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**Contact Info**

**Miriam Eid**

miriam.eid@wfp.org

**Country Director**

**Pippa Bradford**

**Further Information**

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**SPR Reading Guidance**



## Food Assistance to Refugees from Bhutan in Nepal

### Standard Project Report 2017

World Food Programme in Nepal, State of (NP)



**World Food Programme**

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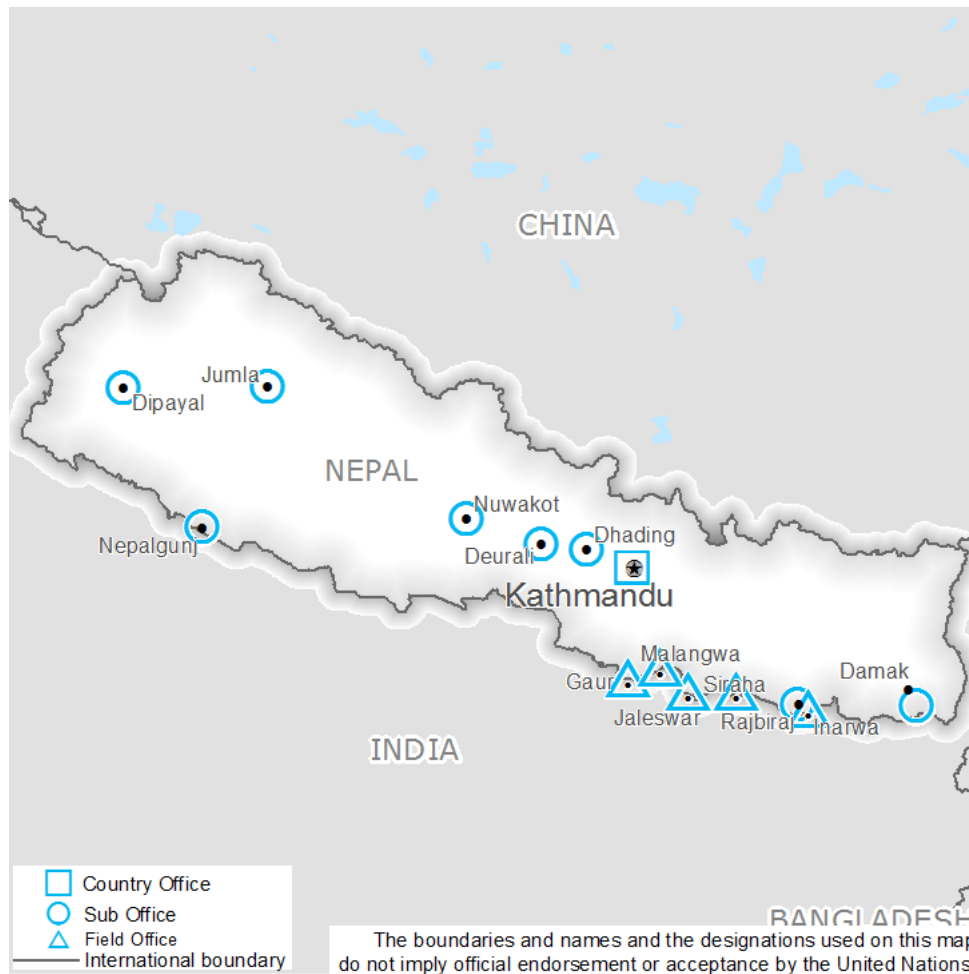
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# Country Context and WFP Objectives



## 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.

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[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.

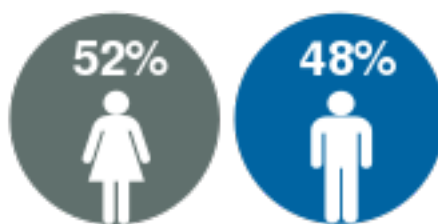
WFP received contributions from the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to support flood-affected families in the Terai region along with contributions from the governments of the United Kingdom and Australia to support nutrition activities. These contributions were supplemented with 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
<b>Total number of beneficiaries in 2017</b>	<b>342,360</b>	<b>367,490</b>	<b>709,850</b>



