



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Nepal Country Brief June 2020

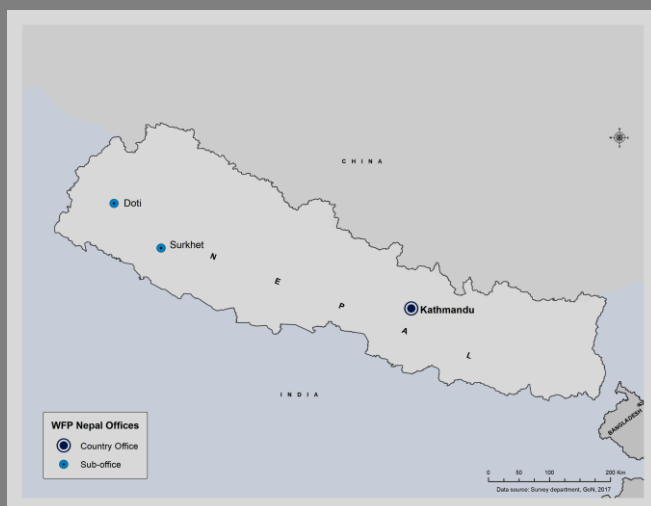


Operational Context

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

2.8 million food-insecure people

1.4 million malnourished pregnant and lactating women

US\$ 2.59 million, six-month (Jul - Dec 2020) net funding requirements

33,210 people reached in June 2020

Situational Updates

- COVID-19 has now spread across all of Nepal's 77 districts – as of 30 June, the national tally of cases was 13,248 and includes 3,134 recoveries and 29 fatalities. The nation-wide lockdown, which was implemented on 24 March was eased in June with the Government allowing limited industries and services to re-open with strict measures in place.

Operational Updates

- WFP officially received approval from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in June to start take-home rations for school feeding beneficiaries. Plans are currently being developed with the Government to see that 156,000 children across seven districts are reached.
- WFP provided food and water to 31,900 returnee migrants (returning from India) at various transit points in Karnali and Sudurpaschim Provinces through collaborative efforts with provincial and local governments, other UN agencies, as well as local volunteer organizations.
- After approval from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Law, Karnali Province and District Administrative Office, Surkhet, WFP commenced construction of a Provincial Humanitarian Staging Area this month, while ensuring that strict COVID-19 preventive measures and provincial and local government guidelines were followed.
- Since the lockdown began in March, WFP has completed two food assistance-for-assets projects in Kalikot: a multipurpose hi-tech community nursery and a multi-use water system micro-hydro project (rehabilitated after damage from a landslide). Fifteen additional food assistance-for-assets projects are ongoing in Jumla, Mugu, and Kalikot, creating employment for 6,250 participants (for 32 days) who have been identified as most vulnerable.
- A [recent survey](#) published by WFP on the impact of COVID-19 on Nepali households revealed that 23 percent of households in the country did not have adequate diets, and over 7 percent said they had run out of food. The results also confirmed adverse effects of the pandemic on livelihoods and household food access.

Contact info: Kessang Lama (kessang.lama@wfp.org)

Country Director: Pippa Bradford

Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/nepal

Country Strategic Plan 2019-2023

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Jul-Dec 2020 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
126.64 m	60.39 m	2.59 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.

- WFP has continued its mother and child health and nutrition programme, reaching pregnant and nursing mothers and children aged 06-59 months in the Karnali. In June, it completed distribution in 125 health facilities.

Challenges

- Monsoon has arrived in Nepal, causing numerous landslides and at least 26 reported deaths. WFP has prepared a flood response plan and is on stand-by should an emergency be declared by the Government. The rains, coupled with COVID-19 related movement restrictions, may cause implementation delays.

Highlights from the field



Photo Page 2: © World Food Programme

Under WFP's Strategic Outcome 3, various food assistance-for-assets projects are ongoing. WFP is adhering to strict COVID-19 guidelines, checking the temperatures of all those working on WFP sites daily. Cash-based transfers totalling USD \$110k have been delivered to participants for these activities. This has been a great source of support especially during the current climate, allowing beneficiaries to purchase essential items.



Donors

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