Project Beneficiaries by Activity



Modality of Transfer by Activity





Annual Project Food Distribution

Commodity	Planned Distribution (mt)	Actual Distribution (mt)	% Actual v. Planned
Ready To Use Supplementary Food	4	-	-
Rice	720	720	100.0%
Split Peas	121	120	99.5%
Wheat Soya Blend	200	187	93.7%
Total	1,044	1,027	98.3%



Cash Based Transfer and Commodity Voucher Distribution for the Project (USD)

Modality	Planned (USD)	Actual (USD)	% Actual v. Planned
Cash	292,800	292,877	100.0%
Total	292,800	292,877	100.0%

Performance Monitoring

WFP established two provisional offices in Saptari and Rautahat to monitor and coordinate the response at district level. Monitoring staff from the Country Office and sub-offices were deployed to these districts immediately following the floods to assess the situation, coordinate with local authorities and other stakeholders, identify the need for external food assistance, and oversee and monitor WFP's distribution process, working closely with cooperating partners on the ground. Daily distribution reporting was completed after conducting spot checks on distribution sites to verify that eligible beneficiaries received the correct entitlements.

WFP used its digital beneficiary and transfer management system SCOPE to register the distribution of food rations and cash entitlements. SCOPE maximized efficiency, transparency and accountability of WFP's assistance. Through SCOPE, beneficiaries' photographs and biometric information were gathered, allowing WFP to ensure that only eligible recipients received assistance. Beneficiary lists generated by SCOPE were used to sample the beneficiary population for post-distribution monitoring (PDM).

WFP carried out the PDM of the food security component of the Immediate Response Emergency Operation upon completion of the project. The PDM was carried out among 170 households in order to assess the efficiency, timeliness and effectiveness of programme implementation against the set objectives and targets. WFP used an innovative mobile data collection approach with the support of independent, external enumerators to ensure neutrality.

Under the nutrition component, the Government carried out its own monitoring of the nutrition activities at health facility level. The WFP nutrition focal point in each district actively took part in the monitoring of the programme for the prevention of acute malnutrition, while cooperating partners provided technical assistance and ensured recording of beneficiaries and entitlements through the Government's system, the Health Management Information System.

Progress Towards Gender Equality

WFP reached 100 percent of women as planned during the general distribution. However, WFP's post-distribution monitoring (PDM) surveyed a sample of 170 people who directly received food and cash and found that only 27

percent of them were women. This was attributed to entrenched and persistent gender inequalities in the targeted communities. Women's participation in the public sphere is limited by restrictions on handling their families' cash, low literacy rates (for girls too), and prevailing discriminatory socio-cultural and caste-based norms and values. Women were also generally responsible for household chores and childcare, limiting the time they had available to attend distribution.

Gender and humanitarian protection considerations were integrated into the food and cash assistance programme in accordance with WFP Gender Policy 2015-2020, and measures were put in place to ensure safe and equitable access to distribution sites for women and men. Special consideration was made for women at food and cash distribution sites, and field-level partners were oriented to ensure that pregnant and lactating women (PLW), the elderly and people with disabilities were prioritized during distributions. Moreover, cooperating partners and volunteers were oriented on WFP's Gender Policy and the Humanitarian Protection Policy, which lead to an improved understanding of the required measures to be followed. In addition, WFP consulted with local government staff and beneficiaries, including women, to determine the most suitable distribution points that would allow beneficiaries to collect their entitlements in a safe and dignified manner.

Although in the Terai men have traditionally made decisions on food utilization in their households, PDM results showed that in 30 percent of families, men and women equally decided on how food was utilized by their families; and 44 percent of women in Rautahat and 36 percent of women in Saptari had full decision making power on how food was utilized by their families.

Beneficiaries of the nutrition component were primarily PLW and children aged 6-23 months. Recognizing that the country's difficult terrain and lack of proper road networks may pose challenges to women beneficiaries to access nutrition assistance, WFP, together with the Ministry of Health, positioned prevention of acute malnutrition programme sites as close to communities as possible. WFP and partners also organized the distributions in open community locations such as health facilities and schools, which helped minimize security and safety risks to women and children.

Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations

The food and cash distribution sites and delivery arrangements were managed taking into account gender and protection of the affected populations. To minimize any potential protection issues, distribution sites were located in places which took less than two hours of walking time to reach. Furthermore, distributions were held only during daylight hours. Separate waiting lines were created for women and men, with priority given to people with disabilities, elderly persons, and pregnant and lactating women and those accompanied by children. Drinking water and toilet facilities were available at the distribution locations. The provision of security personnel and sufficient waiting space was arranged at the distribution sites alongside information banners about WFP's assistance.

In addition to these arrangements, an onsite help desk was established with a cooperating partner staff member present to support any distribution-related queries. All feedback and complaints received at the desk were recorded and filed by cooperating partners and were used to make improvements. When required, local security forces were also on hand to provide support for crowd control and to enforce safety regulations across distribution sites.

WFP rolled out its complaints and feedback mechanism, "Namaste WFP", in Rautahat and Saptari districts. This allowed beneficiaries to call WFP to share their suggestions, complaints and questions, and allowed WFP to resolve them effectively. WFP ensured that the toll-free number was widely disseminated, including on SCOPE cards. The majority of the callers requested more information on distribution.

WFP organized monitoring arrangements together with local government authorities and cooperating partner staff, to ensure and verify that food-insecure households located within the targeted areas for assistance could access their entitlements safely and in line with distribution plans. The cooperating partners' community mobilization efforts helped inform all beneficiaries about the amount of their food rations and cash entitlements, their purpose, and distribution arrangements (venue, date, time), with a specific focus on women and girls to prevent exclusion and/or any risk of disputes during and after the distribution process. 89 percent of households reported in the post-distribution monitoring survey that they did not face any safety and security-related problems during distributions. The remaining 11 percent voiced concerns of overcrowding during distribution. These concerns were addressed in Emergency Operation 201101 by choosing community facilities that were more suited for distributions and reinforcing orderly lines for beneficiaries.

Story Worth Telling: The Recovery of Suk Kumari's Family

Hanuman Nagar, an impoverished Village Development Committee (VDC) in Saptari, was one of the worst hit areas when the floods hit the southern plains of Nepal in August 2017. “The water was up to our knees...it started to recede before we were completely covered in it”, says Suk Kumari Devi, a resident of the VDC.

“What little food I had was stored outside of the house, and it was all soaked by the floods. I had nowhere to turn to, I had to feed my children puffy rice. My husband works in Delhi so it was only me taking care of my house, my children and my in-laws”, recalls Suk Kumari.

At the request of the Government of Nepal, WFP launched an Immediate Response Emergency Operation (IR-EMOP), in partnership with Nepal Red Cross Society, providing lifesaving food and nutrition assistance to flood-affected families, one of which was Suk Kumari’s.

The nutrition assistance and support provided by WFP lifted the despair felt by thousands of people in the Terai. Like Suk Kumari, most families were uninformed about nutrition and its effects on childhood development. The nutrition counselling, along with the Super Cereal Suk Kumari received under WFP's IR-EMOP, proved to be highly educational. “Before, I didn’t really force my children to eat. I was usually so busy with the household chores and looking after my in-laws. After WFP gave me counselling on the importance of a healthy meal, I make sure the children are well fed before I get on with my chores”, says Suk Kumari. Her child has slowly been gaining weight, and she is still enrolled to receive nutritional assistance under WFP’s extended flood response.

Figures and Indicators

Data Notes

Cover page photo © WFP / Yashaswi Shrestha

A young woman receives emergency assistance at a collection point in Saptari, Nepal.

