



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Nepal Country Brief

April 2020

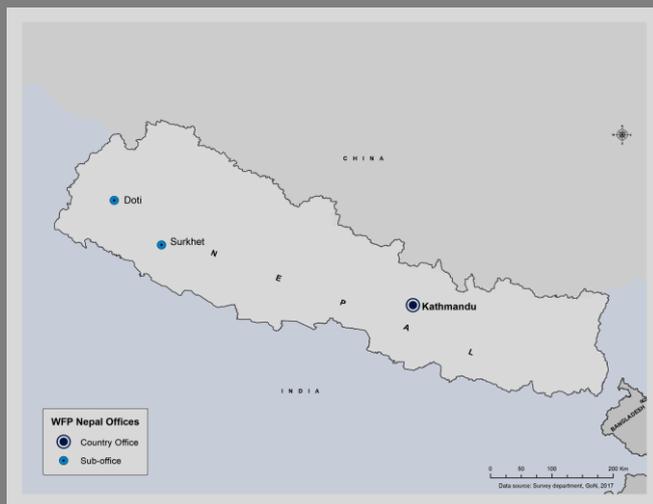


Operational Context

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\$ 3.67 million, six-month (May - Oct 2020) net funding requirements

23,546 people reached in April 2020

Situational Updates

- As of 30 April, Nepal had a total of 57 confirmed cases of COVID-19. The nation-wide lockdown has been extended till 7 May and may be extended further. The Government is currently working on an exit strategy, which will allow the lockdown in districts which fewer or no cases to be eased. An international and domestic flight ban was also extended to 15 May and is likely to be extended further.
- Since the nation-wide lockdown began on 24 March, WFP has suspended all physical presence at its country office. Activities have also either been suspended, postponed or are being conducted remotely. WFP continues to coordinate with the Government and other UN agencies and partners to assess the impact of the current pandemic – particularly relating to food security – working towards a response.

Operational Updates

- The mother and child health and nutrition programme, which provides nutritional support to pregnant and breastfeeding women and children aged 6-24 months, resumed distribution in some 57 health posts in April, after a three-week break due to the COVID-19 lockdown.
- More than 2.4 million school children (jointly covered by WFP and the Government) are currently missing out on a daily hot school meal due to the COVID-19 pandemic. For some families, the value of a meal in school is equivalent to 10 percent of their household income. For families with several children in school, that usually means substantial savings, and the loss of a daily school meal means further financial loss. To mitigate the impact that school closures may have on these households, WFP is working with the Government and partners to ensure that school children and their families continue to receive support that addresses their food and nutritional requirements during the COVID-19 crisis. WFP is evaluating possible

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Country Strategic Plan 2019-2023

| Total Requirement (in USD) | Allocated Contributions (in USD) | May-Oct 2020 Net Funding Requirements (in USD) |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| 126.64 m | 54.23 m | 3.67 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.

alternatives to redirect existing assistance programmes to respond to the current crisis. This includes providing take-home rations in lieu of the meals at schools.

- Under Strategic Objective 4, WFP has rapidly scaled up national food security monitoring, conducting one round of nationally representative household surveys, two rounds of market monitoring, and piloting of the new Market Functionality Index tool in April.
- WFP has been providing storage and transport services in support of the National Logistics Cluster, led by the Ministry of Home Affairs, free of cost to the users, applicable for storage and transport at all three of its Humanitarian Staging Areas, which are located in Kathmandu, Dhangadhi and Nepalgunj.

Challenges

- The nation-wide lockdown has meant that many of WFP's core activities including asset creation, the school feeding programme, and forecast based financing field activities have been put on hold. WFP is working on alternative methods to ensure that the people WFP serves do not go hungry.

Photos from the field

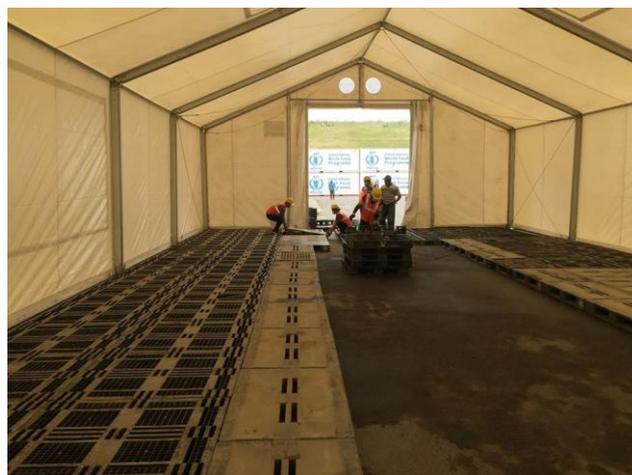


Photo Page 2: © World Food Programme

WFP staff preparing the Humanitarian Staging Area in Kathmandu for the arrival of COVID-19 related medical supplies. WFP has been providing free storage and transport services in support of the National Logistics Cluster, led by the Ministry of Home Affairs, free of cost to the users applicable for storage and transport.

Donors

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