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SPR Reading Guidance



Augmentation of National and District Level Emergency Logistics Preparedness in Nepal
Standard Project Report 2017
World Food Programme in Nepal, State of (NP)



World Food Programme

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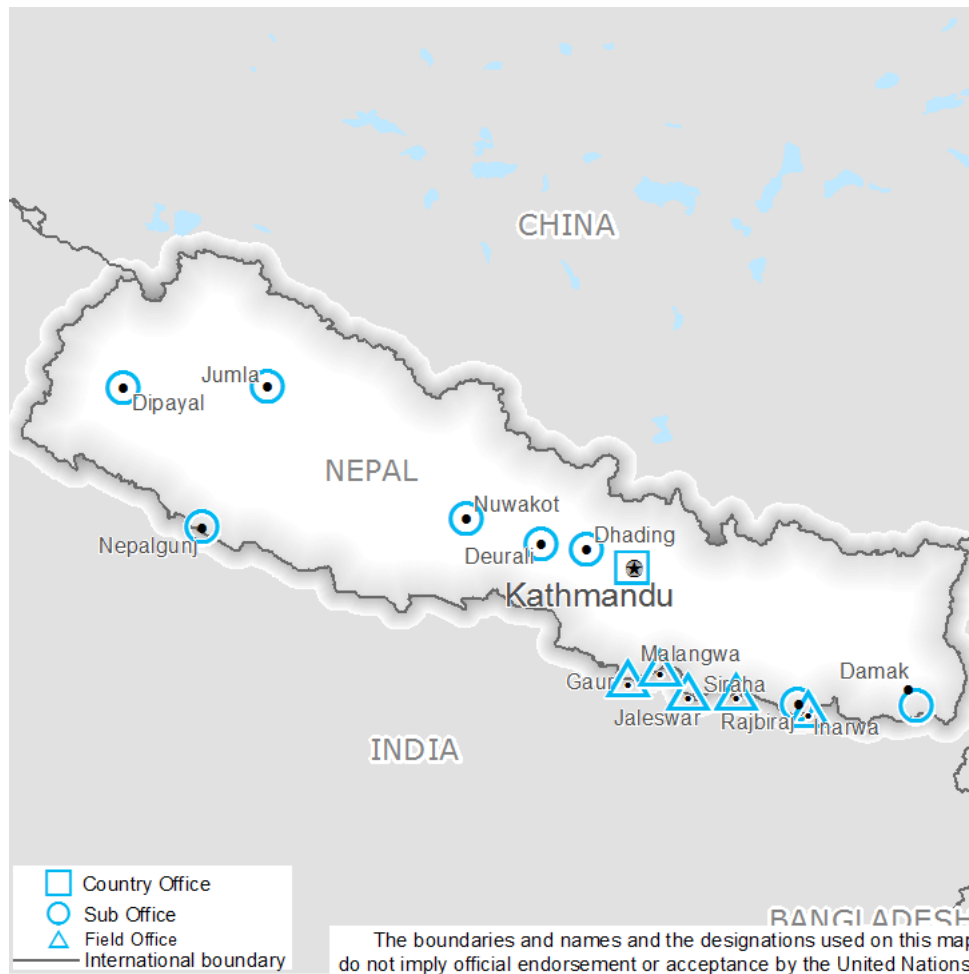
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Country Context and WFP Objectives



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.

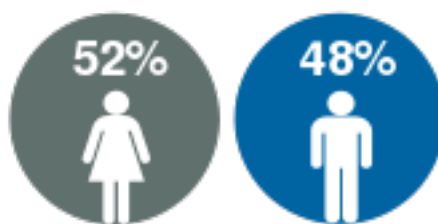
WFP received contributions from the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to support flood-affected families in the Terai region along with contributions from the governments of the United Kingdom and Australia to support nutrition activities. These contributions were supplemented with 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 Nations 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

Special Operation 200999 builds upon preparedness activities coordinated by WFP and the Government of Nepal and lessons learned from earthquakes in 2015 and floods in 2014 and 2017.

In the first phase of the Special Operation, 2013–2016, a Humanitarian Staging Area (HSA) was constructed at the country's only international airport in Kathmandu. During the 2015 earthquake response, the HSA functioned as the main logistics hub for over 160 humanitarian partners and was used to store relief items before they were transported to affected districts. Coordination of the HSA was managed by the WFP-led Logistics Cluster and co-led by the Ministry of Home Affairs. The HSA was used to conduct a series of workshops, which covered technical aspects of logistics and emergency telecommunications to strengthen the capacity of 300 national emergency responders.

Funding shortages meant that the second phase of the Special Operation could not begin in early 2017 but could begin by June. It continued for the rest of the year in collaboration with the national logistics cluster. Its activities strengthened local capacity in emergency preparedness, logistics, and emergency telecommunications, as well as national partner capacity to respond to emergencies, regardless of scale or type of emergency.

