



WFP Nepal Country Brief August 2020

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

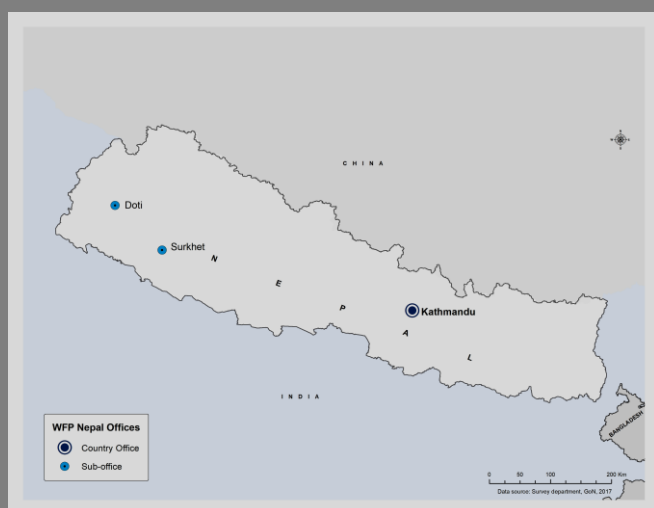


Operational Context

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**

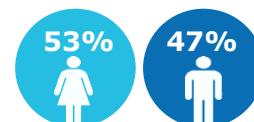
In Numbers

2.8 million food-insecure people

1.4 million malnourished pregnant and lactating women

US\$ 1.28 million, six-month (September 2020 - February 2021) net funding requirements

67,812 people reached in August 2020



Situational Updates

- Due to the increasing number of COVID-19 cases, the Government of Nepal renewed a lockdown in several provinces across the country. Out of 48 districts with lockdowns, 35 have imposed lockdowns throughout their districts, including Kathmandu Valley, while 13 have imposed partial lockdown in specific areas. Domestic and international flights remain grounded, with only repatriation flights arriving at the international airport in Kathmandu. As of 31 August, Nepal's tally of the virus stands at 39,460, up from 19,547 one month earlier.

Operational Updates

- The blanket supplementary feeding programme (BSFP) – a part of WFP's COVID-19 response - continues in the four districts of Rautahat, Sarlahi, Siraha and Saptari of Province 2. The programme is implemented in close coordination with federal- and local-level governments. WFP has started preparing to expand the BSFP to additional locations. In August, WFP reached 18,269 beneficiaries, of which 11,117 were children 6 to 23 months.
- WFP, in coordination with the Ministry of Education and local governments, completed distribution of take-home rations (THR) consisting of rice, lentils and vegetable oil, to 153,801 students in seven food insecure districts of Karnali and Sudurpaschim. This measure was undertaken in lieu of school meals. A second round of THR distribution is planned for September.
- WFP has postponed capacity strengthening and community awareness activities and is instead focusing on income generating activities for households vulnerable to the impacts of COVID-19. More than 1,800 households vulnerable to the impacts of COVID-19 received immediate employment for an average of 32 days, benefitting more than 3,500 households.

Country Strategic Plan 2019-2023

| Total Requirement (in USD) | Allocated Contributions (in USD) | Sep 2020-Feb 2021 Net Funding Requirements (in USD) |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| 126.64 m | 62.48 m | 1.28 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 resumed construction of a Food Management and Trading Company (FMTC) depot and a provincial humanitarian staging area in August in Nepalgunj and Surkhet. The construction had been suspended for approximately two weeks due to the increasing number of COVID-19 cases.
- Despite a prohibitory order in Jajarkot, WFP - in agreement with local authorities - successfully completed a general food distribution supporting nearly 800 households affected by the recent landslides. Support for an additional 1,200 households is currently being planned.

Challenges

- The increasing number of COVID-19 cases across the country has resulted in new restrictions in movement imposed by the Government. This will likely cause disruptions to WFP's activities - some of which continue to be affected by the first lockdown.

Highlights from the field



Heavy rainfall in late July triggered flash floods in some areas in Nepal's southern plains, affecting mainly Kailali district. The inundation caused damage to assets, agriculture production as well as food stocks. Through a generous contribution from Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), WFP was able to reach 6,500 flood-affected people in Kailali with multi-purpose cash assistance.



Donors

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