## 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
<b>Total Food Distributed in 2017</b>	<b>2,931</b>	<b>463</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>5,700</b>	<b>457</b>	<b>9,892</b>



## 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	-	-
<b>Total Distributed in 2017</b>	<b>3,771,927</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

## 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
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,646</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>3,813</b>
<b>Percentage</b>	<b>95.6%</b>	<b>4.4%</b>	

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

Commodity	Total
Ready To Use Supplementary Food	244
<b>Total</b>	<b>244</b>

## 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.

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[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 the eastern region of Nepal, several refugee camps are home to refugees who have arrived from Bhutan since 1992. The refugees are considered foreigners in Nepal and cannot own land or gain legal employment outside the camps. While the refugee population initially numbered over 100,000, a successful resettlement programme started in 2008 has reduced the number of refugees to 7,422 as of 31 December 2017. The remaining refugees have limited livelihood opportunities and are dependent on food and livelihood assistance to meet their daily food needs. From 1992-1996, WFP provided general food assistance to all refugees at the request of the Government of Nepal and in coordination with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Since 1996, WFP has provided food assistance targeting only the most vulnerable refugees. In 2017, WFP continued to provide refugees with food assistance, support to enhance their livelihoods and provided support to nearby host communities.

**Strategic Objective 1:** Save lives and protect livelihoods in emergencies

**Activity:** General distribution

In 2017, WFP continued to safeguard the food needs of the registered refugees residing in Beldangi and Sanischare camps. A full ration was planned for distribution to all refugees. However, funding constraints and recognised differences in refugees' levels of vulnerability prompted WFP to continue the needs-based approach to assistance that was begun in 2016. This decision was taken in order to maximise usage of WFP's resources to reach as many beneficiaries as possible. The most vulnerable refugees—including at-risk women and children, people with disabilities, elderly persons aged 60 and above, and people with specific needs—were identified as requiring full support and were provided a full food ration comprised of 440 g of rice, 90 g of pulses, 25 g of vegetable oil, and 5 g of salt, fulfilling the daily nutritional need of 2,100 kcal per person per day. Remaining stocks of chickpeas from 2016 were added to the ration in January and February 2017 to boost refugees' nutrient intake. In June 2017, salt was removed from the food basket to further rationalise the food ration and reduce costs.

Throughout 2016, WFP had provided less vulnerable refugees with a reduced food basket comprised of 335 g of rice, 60 g of pulses and 20 g of vegetable oil, equivalent to 1,589 kcal per person per day. However, as a result of funding restrictions in 2017, WFP was only able to distribute the rice component of the planned food basket, providing approximately 1,500 kcal per person per day.

To ensure food distributions were efficiently managed, WFP together with its implementing partner, Lutheran World Federation Nepal, organised orientation sessions on food storage and handling for the camp management committee members and camp volunteers.

The general distribution was complemented by a reclamation gardening project for vegetable production. As the number of refugees leaving the camps for resettlement increased, vacant plots where they had previously resided became available. WFP used these plots for the implementation of the reclamation gardening project and to expand community and kitchen gardening projects, leading to the cultivation of additional vegetables and fruits within the camps. This project provided refugees with opportunities to enhance self-reliance while also increasing diversification in their diets by increasing access to fresh produce. All camp residents were free to join these activities, either using their own plots or in the community gardens. To improve overall community ownership and sustainability of the gardening project, WFP provided training on agriculture and household nutrition for the participating families.

In 2017, WFP's main partners were UNHCR and the Ministry of Home Affairs, the government agency in charge of people in need of international protection. WFP's close collaboration with UNHCR was essential for the implementation of the operation and further rationalisation of the needs-based food baskets. Lutheran World Federation Nepal and the Association of Medical Doctors of Asia have long been WFP partners in the protracted refugee operation. In 2017, WFP continued this working relationship with both organizations who actively participated in implementing the activities and conducted unit-level meetings with the refugees. Such meetings served as a platform to discuss issues related to the project and facilitated direct communication with the refugees.

