



WFP Nepal Country Brief May 2020

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

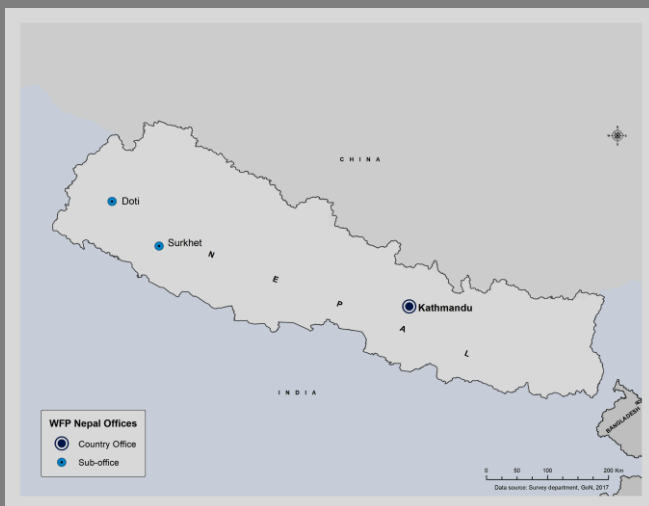


Operational Context

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\$ 3.67 million, six-month (June - Nov 2020) net funding requirements

31,747 people reached in May 2020

Situational Updates

- As of 31 May, Nepal had 1,572 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Due to the sharp increase in cases, the Government of Nepal extended the on-going lockdown till 14 June. All domestic and international flights are also grounded till 30 June.
- Since the nation-wide lockdown began on 24 March, WFP has suspended all physical presence at its country office, maintaining continuity through remote working. WFP continues to work with the Government and other development partners to reprioritize and modify programmes to ensure that those most affected by COVID-19 are reached.

Operational Updates

- Under the mother and child health and nutrition (MCHN) programme, WFP has resumed its distribution of fortified nutritious food to pregnant and nursing women and children aged 6–23 months. This programme is currently operating in 117 health facilities, with the 11 remaining facilities scheduled to begin soon.
- After receiving approval from local governments, WFP resumed its suspended climate change activities in three districts – Jumla, Mugu and Kalikot. All health and safety protocols have been adhered to in all work sites to minimise COVID-19 infections. These food assistance for asset activities will provide immediate employment to 3,000 vulnerable households, many of which have had their vulnerability exacerbated by the on-going pandemic.
- Given the current context, capacity strengthening and community sensitization activities under Strategic Outcome 3 have been suspended, with resources repurposed to implement short-term vocational trainings targeting unemployed youth and returnee migrants. Nepal is currently seeing an influx of migrants returning from neighbouring India.
- Through the National Logistics Cluster, WFP has been providing free transport and storage services to its users, transporting a total of 26.1 mt of medical supplies for the Government and other humanitarian agencies during the month.

Country Strategic Plan 2019-2023

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Jun-Nov 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.

- While schools remain closed due to the nation-wide lockdown, WFP is collaborating with Government on plans to deliver a nutritious take-home food basket to students and their families. These will be delivered either during the current school closure imposed, or after closures as an incentive to bring students back to school, or both.

Challenges

- The nation-wide lockdown continues to disrupt WFP's Country Strategic Plan and some activities. WFP is adjusting programme implementation based on current needs, collaborating with other UN agencies and the Government.

Photos from the field



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- Nepal's borders are currently seeing a huge influx of returnee migrants from India. Many have travelled for days without food and sometimes water. WFP's Surkhet team – led by Purna Nepali – have been on the ground serving daily hot meals to almost 14,000 returnees. All health and safety regulations set by the Government were met by the team.

Donors

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