



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Nepal Country Brief July 2019



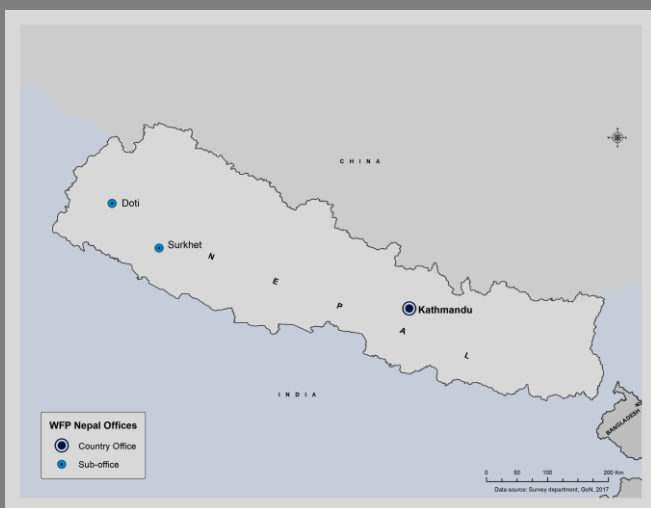
A woman affected by flooding receives emergency food assistance from WFP.

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 the 2030 Agenda. 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**

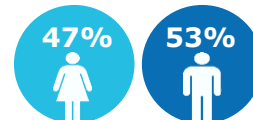
In Numbers

4.6 million food-insecure people

1.4 million malnourished pregnant and lactating women

US\$ 2.75 million, six-month (Aug 2019-January 2020) net funding requirements

208,757 children received WFP school meals in July 2019.



Operational Updates

- Since 9 July, districts across the Terai – the southern belt of Nepal - have been hit by heavy rains, triggering flash floods and landslides. WFP is providing food assistance to 58,500 severely food-insecure people in the four worst-affected districts – Rautahat, Siraha, Sarlahi and Mahottari.
- At the request of the Ministry of Home Affairs, WFP has sent five aluminium boats to five flood-affected districts in the Terai – Banke, Kailali, Rupandehi, Parsa and Morang – to support relief operations.
- The Nepal Food Security Monitoring System (NeKSAP) has conducted assessments through the 72-hour approach, using remote sensing, accessibility, as well as market and price data to identify the worst-affected households and quantify the extent of the flood damage.
- Under Strategic Outcome 2 of WFP's Nepal Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023) (the CSP), the Technical Working Group under the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, has finalised the integrated National School Meals Programme Implementation Guidelines. These guidelines are expected to standardize the implementation of school meals across the country.
- In July, WFP signed a Memorandum of Understanding on rice fortification with the Government of Nepal. WFP has been supporting policy development to encourage the inclusion of locally fortified rice in food assistance packages to help reduce imports and ensure a sustainable supply.
- Engineering work under Strategic Outcome 3 of the CSP was disrupted this month due to the monsoon rains. Once the rains subside, all work will resume as normal.
- WFP supported an Operational Emergency Logistics training for the Nepal Army. 29 officers participated in the event, held at Chauni, of which 21 percent were women.

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Country Strategic Plan 2019-2023

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Aug 2019 – Jan 2020 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
125.8 m	44.28 m	2.75 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 2: 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 4: 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 5: 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 6: 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.

Challenges

- NeKSAP, supported by WFP, continues to monitor warning levels for floods across the country. Several WFP activities have halted due to monsoon rains, which may continue into August.
- The district of Udayapur has officially requested WFP assistance to support the flood victims. WFP is seeking additional funding to ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable are met.

WFP's flood response



Recent flooding has exacerbated the pre-crisis vulnerabilities of the Terai region. Many flooded areas in these districts were affected by major flooding in 2017 and had not yet fully recovered. In 2017, when the worst floods in 15 years hit the Terai plains of Nepal, WFP was on the ground within days providing lifesaving food and nutrition assistance to 160,000 people, including over 50,000 pregnant and nursing women and children under five.

Despite being considered the food basket of the country, the rates of acutely malnourished and underweight children aged 6-59 months in the Terai region are among the highest in the country, at 12.2 percent and 32.5 percent respectively.

WFP has mobilized staff in four of the worst affected districts - Mahottari, Rautahat, Siraha and Sarlahi – who are working together with cooperating partners to distribute food assistance to the most vulnerable populations. WFP is also preparing an emergency nutrition response under a blanket supplementary feeding programme targeting women and children to prevent further deterioration in malnutrition rates.

Donors

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