## Results

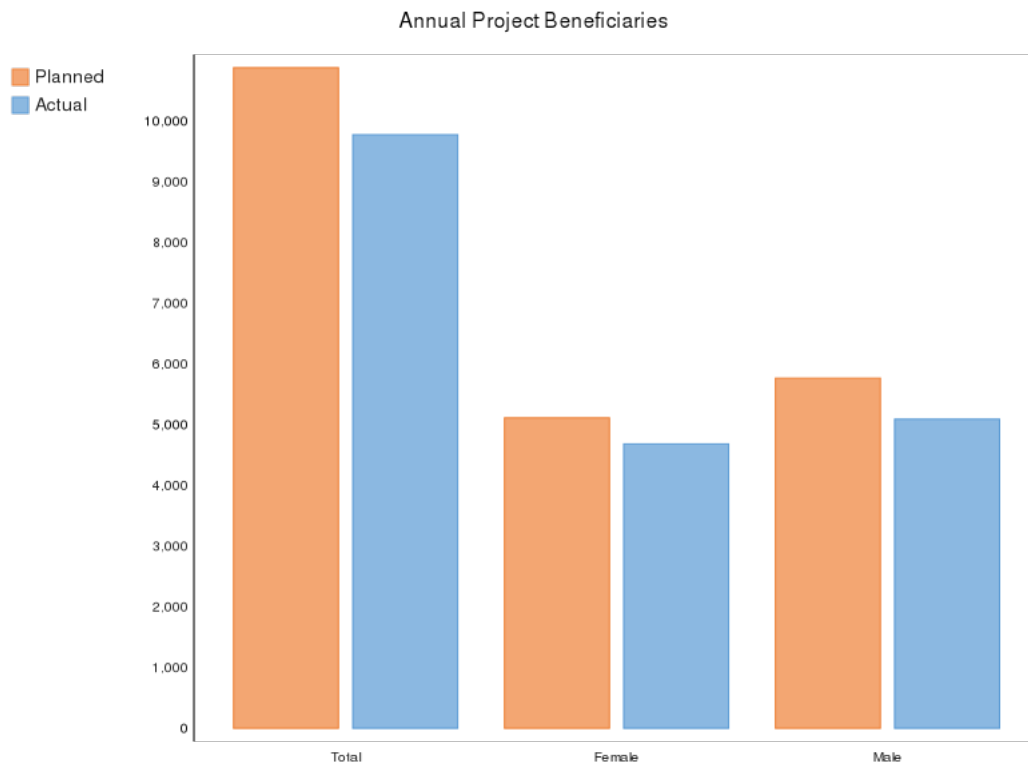
**Strategic Objective 1:** Save lives and protect livelihoods in emergencies

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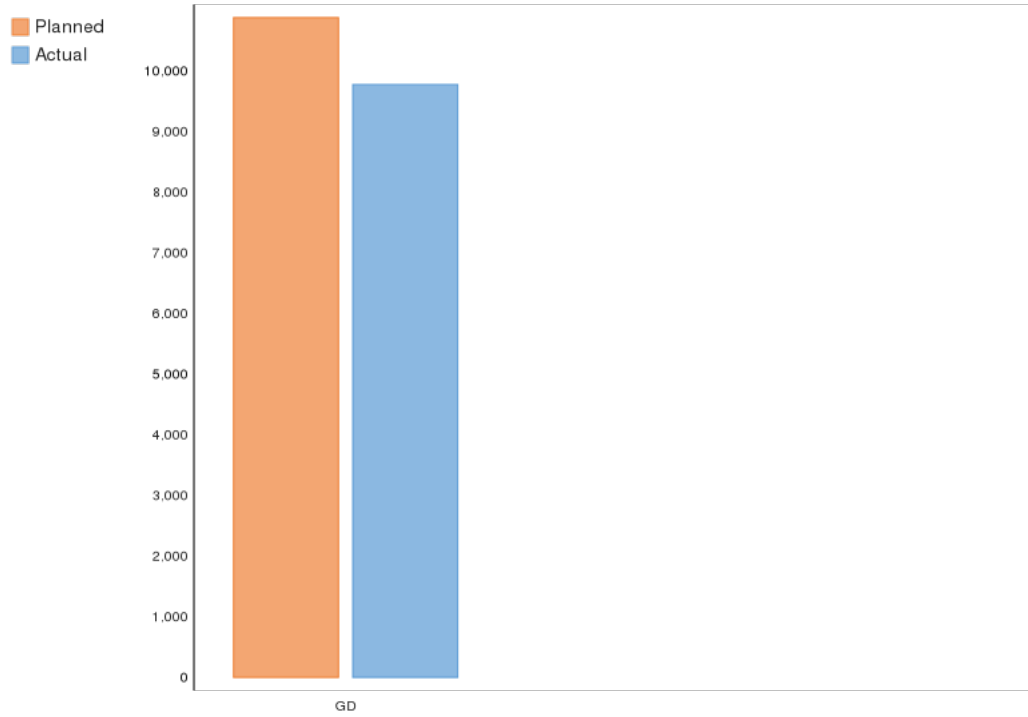
Despite resourcing challenges in 2017, WFP met the food needs of over 90 percent of the planned beneficiaries through monthly in-kind distributions. The remaining 10 percent of refugees were not reached in 2017 because they were not available to collect their entitlements during distributions.