The Special Operation was designed around four pillars, with each complementary pillar reinforcing investments in logistics infrastructure and human resource capacity.

The Special Operation supports WFP Strategic Objective 3: Reduce risk and enable people, communities and countries to meet their own food and nutrition needs.

Pillar 1: Facilities and Equipment

Outcome: Capacity developed to rapidly deploy equipment and facilities into affected areas to support response

The objective of this component was to enhance national preparedness capacity to respond rapidly to disasters. This would be achieved through building a sustainable and flexible logistics infrastructure for the Government and the humanitarian community.

Anecdotal evidence indicates that the availability of a common facility for staging and coordination contributes to effective and timely responses to emergencies. WFP worked to strengthen logistics coordination and emergency response capacity of national institutions through regular national logistics cluster meetings. The HSA remained operational to support the humanitarian community, providing storage facilities for emergency stockpiles and fulfilling a coordinating role during the August 2017 flood response.

In 2017, in accord with the plan to expand the geographic coverage of response capacities, field visits were made to the cities of Nepalgunj, Bhairawa, Dhangadi and Biratnagar to familiarise stakeholders about the project and identify potential sites to establish forward logistics bases. Upon selection of suitable sites, the project team and government partners initiated negotiations at national and local levels to develop land allocation agreements, a requirement before the logistics infrastructure could be planned, designed and constructed.

Pillar 2: Information and Data Preparedness

Outcome: Strengthened Government disaster management planning at national level, based on consistent and updated logistics and emergency telecommunications data and analysis

WFP has learnt from previous emergency responses that emergency preparedness and contingency planning could have been strengthened by using scientific models and reliable logistics data. WFP supported the development of an evidence-based preparedness strategy led by the Government and joined the effort to collect reliable logistics data and update maps of national trails (the walking/pack-animal routes used to access the remote mountain communities). Identifying gaps in coverage of the maps of trails used to access remote communities, updating maps of trails, and overlaying poverty and food insecurity data was then used to identify the most vulnerable districts [1]. WFP Nepal established a collaborative network comprised of humanitarian stakeholders and members of the scientific community involved in conducting risk analyses, through which WFP gained access to the latest scientific research. This work supports the Government of Nepal's National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and Action Plan and will be used to inform revisions to the United Nation's Inter-Agency Contingency Plan in 2018.

Pillar 3: Skills and Training

Outcome: Enhanced skills and knowledge in emergency logistics and emergency telecommunications to enable national and local level emergency response on a sustainable basis

WFP has strengthened national capacity to manage the national humanitarian supply chain by providing training to national and district government, and NGO partners. In October 2017, a strategic and operational emergency logistics training was conducted in partnership with the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Institute of Crisis Management Studies, and the Nepal Army Disaster Management Division. WFP trained district-level responders to improve planning, preparation, and implementation of logistics services, thereby enabling them to react more efficiently and autonomously to disasters.

Pillar 4: Institutional Strengthening**Outcome: Systematic access in emergencies to national and regional food reserves to reduce reliance on internationally imported assistance**

WFP supported the Government to improve availability and systematic access to domestic food reserves. In the past when food assistance has been required in emergencies, the local authorities have relied on Government food stocks, and the Government has on occasion relied upon international food assistance during major floods and seismic events.

WFP has established regular contact with South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) to promote regional food security projects that benefit national food security. WFP also helped to operationalise the SAARC Food Bank which housed the Nepal food reserves.

[1] The most vulnerable districts were Bajura, Mugu, Bajhang, Humla, Dolpa, Jajarkot, Jumla, Achham, Darchula, Doti and Kalikot.

Results

Pillar 1: Facilities and Equipment**Outcome: Capacity developed to rapidly deploy equipment and facilities into affected areas to support response**

During the Terai floods of August 2017, the Humanitarian Staging Area (HSA) served as the central collection point to receive, store and dispatch humanitarian supplies to flood-affected areas in accord with the Ministry of Home Affairs' "one-door" policy. It also served as the venue for national logistics cluster coordination meetings, which brought together Government and humanitarian stakeholders into a single logistics coordination forum. Partners who used the HSA included the Nepal Armed Forces, the Ministry of Home Affairs, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

In 2017, the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal formally requested WFP to continue managing the HSA for an additional three years, until 2020. A Steering Committee (SC) was established to oversee the functions of the HSA. The SC is led by the Government and enhances coordination for humanitarian emergency preparedness and stock-piling of relief items within the Kathmandu Valley.

In 2017, humanitarian partners compensated WFP with user fees to store their emergency stockpiles in the HSA on a cost recovery basis. Humanitarian partners made additional use of the HSA's office space and facilities. Action by Churches Together (ACT) Alliance facilitated emergency preparedness simulation activities, and Japan International Cooperation Agency and government counterparts conducted briefing presentations to the media.

