



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Nepal Country Brief July 2020

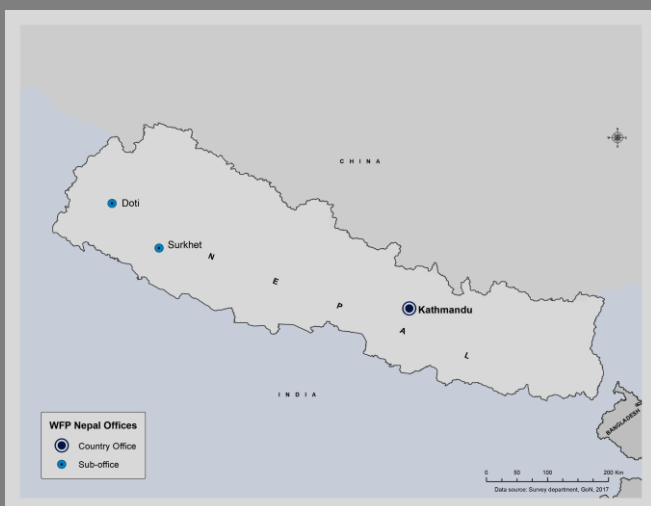


Operational Context

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**

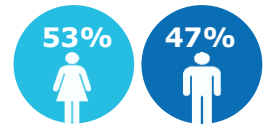
In Numbers

2.8 million food-insecure people

1.4 million malnourished pregnant and lactating women

US\$ 1.24 million, six-month (August 2020 - January 2021) net funding requirements

138,919 children reached in July 2020



Situational Updates

- Nepal's COVID-19 tally reached 19,547 in July. The nation-wide lockdown, which was implemented on 24 March, was lifted on 21 July. Domestic and international flights remain grounded.
- The annual monsoon rains, which started in late June, intensified in July triggering widespread landslides and flooding in many parts of Nepal. The Ministry of Home Affairs reported that 163 people have lost their lives, mostly due to landslides in hilly districts, with at least another 57 missing. According to the Nepal Red Cross Society, as of 30 July 2020, 15,307 families have been affected in various districts and 7,106 families have been displaced.

Operational Updates

- In July, WFP, together with the Government, commenced distribution of 1,200 mt of take-home rations, consisting of fortified rice, lentils and vegetable oil, reaching 138,000 children and their families under the school feeding programme across seven districts.
- To prevent malnutrition, WFP started a blanket supplementary feeding programme in two provinces, in late July. This programme is part of WFP's COVID-19 response and will initially target 20,000 beneficiaries, including children aged 6-23 months, pregnant and nursing mothers, and the elderly in isolation facilities, as well as other groups who are vulnerable to COVID-19's adverse impacts.
- The construction of 20 food assistance-for-assets activities is ongoing in Jumla, Kalikot and Mugu. These projects have created employment for 1,800 households for an average of 32 days benefiting 17,500 people.
- In collaboration with the Ministry of Home Affairs, WFP conducted an outboard motorboat operation and maintenance training in 12 flood-prone districts in July. A total of 144 participants from three security forces were trained in monsoon preparedness.

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Country Strategic Plan 2019-2023

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Aug 2020-Jan 2021 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
126.64 m	62.04 m	1.24 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 activated its forecast based anticipatory action for the monsoon floods and distributed NPR 3,150 (USD 26) of unconditional cash to 2,104 pre-selected vulnerable beneficiaries each, through bank transfers. The anticipatory cash assistance is expected to strengthen disaster preparedness of vulnerable communities in high-risk areas, by providing them with the means to secure essential items such as food and medicine before a disaster.

Challenges

- Despite the lifting of the nation-wide lockdown, cases of COVID-19 continue to rise daily. This coupled with the annual monsoon rains will likely cause delays to implementation of several WFP operations.

Highlights from the field



Thousands of people across the southern plains of Nepal's Terai have been left homeless due to the monsoon. In Kailali, more than 7,000 people are currently living in temporary shelters while homes, livestock and crops continue to be ravaged by the rains. WFP has been on the ground in Kailali supporting the Nepali Army with rescue missions, donating four boats.



Donors

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

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