Through the reclamation gardening programme, WFP organised outreach sessions to encourage vegetable consumption among the participants. WFP encouraged the participation of both men and women in gardening activities and related training sessions through various information campaigns. WFP aimed to increase access to foods rich in vitamins and micronutrients by emphasising the importance of vegetable consumption, encouraging household empowerment through increased knowledge and skills on gardening, and providing support in the form of seeds, seedlings, agriculture tools and irrigation facilities for vegetable cultivation. The training under the reclamation gardening programme enhanced the technical skills of 73 refugees, which in turn allowed them to increase their production of fresh vegetables. Refugees were also able to sell their surplus produce in local markets, therefore increasing their income.

WFP used the Food Consumption Score and Dietary Diversity Score indicators to assess the performance of this project in 2017, serving as a proxy for household food security. Results of the 2017 household survey showed that WFP was able to maintain the food consumption and dietary diversity of the targeted refugees compared to 2016.

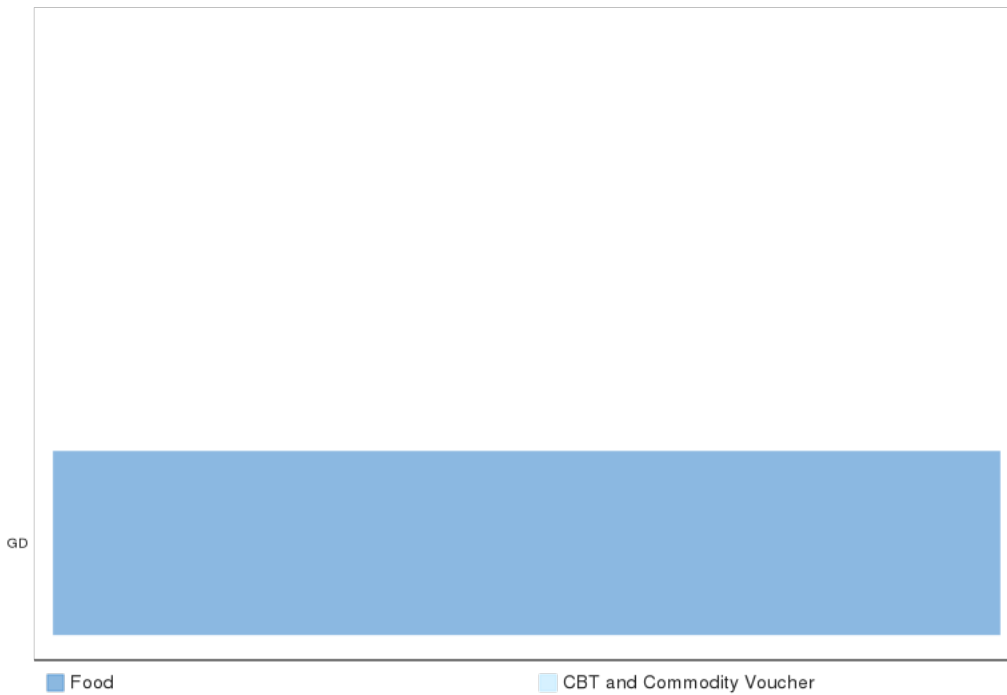


### Annual Project Beneficiaries by Activity



GD: General Distribution (GD)

