



WFP Nepal Country Brief September 2020

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

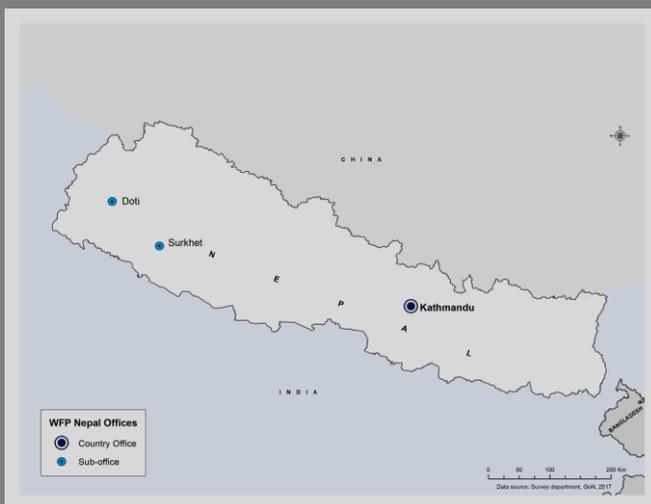


Operational Context

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

1.84 million malnourished pregnant and lactating women

US\$ 1.87 million, six-month (Oct 2020 - March 2021) net funding requirements

36,706 people reached in September 2020



Situational Updates

- In September, the Government of Nepal lifted most of the lockdown that was placed in the previous month, however, places or institutions with potential for high intensity transmission (including schools, colleges, seminars, trainings, workshops, swimming pool, religious places, etc.) are to remain closed until further notice. The country has also resumed its international and domestic flights, which had been suspended in March. As of 30 September, the national COVID-19 tally stands at 76,258, which includes 491 fatalities.

Operational Updates

- After a successful first round of take-home ration distributions, WFP, in coordination with the Ministry of Education Science and Technology, is planning a second round in October. The package - consisting of rice, lentils, vegetable oil and salt - is expected to reach 156,000 children of the Karnali and Sudar Pachim Province in-lieu of school meals.
- The blanket supplementary feeding programme (BSFP) - a response to COVID-19 and monsoon - is still ongoing in four districts: Rautahat, Sarlahi, Siraha and Saptari of Province 2. In areas where movement was restricted, WFP coordinated a safe door-to-door method to ensure that no one was left out. The BSFP targets pregnant and nursing mothers and children aged 6-23 months. The programme will expand to an additional three districts - Dhanusa, Mahottari and Sunsari - in the coming weeks.
- Under emergency preparedness and response activities, WFP completed a gap analysis on remote trails and community infrastructure in Bajhang, Bajura and Dolpa. In total, WFP identified 1,741 km in the three districts. The identified data will be validated by local stakeholders in an upcoming workshop.

Country Strategic Plan 2019-2023

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Oct 2020-Mar 2021 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
126.64 m	64.85 m	1.87 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.

- Under the Rural Women's Economic Empowerment project, the construction of two agri-product storage facilities has been completed in Rautahat and Sarlahi, as part of food assistance-for-assets activities. WFP is planning skills and vocational trainings for unemployed women and youth economically affected by COVID-19.
- Under the CAFS-Karnali project, WFP currently has 18 food assistance-for-assets activities ongoing in Jumla, Kalikot and Mugu. The work sites follow all COVID-19 related safety protocols. and benefit 3,200 local households. Assets being constructed include water-supply systems, post-harvest storage facilities and irrigation facilities. Plans for an additional ten schemes are currently underway.
- Under its engineering activities, WFP resumed the construction of kitchens and hygiene stations at 20 schools in Jajarkot, as well as improvement work on several trails in Gorkha.

Highlight of the month



Since the beginning of the pandemic and the subsequent nation-wide lockdown across the country in March, WFP's logistics team has been on the ground at the Humanitarian Staging Areas (HSA) in Kathmandu, Nepalgunj and Dhangadi handling relief supplies for the Government and humanitarian agencies. As of 19 September, WFP has provided storage space for over 592 mt of medical supplies, and coordinated the transportation of 4,090 mt. In addition to this, WFP also coordinated 9 passenger flights, from 03 June to 09 September, that transported 441 passengers of UN agencies, INGOs and Embassies. More information on the Logistics Cluster can be found [here](#).

Donors

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