



WFP Nepal Country Brief March 2020

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

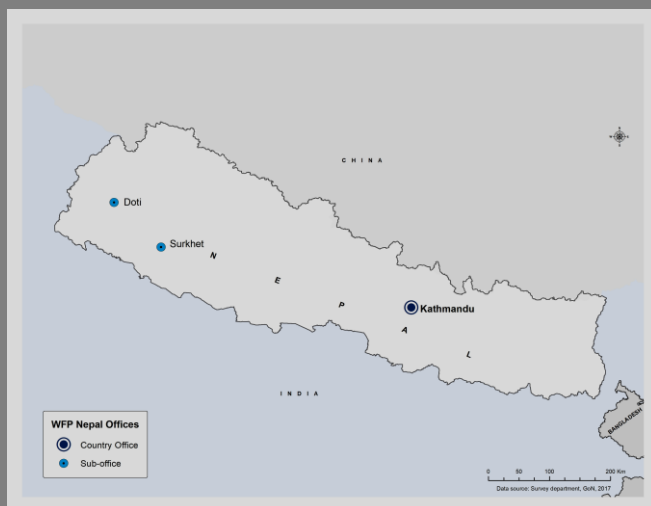


Operational Context

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)

2019 Human Development Index: **147 out of 189**

Income Level: **Least developed**

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

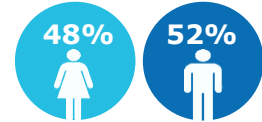
In Numbers

4.6 million food-insecure people

1.4 million malnourished pregnant and lactating women

US\$ 1.57 million, six-month (Apr - Sept 2020) net funding requirements

160,698 children received WFP school meals in March 2020.



Situational Updates

- As of 31 March, Nepal had five confirmed cases (4 live; 1 recovered) of COVID-19. The country has been on a national lockdown since 24 March with all movement on the roads, by vehicle and on foot, strictly prohibited with very limited exceptions. Emergency responders, security forces, and UN staff are exempt. Nepal also closed its borders and introduced a complete travel ban for all domestic and international flights till at least 30 April.
- The national lockdown has impacted WFP operations across the country; however, WFP is doing its utmost to minimize disruption and continue to reach vulnerable populations in Nepal.

Operational Updates

- WFP commenced the three-year Japan-funded support to the school feeding programme in March. Under this programme, WFP will strengthen the capacity of both governments and schools with the aim of increasing the effectiveness of the Government's cash-based school feeding programme in Nuwakot district. In addition, the project will also work towards improving nutrition in schools while adjusting the implementation modality to a home-grown school feeding approach.
- COVID-19 caused no recorded disruptions to the school feeding programme, as schools usually close around March, as per the Nepali calendar. WFP is developing a contingency plan with its cooperating partners in case schools must remain shut for more than two months.
- WFP continued to provide technical assistance to provincial governments in the Karnali region to support the smooth implementation of the mother and child health and nutrition programme until the nation-wide lockdown, which forced activities to come to a halt. WFP is working closely with the Government and other stakeholders to design an appropriate strategy that will ensure continuity of the programme.

Country Strategic Plan 2019-2023		
Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Apr-Sep 2020 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
126.64 m	54.38 m	1.57 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:

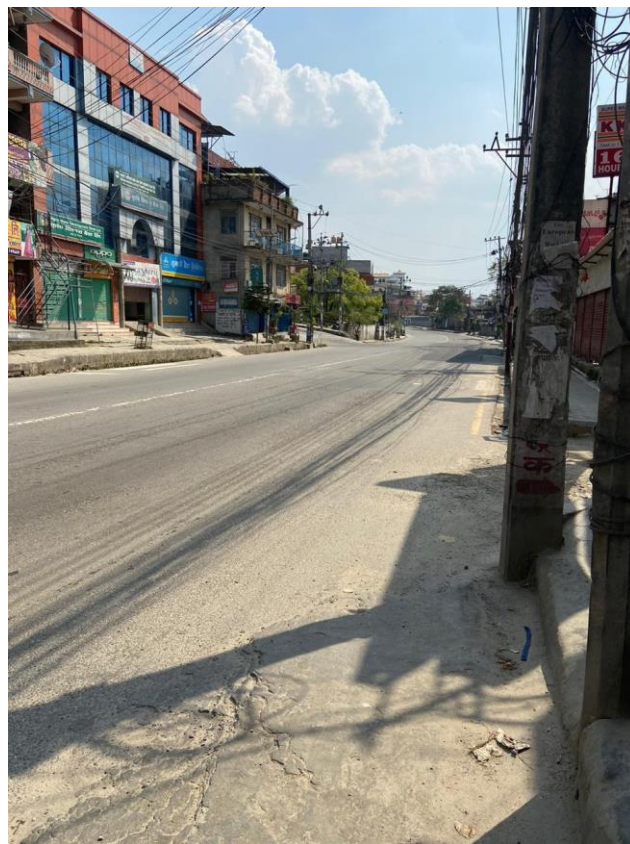
- Provide technical assistance and support evidence generation for government and multisector partners to enhance rights-based food security and nutrition plans, policies, regulatory frameworks and service delivery.

- In March, WFP is adapting its daily field monitoring throughout the country to the current context; these include price monitoring, identifying vulnerable populations and macro monitoring of the situation in the country.
- As the lead agency of the Logistics Cluster, WFP is coordinating closely with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Health Directorate on the possibility of consolidating shipments of COVID-19 related health supplies from China planned by the Government and other development partners. The Cluster has also finalised a health facility assessment in six provinces, jointly undertaken with the World Health Organization (WHO).

Challenges

- WFP is currently conducting a range of food security monitoring activities to monitor and track the impacts of COVID-19 on food security in Nepal brought about by collateral effects of the lockdown and reduced tourism and remittances. These activities however are currently mobilized through internal resources and additional donor funding is needed.

Photos from the field



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A usually busy Kathmandu road empty as the government-imposed lockdown continues into April.

Donors

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