### Modality of Transfer by Activity



GD: General Distribution (GD)



## Annual Project Food Distribution

Commodity	Planned Distribution (mt)	Actual Distribution (mt)	% Actual v. Planned
Chickpeas	-	13	-
Iodised Salt	2	2	109.9%
Rice	1,308	1,132	86.6%
Split Peas	246	72	29.4%
Vegetable Oil	77	24	31.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,633</b>	<b>1,243</b>	<b>76.1%</b>

## Performance Monitoring

The project was designed and monitored in line with the corporate normative framework for monitoring and minimum monitoring standards. WFP's outcome monitoring efforts focused on assessing changes in food security among the targeted refugees. WFP's sub-office in Damak City oversaw the overall implementation and monitoring of activities in the two refugee camps. With support from its partners, WFP continued to carry out monthly post-distribution monitoring, with a focus on assessing the effects of further ration readjustments. The monitoring team used a set of predefined questionnaires and digital devices to collect data on a real-time basis, which helped expedite data collection, sharing, analysis and reporting of trends at the end of each month.

WFP and Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Nepal also conducted on-site monitoring of food distributions. This included checking food basket monitoring centres operated by the Association of Medical Doctors of Asia Nepal to strengthen accountability at the distribution site. In addition, random household visits were conducted by WFP, LWF Nepal and Association of Medical Doctors of Asia to ensure the protection of vulnerable families and to mitigate any disputes. Unit-level meetings—eight per month per camp led by LWF Nepal—also enabled beneficiaries to voice their concerns related to the reclamation gardening project and allowed partners to address issues directly with all stakeholders.

To strengthen regular monitoring, WFP used photo monitoring as a way of measuring performance. This tool which photographed progress helped to monitor activities of the reclamation gardening project before, during and after planting, providing the means to recognize and address implementation issues in a timely manner.

At the central level, WFP Nepal regularly conducted technical meetings in Kathmandu which brought together stakeholders from the Government, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and donors to review activities. Similarly, the sub-office in Damak also conducted technical meetings with representatives from cooperating partners, government representatives and camp management committees throughout the year.

Through LWF Nepal, WFP provided letters and tokens of appreciation to recognize the contribution of refugee volunteers and selected beneficiaries who provided exceptional support in implementing project activities and supplying services to the community.

## Progress Towards Gender Equality

WFP continued to ensure that gender and protection were integrated into all aspects of the protracted relief and recovery operation. Throughout the project, WFP advocated for the participation of women in decision-making processes and in leadership positions in the camp management committees as well as in training sessions, workshops and meetings. WFP advised all stakeholders that at least 50 percent of the participants in all complementary activities were required to be women. Women's partnership in project management positions was emphasised to provide them with increased opportunities, enabling women to voice their thoughts on their needs and concerns and empowering them with increased skills and confidence in decision-making.

The results of WFP's year-end monitoring exercise indicated that the continued emphasis placed on women's strengthened roles in the project produced positive results, with WFP achieving the target of equal participation of

men and women in leadership positions in camp management committees. Women refugees held positions mainly as sub-sector heads, assistants to sub-sector heads, and as members of the distribution sub-committee. All leadership positions held by both men and women were chosen by the refugee population through an election, in line with camp management committee guidelines. The proportion of women committee members trained in 2017 remained below the target as a result of some women's focus on their other obligations, including preparing for their resettlement abroad.

To encourage and promote women to become more involved in decisions regarding the use of the household entitlements, WFP issued ration cards in the names of female household members as well as the male member who usually heads the family. This initiative resulted in an increase in the proportion of households where decisions over the use of food were made jointly by men and women. WFP post distribution monitoring also revealed a high percentage of households where women made decisions over the use of food, in part due to the fact the majority of families sampled were mostly households headed by single women.

## Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations

WFP has instituted several mechanisms to ensure the protection of and accountability to the affected population.

