



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Nepal Country Brief December 2020

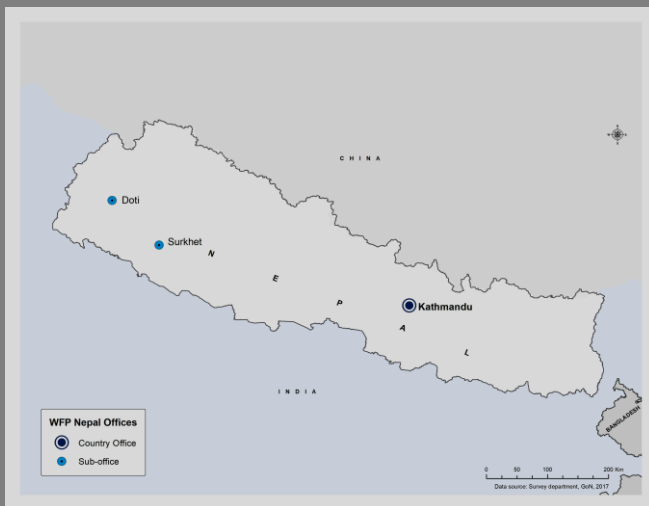


Operational Context

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

1.84 million malnourished pregnant and lactating women

US\$ 0.76 million, six-month (Jan 2021 - Jun 2021) net funding requirements

Operational Updates

- WFP continued to assist communities under the CAFS Karnali project through food assistance-for-assets (FFA) activities, ensuring the most vulnerable populations have opportunities to strengthen their food security and gain employment. In Jumla, Kalikot and Mugu, WFP currently has 23 ongoing FFA activities, directly benefiting 6,900 households, or 34,500 people. Assets being created under these activities include solar-powered community service centres, multipurpose community nurseries and improved water mills. In December, WFP distributed US\$ 102,000 to 787 highly food insecure and vulnerable households under various FFA projects.
- Under the COVID-19 emergency response currently being implemented in Kailali district, WFP is continuing self-employment based vocational training for unemployed and vulnerable women and migrant youths.
- After receiving US\$ 5.75 million for the Livelihoods and Economic Recovery Project (LERP) – a COVID-19 response programme – WFP began implementation of additional FFA activities. Field level agreements with five cooperating partners were signed in December, to allow WFP to begin providing immediate employment opportunities to 13,000 households in five districts – Rautahat, Sarlahi, Dailekh, Kalikot and Bajura. The LERP will contribute towards building resilience and economic recovery from the secondary impacts of COVID-19 through the rehabilitation of infrastructure and assets.
- WFP has been providing technical assistance to the National Planning Commission on Nepal's Fill the Nutrient Gap (FNG) analysis, which is now in the final stages. WFP has shared preliminary results with relevant stakeholders for their input and has started modelling of country specific interventions. The analysis is expected to be completed by March 2021.
- In December, the Government extended the working relationship between WFP and the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development on Nepal Food Security Monitoring System (NeKSAP) related activities. NeKSAP was established by WFP in 2009 with the aim of collecting and analysing food security information to help authorities take action on food insecurity. It has since been handed over to the Government.

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Country Strategic Plan 2019-2023

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Jan 2021-Jun 2021 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
141.73 m	95.84 m	0.76 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 school feeding programme, WFP produced 10 sets of regional home-grown school feeding menus to be adopted by schools in December. These menus deliver nutritionally balanced and locally sourced school meals and include six different meals that meet both the national school meals budget per child and nutritional standards for school meals.
- Under the emergency preparedness and response activity, WFP supported the national logistics cluster to dispatch 12 trucks of approximately 64 mt of medical supplies for various humanitarian agencies and the Government. In addition, an estimated 17 mt of medical supplies was received by WFP to be stored at the Humanitarian Staging Area in Kathmandu.

Highlight of the month



The nation-wide lockdown in Nepal, which lasted for several months, led to the temporary suspension of all economic activities, resulting in the loss of jobs and income for informal workers and the poor. To support vulnerable people, including women, WFP introduced a recovery intervention complementary to an ongoing joint project - *Leveraging Women's Leadership and Empowerment in Value Chains for Resilient Livelihoods* - in selected municipalities of Kailali District in the far-west Sudurpashchim Province, based on the impact of COVID-19 and taking into account pre-existing vulnerabilities.

The project aims to improve food security and generate sustainable income for at least 1,300 rural women to increase resilience to climate change and other shocks. Interventions include short-term vocational and self-employment skills training and job-placements for an estimated 3,750 people, and cash-grants to around 100 families with women-led businesses.

*Pictured above is 35-year-old Shanti Chaudhary from Dhangadhi. WFP's intervention helped Shanti pay off a loan she had taken out for her small business and to invest further in it. Shanti now makes NPR 10,000 (US\$ 85) profit per month and is thankful for WFP's support during such difficult times.

Donors

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