



# WFP Nepal Country Brief January 2021

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

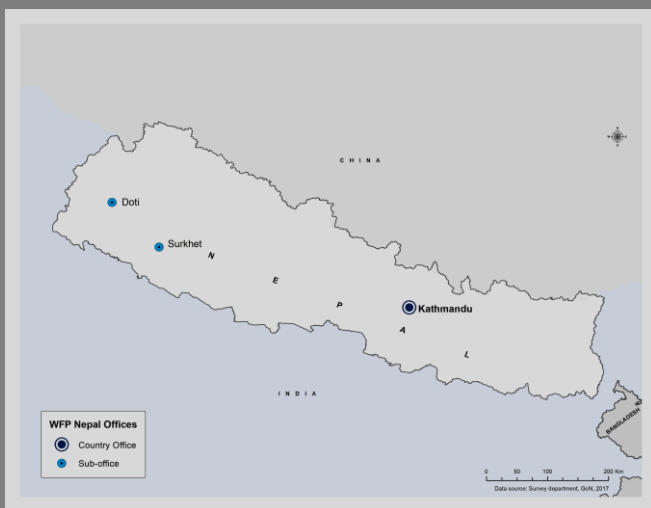


## Operational Context

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\$ 1.01 million**, six-month (Feb 2021 - Jul 2021) net funding requirements

## Operational Updates

- The ongoing CAFS-Karnali project is currently benefitting around 9,000 households - 83 percent of the total households in the project area. Through various food assistance for assets (FFA) activities, the project has led to increased food production, productivity, and food security. Activities to reduce climate-related risks, including agricultural diversification, forest resource management and livelihood diversification have also strengthened the resilience of these vulnerable communities.
- As part of WFP's COVID-19 livelihoods and food security recovery support programmes, around 200 unemployed and returnee migrant youths and women have completed agribusiness related skills training, with many participants then setting up their own businesses. WFP is providing 10,600 of the most vulnerable households in six districts of Province 2, Karnali and Sudurpaschim provinces with immediate short-term wage employment through WFP's FFA activities. A total of 205 community infrastructure projects are being created for livelihoods recovery and to strengthen resilience to shocks and stresses among COVID-19 affected communities. In January, a total of US\$ 115,522 was transferred to 1,065 households as part of FFA projects in Mugu and Jumla districts.
- Under the COVID-19 livelihoods and economic recovery project, WFP has begun the distribution of specialised nutritious food for the prevention of stunting in four districts: Rautahat, Sarlahi, Parsa and Bara. In January, WFP reached 8,330 beneficiaries (3,662 pregnant and nursing women and 4,668 children aged 06 - 23 months). In total, this activity will reach 38,123 beneficiaries in these districts, which suffer from high levels of stunting.
- Contracts have been signed for the construction of the fifth Provincial Humanitarian Staging Area, with construction scheduled to commence in early February. Land agreements have also been secured for three mobile Humanitarian Staging Areas. Work will now commence to confirm layouts and costings so the tender process for construction can begin.
- WFP successfully conducted a four-day practical emergency logistics training course in Dhangadhi this month. The 22 participants, including seven women, were from various national forces, including the Nepali Army, Nepal Police, and local non-government agencies. The training was conducted with the support of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

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## Country Strategic Plan 2019-2023

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Feb 2021-Jul 2021 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>141.65 m</b>	<b>95.84 m</b>	<b>1.01 m</b>

### 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 concluded a third round of take-home ration (THR) distributions this month, reaching 114,782 children in five districts (Achham, Bajhang, Bajura, Darchula and Doti). Schools have begun partial reopening since November 2020; however, most schools are still operating at 50 percent capacity of both students and teachers. THR therefore continue to play an important role in preventing hunger and malnutrition.

## Highlight of the month



When lockdowns were announced in March 2020, Dharamaraj Nepali returned from India to his hometown of Jajarkot in Karnali Province, Nepal. As a migrant worker, Nepali had to leave India at short notice, with little savings. He spent the initial months back home without work, with money running out rapidly. To make matters worse, Jajarkot was one of the worst affected districts of both the pandemic and monsoon-induced landslides, and Nepali and his family were forced to leave their home and live in a makeshift shelter.

*"It was very difficult to abandon our house and stay in a makeshift shelter under a tarpaulin, even for a single day. But I remained displaced for four months. I could not sleep well in such conditions. I was under great stress thinking of my 3 children and family and how to feed them the next morning. It was the most painful time of my life."* – Dharamaraj Nepali

At the request of the Government, WFP began implementing FFA activities targeting beneficiaries affected by the landslides - ensuring 30 days of employment with the aim of improving food security and minimizing the forced migration of people. Through this, Dharamaraj will receive nearly NPR 24,000 (US\$ 207) for his work. "I have an opportunity for employment which will feed my family. I would be wandering very far in search of employment to feed my family, leaving everything behind here, if this opportunity was not in place", says Dharamaraj, with a smile on his face.

## Donors

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