



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Nepal Country Brief April 2021



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\$ 3.49 million, six-month (May 2021 - Oct 2021) net funding requirements

Situational Updates

- COVID-19 cases in Nepal skyrocketed in April, with daily cases rising to over 8,000 in early May and a national positivity rate reported at 47 percent.
- On 26 April, the Government of Nepal announced a lockdown across several districts in the country, including the capital Kathmandu, as a public health measure to help slow the increasing spread of COVID-19. Currently most of the districts in Nepal are in complete or partial lockdown and national and international flights (except two weekly flights to/from India under the air-bubble agreement) have been halted to curb the spread of the virus in the country.
- All WFP staff (in Country Office, Sub-Offices and field) are currently working from home.

Operational Updates

- As part of its technical assistance to the Government, WFP conducted a two-day master Training of Trainers (ToT) - on implementing the national school meals programme - in April to 35 key staff from various government agencies including the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, as well as the Family Welfare Division. The objective of this training was to strengthen the capacity of local stakeholders on nutrition and school meals planning, including the establishment of supply-chain mechanisms based on locally grown and produced food. The training also aimed to strengthen nutrition education capacity and other implementation arrangements to standardize the school meals programme.
- Under the Livelihoods and Economic Recovery Project, WFP distributed US\$ 1.52 million through conditional and unconditional cash transfers to 9,819 vulnerable households from five districts affected by the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 - Sarlahi, Rautahat, Kalikot, Dailekh and Bajura. This cash support is aimed to contribute towards their food security and livelihoods recovery.
- Under the Rural Women's Economic Empowerment - a joint project with UN Women, FAO & IFAD - four agricultural collection storage structures have been constructed through WFP's food assistance-for-assets schemes and handed over to local women's cooperatives. These structures will allow women to store their harvests to guarantee food security during non-productive seasons also.

Contact info: Kessang Lama (kessang.lama@wfp.org)

Country Director a.i.: Jane Pearce

Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/nepal

Country Strategic Plan 2019-2023

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	May - Oct 2021 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
141.65 m	98.54 m	3.49 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.

Strategic Result 8: Enhance Global Partnerships

Strategic Outcome 6: Humanitarian and development partners have access to reliable common services by the end of 2023.

Activities:

- Provide on-demand service provision to all stakeholders in the country in order to support effective humanitarian response.

- Under another COVID-19 programme - the Food Security and Livelihoods Recovery project – WFP provided skill-based vocational trainings and start-up cash grant for self-employed enterprises to 254 rural women who were affected by COVID-19 in Kailali district.
- WFP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MoALD) and province level Ministry of Land Management, Agriculture and Cooperatives (MoLMAC), organized provincial orientations and consultation workshops on the implementation of the Right to Food and Food Security Act/Bylaws in Sudurpaschim, Lumbini and Karnali provinces. These provinces are among the most food insecure in Nepal. All participating government agencies and stakeholders have shown full ownership and commitment to implement this important Act/Bylaws with a view to address food security issues in the country.

WFP's LERP supports families affected by the impact of COVID-19



The Livelihoods and Economic Recovery Project, also known as LERP, has been ongoing since December 2020 in vulnerable districts across Nepal, contributing towards building resilience, creating livelihood opportunities, and providing nutritional support for those severely affected by the pandemic. Nearly 57 percent of the beneficiaries under this programme are women, 26 percent are Dalits, 60 percent are persons with disabilities and 10 people identify as LGBTQs.

Pictured above is a group of women in Rautahat, who had just finished their day at a WFP food assistance-for-assets construction site working on the rehabilitation of an irrigation canal.

The LERP is a year-long programme funded by the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) which is on schedule to conclude in December 2021.

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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Photo Page 2: © WFP/Iksha TUMBAHANGPHE (March 2021)