Overview of Project Beneficiary Information

Table 1: Overview of Project Beneficiary Information

Beneficiary Category	Planned (male)	Planned (female)	Planned (total)	Actual (male)	Actual (female)	Actual (total)	% Actual v. Planned (male)	% Actual v. Planned (female)	% Actual v. Planned (total)
Total Beneficiaries	78,400	81,600	160,000	78,400	81,600	160,000	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
By Age-group:									
Children (under 5 years)	8,000	8,000	16,000	8,000	8,000	16,000	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Children (5-18 years)	28,800	28,800	57,600	28,800	28,800	57,600	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Adults (18 years plus)	41,600	44,800	86,400	41,600	44,800	86,400	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
By Residence status:									
Residents	78,400	81,600	160,000	78,400	81,600	160,000	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Participants and Beneficiaries by Activity and Modality

Table 2: Beneficiaries by Activity and Modality

Activity	Planned (food)	Planned (CBT)	Planned (total)	Actual (food)	Actual (CBT)	Actual (total)	% Actual v. Planned (food)	% Actual v. Planned (CBT)	% Actual v. Planned (total)
General Distribution (GD)	120,000	40,000	160,000	120,000	40,000	160,000	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Nutrition: Treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition	4,660	-	4,660	-	-	-	-	-	-

Activity	Planned (food)	Planned (CBT)	Planned (total)	Actual (food)	Actual (CBT)	Actual (total)	% Actual v. Planned (food)	% Actual v. Planned (CBT)	% Actual v. Planned (total)
Nutrition: Prevention of Acute Malnutrition	47,000	-	47,000	58,260	-	58,260	124.0%	-	124.0%

Annex: Participants by Activity and Modality

Activity	Planned (food)	Planned (CBT)	Planned (total)	Actual (food)	Actual (CBT)	Actual (total)	% Actual v. Planned (food)	% Actual v. Planned (CBT)	% Actual v. Planned (total)
General Distribution (GD)	120,000	40,000	160,000	120,000	40,000	160,000	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Nutrition: Treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition	4,660	-	4,660	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nutrition: Prevention of Acute Malnutrition	47,000	-	47,000	58,260	-	58,260	124.0%	-	124.0%

Participants and Beneficiaries by Activity (excluding nutrition)

Table 3: Participants and Beneficiaries by Activity (excluding nutrition)

Beneficiary Category	Planned (male)	Planned (female)	Planned (total)	Actual (male)	Actual (female)	Actual (total)	% Actual v. Planned (male)	% Actual v. Planned (female)	% Actual v. Planned (total)
General Distribution (GD)									
People participating in general distributions	78,400	81,600	160,000	78,400	81,600	160,000	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Total participants	78,400	81,600	160,000	78,400	81,600	160,000	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Total beneficiaries	78,400	81,600	160,000	78,400	81,600	160,000	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Nutrition Beneficiaries

Nutrition Beneficiaries

Beneficiary Category	Planned (male)	Planned (female)	Planned (total)	Actual (male)	Actual (female)	Actual (total)	% Actual v. Planned (male)	% Actual v. Planned (female)	% Actual v. Planned (total)
Nutrition: Treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition									
Children (6-23 months)	792	760	1,552	-	-	-	-	-	-
Children (24-59 months)	1,584	1,524	3,108	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total beneficiaries	2,376	2,284	4,660	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nutrition: Prevention of Acute Malnutrition									
Children (6-23 months)	13,200	14,300	27,500	16,276	17,395	33,671	123.3%	121.6%	122.4%
Pregnant and lactating women (18 plus)	-	19,500	19,500	-	24,589	24,589	-	126.1%	126.1%
Total beneficiaries	13,200	33,800	47,000	16,276	41,984	58,260	123.3%	124.2%	124.0%

Resource Inputs from Donors

Resource Inputs from Donors

Donor	Cont. Ref. No.	Commodity	Purchased in 2017 (mt)	
			In-Kind	Cash
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Rice	-	721
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Split Peas	-	120
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Wheat Soya Blend	-	200
		Total	-	1,041