Although WFP was required to reduce rations in 2017 due to rapidly declining resources, WFP continued to focus on meeting the needs of the most vulnerable refugees, providing them with a complete food basket throughout the year. In addition, priority was given to vulnerable refugees—elderly and disabled persons—at the food distribution sites so that these groups did not have to wait for long periods of time to collect their rations.

In 2017, WFP's monthly post distribution monitoring helped to capture information on the potential negative effects that the needs-based approach to food assistance may have had on households. Moreover, a number of controls were put in place to collect feedback and resolve complaints in order to further ensure the safety and well-being of the refugees. These measures included random monitoring of the food basket to check the commodities and to identify irregularities during distribution; whenever discrepancies were identified, beneficiaries were issued with a coupon which allowed them to receive additional food or requested them to return any excess commodities. Such incidences were reported to WFP staff by partners during their monitoring visits and in monthly reports. The relevant distributing official of each of the sectors in the camp, as well as the camp secretary, were notified of the need for corrective adjustments and follow-up. Food basket monitors maintained daily records and shared updates with representatives from WFP, Lutheran World Federation Nepal and camp management committees through bi-monthly camp-level coordination meetings.

WFP established a beneficiary feedback mechanism in the refugee camps that served as a tool to improve accountability to the assisted populations. Feedback boxes were strategically placed around the camps, allowing beneficiaries to make suggestions on issues related to food distribution and other project activities. WFP staff closely monitored any potential protection concerns every month and highlighted issues to partners that required action. In previous years, a common protection challenge had been the risk of beneficiaries experiencing physical injuries while transporting food rations. To ensure this risk was minimised, WFP limited the load women needed to carry, and upgraded access to distribution points.

WFP ensured that the camp population was updated on any changes in the planned assistance or delays in the delivery of food items through unit-level meetings and information bulletins. These meetings provided an opportunity for direct, two-way communication between the refugees and WFP staff to clarify any questions and concerns. WFP and partners also held 17 additional information sessions and distributed informative leaflets throughout the camps to notify refugees of any upcoming changes.

In 2017, WFP increased the reach of its information campaigns through various measures including increased visibility, additional orientations, and the organization of more direct interaction meetings with the refugees. These measures resulted in a significant improvement in the proportion of assisted people who were informed about the programme.

The results of the year-end post distribution monitoring showed that 90 percent of assisted beneficiaries were informed about WFP's programme, and all beneficiaries were able to safely collect their rations and travel between their homes and distribution sites without any safety incidents. There were no indications of incidences of bribery or coercion related to WFP's food distributions in 2017.

## Story Worth Telling: Farming with Damala



Damala Prasad fled his native country Bhutan in 1992 together with more than 100,000 refugees and has since been living in Nepal for almost 25 years. Two years ago, his wife and two children were resettled to the United States of America, but Damala opted to stay back in the camp.

Before coming to Nepal, Damala's main occupation was farming. His family had their own land where they grew ample food for themselves. Today, he has been able to use his farming skills through WFP's reclamation gardening project which provides refugees with skills as well as resources to grow their own food. Damala also received vegetable seeds, organic pesticides, and technical gardening support.

"After receiving seedlings from WFP, I have planted seasonal vegetables such as carrots and cabbages around my home," said Damala. "After keeping some of the vegetables for myself, I sell the rest to the local shops in the camps and earn enough to have some savings," he added. When asked what he does with his income, he said, "With the money, I buy clothes, medications and also have some savings."

Damala has planted a variety of seasonal vegetables around his hut—cauliflower, coriander, chilli, eggplant, ladies fingers, pumpkin, squash, spinach, and tomatoes. In addition to generating income through his own farming, Damala also earns a monthly salary of NPR 6,800 (about USD 68) for working in the nursery where he teaches farming skills to other refugees.

In December 2017, 181 refugee households produced 7,874 kg of the vegetables through the reclamation gardening project. About 2,855 kg of vegetables were sold and generated an income amounting to NPR 50,000 (about USD 500).

For people such as Damala, this activity has helped refugees sustain their livelihood by earning an income and meeting their basic nutritional needs.