Pillar 2: Information and Data Preparedness**Outcome: Strengthened Government disaster management planning at national level, based on consistent and updated logistics and emergency telecommunications data and analysis**

One of the lessons learned from the earthquakes in 2015 is that obtaining accurate information on national trail networks is necessary to facilitate access to remote communities. In 2017, WFP conducted a gap analysis of trail network data and coupled it with indicators for poverty, socioeconomic status and vulnerability to disasters. The results, published in 2017, showed that trail mapping was required in 11 priority districts—Bajura, Mugu, Bajhang, Humla, Dolpa, Jajarkot, Jumla, Achham, Darchula, Doti and Kalikot—which are situated in hilly and mountainous regions. Jumla district met the criteria for being particularly vulnerable, and WFP is planning a pilot community-based trail mapping project there in 2018.

Compounding the terrain difficulties faced in accessing remote areas, the lack of both available data on trails and the absence of central repository for geographic information system (GIS) data made the gap analysis

difficult. Nepal's transition to a federal system of government in 2018, with changes in jurisdictional boundaries, will necessitate further data cleaning to keep the gap analysis updated.

Pillar 3: Skills and Training

Outcome: Enhanced skills and knowledge in emergency logistics and emergency telecommunications to enable national and local level emergency response on a sustainable basis

In 2017, a total of 162 partner staff, including from local and central levels of government, were trained on emergency logistics. Participants built a common understanding of emergency preparedness, response and strategic planning to improve coordination. Further to this, discussions with the Government and other humanitarian actors identified opportunities to embed the emergency logistics training within national institutions. By strengthening the capacity of national organizations [1] to function as trainers, and by embedding emergency logistics training courses in their regular curriculum, an increase in the sustainability of the training curriculum and decreased reliance on external facilitation are expected. This will result in a nationally planned, resourced and implemented system for emergency response capacity development.

Pillar 4: Institutional Strengthening

Outcome: Systematic access in emergencies to national and regional food reserves to reduce reliance on internationally imported assistance.

Nepal's in-kind humanitarian food assistance has been predominantly supplied through imports, which have increased its reliance on international support. To promote disaster resilience and ensure access to food, WFP is working to support the Government to improve systematic access to food reserves, such the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Food Bank. WFP is expecting feedback from SAARC member states on recommendations on how to manage the Food Bank to help reduce Nepal's reliance on the international community for emergency assistance.

[1] Organizations included: national security forces (Nepal Army; Armed Police Forces; Nepal Police), Nepal Administrative Staff College, Institute of Crisis Management Studies, Samarpan Academy, and Pulchowk Engineering College.

Performance Monitoring

WFP monitored the implementation of the activities under the Special Operation, identified progress and challenges, and captured lessons learned in monthly and quarterly reports that were shared with relevant stakeholders (donors, government agencies). The reports included: status of infrastructure constructed, number of people trained, procurement actions completed, and assessments and reports published. WFP coordinated with the Ministry of Home Affairs, donors and other stakeholders to align activities and maintain transparency in information flow and communication channels with partners.

The shortage of funding delayed project implementation until June 2017. Therefore, the user satisfaction survey and Emergency Preparedness Capacity Index (EPCI) were not conducted in 2017 but will be conducted in 2018. Further, the WFP photo monitoring tool will be introduced in 2018 to monitor assets and progress of infrastructure construction. In addition, it will provide visual data to address implementation issues in a timely manner.

Value for Money

In 2017, 30 percent of Humanitarian Staging Area (HSA) operational cost was covered by partner agencies. But the funding situation for WFP Nepal remained challenging, leading WFP to undertake a series of cost reduction measures in country-wide operations, while striving to identify new funding sources. The specific measures related to the HSA included refurbishing mobile storage units, using government-provided security personnel, and switching to solar power at the HSA. The refurbishment of several mobile storage units, previously used in the 2015 earthquake response, saved USD 236,000—14 percent of the total funded costs—in 2017. The Government assisted in reducing ongoing costs by contributing security personnel to safeguard the HSA, complementing existing arrangements but permitting WFP to reduce expenditure for private security contractors. With the installation of a solar system at the HSA, WFP achieved a reduction of 40 percent in electricity costs.

Figures and Indicators

Data Notes

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A logistics training exercise with national security forces and other officials takes place at the Humanitarian Staging Area in Kathmandu.

Project Indicators

Output Indicators

Output	Unit	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
SO1: Special Operation (Logistics)				
Number of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) strengthened or implemented	SOP	1	1	100.0%
Number of partner staff (female) trained in emergency preparedness and response	individual	40	25	62.5%
Number of partner staff (male) trained in emergency preparedness and response	individual	41	56	136.6%