



World Food Programme

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WFP Nepal Country Brief February 2019

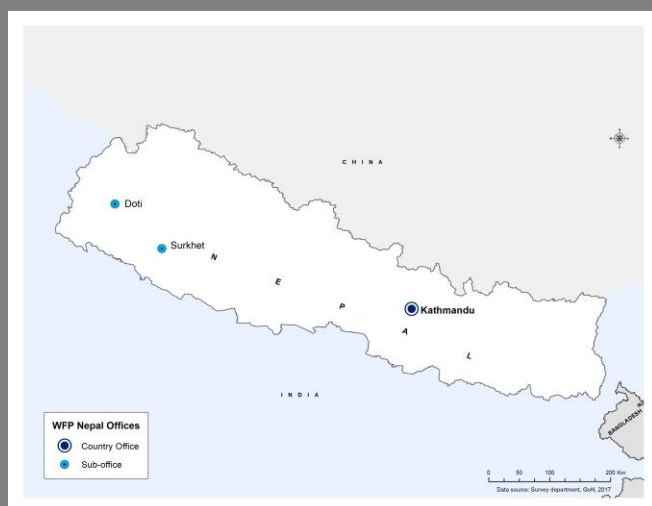


Operational Context

The Constitution of Nepal, adopted in 2015, restructured the country as a federal democratic republic, representing a new era for the country at an opportune time to make progress on Agenda 2030. The new Right to Food Act enshrines food as a fundamental right of every citizen. Both changes present an opportunity to include Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 in national policies, budgets and sub-national plans in the new federal structure.

The Zero Hunger Strategic Review (ZHSR), conducted in 2017-18, found that the country still suffers from serious food insecurity and malnutrition despite commendable progress on these fronts. It also outlined a series of recommendations to address the problem.

WFP has been operating in Nepal since 1963.



Population: **29.8 million** (Jan 2019)

2017 Human Development Index: **149 out of 188**

Income Level: **Least developed**

Chronic malnutrition: **36% of children between 6-59 months**

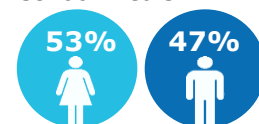
In Numbers

4.6 m food insecure people

1.4 m pregnant and nursing women malnourished

US\$ 5 m six months (Mar-Aug 2019) net funding requirements

201,758 children received WFP school meals in February 2019.



Operational Updates

- Together with government representatives from the Health and Agriculture sectors, the Deputy Prime Minister of Nepal launched the "Towards Zero Hunger in Nepal: A Strategic Review of Food Security and Nutrition" 2018 report in February. The report provides a consolidated picture of the food security and nutrition status, challenges, opportunities and recommendations towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal 2: Zero Hunger in Nepal by 2030. The World Food Programme provided technical support for the strategic review along with the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF).
- WFP signed an Operational Agreement with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology to implement Activity 3 (education component) of the Nepal Country Strategic Plan 2019-2023. Under the agreement, WFP will continue activities in support of the School Sector Development Plan and the Sustainable Development Goals, in alignment with the federalizing structure of the country.
- WFP is supporting the agriculture, food security and nutrition components of the Government's five-year plan for development known as the 15th Plan Approach Paper. The paper is expected to be completed in the next couple of months.
- Field level agreements for the Climate Change Adaptation Project have been signed with three cooperating partners. The project is aimed at increasing adaptive capacity of climate vulnerable and food insecure poor households by improved management of livelihood assets and natural resources in the mountainous districts of Karnali province.
- The new Chinese Ambassador to Nepal Ms Hou Yanqi – visited WFP in February to meet the Country Director. Potential funding and future collaborations were discussed during the meeting.
- In February, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) of Australia signed a five-year funding agreement with WFP. DFAT's interests lies in WFP's emergency preparedness and response work.

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Country Strategic Plan 2019-2023

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Mar - Aug Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
125.8 m	31.6 m	5 m

Strategic Result 1: Access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Affected populations in Nepal have timely access to adequate food and nutrition during and in the aftermath of natural disasters and other shocks.

Activities:

- Provide food assistance for targeted shock-affected people, including food and cash-based transfers (CBTs) and specialized nutritious foods and related services for the treatment and prevention of malnutrition in children aged 6-59 months and pregnant and lactating women and girls.

Strategic Result 1: End Malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 2: Food-insecure people in targeted areas have improved nutrition throughout the key stages of their lives by 2025.

Activities:

- Support the strengthening of national nutrition-sensitive, gender-responsive social safety nets for vulnerable populations and provide specialized nutritious foods, technical assistance, logistics and social behaviour change communication for the prevention of malnutrition.
- Provide gender-transformative and nutrition-sensitive school meals and health packages in chronically food-insecure areas and strengthen the Government's capacity to integrate the national school meals programme into the national social protection framework.
- Provide technical support to the Government for the development of a rice-fortification policy framework and supply chain system for use in social safety nets.

Strategic Result 2: Sustainable Food Systems

Strategic Outcome 3: Vulnerable communities in remote food-insecure areas have improved food security and resilience to climate and other shocks by 2030.

Activities:

- Develop and improve risk-resilient infrastructure and strengthen local capacity to identify climate risks and implement adaptive strategies.

Strategic Result 3: Nepal has Strengthened Capacity to Implement the SDGs

Strategic Outcome 4: The Government has strengthened capabilities to provide essential food security and nutrition services and respond to crises by 2023.

Activities:

- Strengthen preparedness capacity, establish emergency logistics and institutional platforms and improve access to food reserves to enable government and humanitarian partners to respond rapidly to crises.
- Provide technical assistance to enable the Government to strengthen the food security monitoring, analysis and early-warning system and align it with the federal governance system.

Strategic Result 4: Nepal has enhanced policy coherence on FSN

Strategic Outcome 5: Government efforts towards achieving zero hunger by 2030 are supported by inclusive and coherent policy frameworks across all spheres of government by 2023.

Activities:

- Provide technical assistance and support evidence generation for government and multisector partners to enhance rights-based food security and nutrition plans, policies, regulatory frameworks and service delivery.

- WFP signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal (CAAN) to build a forward logistics base (FLB) at Dhangadhi airport. This facility will be the second of seven planned logistics staging areas at the provincial level, the first being in Nepalgunj.
- The "Build Back Better" project improving roads and trails is currently ongoing in Dolakha district. 37 percent of trail and 60 percent of road improvement work has been completed.

Monitoring

- Field level data collection for the final evaluation of the protracted earthquake relief and recovery operation has been completed. The team are now working on completing the evaluation report.

Challenges

- Staff turnover is expected at the provincial level which could lead to delays in the implementation of WFP's activities. A pipeline break is anticipated in the MCHN programme due to this.

Zero Hunger Strategic Review of SDG 2 in Nepal

The National Planning Commission's (NPC) launch of the report "Towards Zero Hunger in Nepal: A Strategic Review of Food Security and Nutrition, 2018" was conducted in mid-February. The report was released jointly by the NPC and Honourable Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Health and Population Upendra Yadav who highlighted the need to develop collaborative approaches across sectors and all stakeholders to enable access to nutritious and affordable locally produced food.

The UN Resident Coordinator Valerie Juliande lauded the Government on their Right to Food and Food Sovereignty Act and noted that it was essential for the country under the current context of federalism. She also emphasised that the federal governance system in Nepal provides an opportunity to achieve food security for all its people, contributing to SDG 2.

Donors

Australia, Canada, Germany, Japan, Norway, the Government of Nepal, United States of America, United Kingdom, United Nations and private donors.