# Figures and Indicators

## Data Notes

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A disabled Bhutanese refugee with a disability shows off her kitchen garden in Damak, Nepal.

### Explanatory notes:

Planned beneficiary data was determined through a Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) conducted by WFP and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in 2014.

## 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	5,766	5,114	10,880	5,092	4,684	9,776	88.3%	91.6%	89.9%
<b>By Age-group:</b>									
Children (under 5 years)	2,938	2,502	5,440	501	478	979	17.1%	19.1%	18.0%
Children (5-18 years)	1,414	1,306	2,720	1,418	1,342	2,760	100.3%	102.8%	101.5%
Adults (18 years plus)	1,414	1,306	2,720	3,173	2,864	6,037	224.4%	219.3%	221.9%
<b>By Residence status:</b>									
Refugees	5,766	5,114	10,880	5,092	4,684	9,776	88.3%	91.6%	89.9%

## 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)	10,880	-	10,880	9,776	-	9,776	89.9%	-	89.9%

## 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)	10,880	-	10,880	9,776	-	9,776	89.9%	-	89.9%

## 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)
<b>General Distribution (GD)</b>									
People participating in general distributions	5,766	5,114	10,880	5,093	4,683	9,776	88.3%	91.6%	89.9%
Total participants	5,766	5,114	10,880	5,093	4,683	9,776	88.3%	91.6%	89.9%
Total beneficiaries	5,766	5,114	10,880	5,093	4,683	9,776	88.3%	91.6%	89.9%

## Project Indicators

### Outcome Indicators

Outcome	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
<b>SO1 Save lives and protect livelihoods in emergencies</b>				
<b>Stabilized or reduced undernutrition among children aged 6–59 months and pregnant and lactating women</b>				
<b>Proportion of target population who participate in an adequate number of distributions</b>				
<i>200787 REFUGEE CAMPS/NEPAL, Project End Target: 2017.12, Nutrition Survey, Base value: 2014.12, Secondary data, Nutrition Survey</i>	>66.00	114.00	-	-
<b>Proportion of eligible population who participate in programme (coverage)</b>				
<i>200787 REFUGEE CAMPS/NEPAL, Project End Target: 2017.12, Nutrition Survey, Base value: 2014.12, Secondary data, Nutrition Survey, Previous Follow-up: 2016.12, Secondary data, Nutrition Survey</i>	>70.00	90.00	95.00	-
<b>Stabilized or improved food consumption over assistance period for targeted households and/or individuals</b>				

Outcome	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
<b>FCS: percentage of households with poor Food Consumption Score (female-headed)</b>				
200787 REFUGEE CAMPS/NEPAL, <b>Project End Target:</b> 2017.12, <b>Base value:</b> 2014.12, WFP programme monitoring, HH survey, <b>Previous Follow-up:</b> 2016.12, WFP programme monitoring, HH Survey, <b>Latest Follow-up:</b> 2017.12, WFP programme monitoring, HH Survey	<1.00	0.00	0.00	3.00
<b>FCS: percentage of households with poor Food Consumption Score (male-headed)</b>				
200787 REFUGEE CAMPS/NEPAL, <b>Project End Target:</b> 2017.12, <b>Base value:</b> 2014.12, WFP programme monitoring, HH survey, <b>Previous Follow-up:</b> 2016.12, WFP programme monitoring, HH Survey, <b>Latest Follow-up:</b> 2017.12, WFP programme monitoring, HH Survey	<1.00	0.50	0.00	1.00
<b>Diet Diversity Score (female-headed households)</b>				
200787 REFUGEE CAMPS/NEPAL, <b>Project End Target:</b> 2017.12, Nutrition Survey, <b>Base value:</b> 2014.12, WFP programme monitoring, HH survey, <b>Previous Follow-up:</b> 2016.12, WFP programme monitoring, HH Survey, <b>Latest Follow-up:</b> 2017.12, WFP programme monitoring, HH Survey	=4.50	7.06	5.01	4.81
<b>Diet Diversity Score (male-headed households)</b>				
200787 REFUGEE CAMPS/NEPAL, <b>Project End Target:</b> 2017.12, Nutrition Survey, <b>Base value:</b> 2014.12, WFP programme monitoring, HH survey, <b>Previous Follow-up:</b> 2016.12, WFP programme monitoring, HH Survey, <b>Latest Follow-up:</b> 2017.12, WFP programme monitoring, HH Survey	=4.50	6.95	5.02	4.94
<b>Project-specific</b>				
<b>ART Default Rate (%)</b>				
200787 REFUGEE CAMPS/NEPAL, <b>Project End Target:</b> 2017.12, Nutrition Survey, <b>Base value:</b> 2014.12, Secondary data, Nutrition Survey, <b>Previous Follow-up:</b> 2016.12, Secondary data, Nutrition Survey	<15.00	0.00	0.00	-

## Output Indicators

Output	Unit	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
<b>SO1: General Distribution (GD)</b>				
Number of refugee families benefiting from reclamation gardening programme	household	2,500	2,591	103.6%

## Gender Indicators

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
<b>Proportion of households where females and males together make decisions over the use of cash, voucher or food</b>				
NEPAL, General Distribution (GD), <b>Project End Target:</b> 2017.12, <b>Base value:</b> 2015.12, <b>Previous Follow-up:</b> 2016.12, <b>Latest Follow-up:</b> 2017.12	=50.00	28.60	17.60	20.00

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
<b>Proportion of households where females make decisions over the use of cash, voucher or food</b>				
<i>NEPAL, General Distribution (GD), Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2015.12, Previous Follow-up: 2016.12, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12</i>	=25.00	57.10	77.20	68.00
<b>Proportion of households where males make decisions over the use of cash, voucher or food</b>				
<i>NEPAL, General Distribution (GD), Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2015.12, Previous Follow-up: 2016.12, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12</i>	>25.00	14.30	5.20	12.00
<b>Proportion of women beneficiaries in leadership positions of project management committees</b>				
<i>NEPAL, General Distribution (GD), Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2015.12, Previous Follow-up: 2016.12, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12</i>	=50.00	48.00	50.00	50.00
<b>Proportion of women project management committee members trained on modalities of food, cash, or voucher distribution</b>				
<i>NEPAL, General Distribution (GD), Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2015.12, Previous Follow-up: 2016.12, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12</i>	>90.00	64.00	35.00	39.00

## Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations Indicators

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
<b>Proportion of assisted people informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)</b>				
<i>NEPAL, General Distribution (GD), Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2015.12, Previous Follow-up: 2016.12, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12</i>	>80.00	79.00	75.90	89.20
<b>Proportion of assisted people who do not experience safety problems travelling to, from and/or at WFP programme site</b>				
<i>NEPAL, General Distribution (GD), Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2015.12, Previous Follow-up: 2016.12, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12</i>	>90.00	99.60	100.00	100.00

## Partnership Indicators

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project End Target	Latest Follow-up
<b>Amount of complementary funds provided to the project by partners (including NGOs, civil society, private sector organizations, international financial institutions and regional development banks)</b>		
<i>NEPAL, General Distribution (GD), Project End Target: 2017.12, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12</i>	=0.00	4,160.99
<b>Number of partner organizations that provide complementary inputs and services</b>		
<i>NEPAL, General Distribution (GD), Project End Target: 2017.12, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12</i>	=3.00	2.00
<b>Proportion of project activities implemented with the engagement of complementary partners</b>		
<i>NEPAL, General Distribution (GD), Project End Target: 2017.12, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12</i>	=100.00	100.00

## Resource Inputs from Donors

### Resource Inputs from Donors

Donor	Cont. Ref. No.	Commodity	Purchased in 2017 (mt)	
			In-Kind	Cash
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Rice	-	706
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Rice - Brokens 25%	-	142
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Split Peas	-	15
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Vegetable Oil	-	5
Private Donors	WPD-C-03874-01	Rice	-	285
Private Donors	WPD-C-03874-01	Split Peas	-	44
Private Donors	WPD-C-03874-01	Vegetable Oil	-	1
USA	USA-C-01112-02	Rice	-	15
		<b>Total</b>	-	<b>1,212</b>