



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Nepal Country Brief May 2021

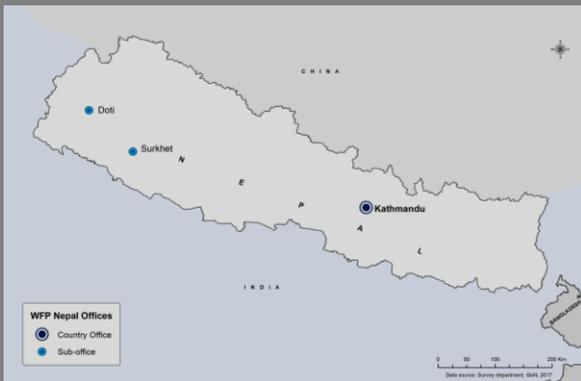


Operational Context

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\$ 3.98 million, six-month (June 2021 - Nov 2021) net funding requirements

Situational Updates

- COVID-19 cases in Nepal hovered around the 9,000-daily mark for much of May before finally dropping in the last week of the month. Tight restrictions on movement across much of the country are credited for the reduced transmission and positivity rate.
- Currently, there is no evidence of widespread acute food insecurity. However, there have been reports of crop losses in rainfed areas in Karnali. WFP is assessing the situation with the provincial government.

Operational Updates

- As the co-lead of the national logistics cluster, WFP has been facilitating and receiving medical supplies sent from the international community at the Humanitarian Staging Area (HSA) in Kathmandu. WFP's services have included storage, transportation, technical assistance coordination and information management. In May, WFP transported 1,202 m³ (out of 2,116 m³ received) of medical supplies to provinces. Furthermore, 2,710 oxygen cylinders have been refilled and transported to hospitals across the capital.
- WFP is currently preparing to resume take-home rations distribution under its school feeding operation. After successfully reaching 160,000 students last year during the first lockdowns, WFP aims to reach these students again through the provision of rice, lentil, and oil.
- Under the Livelihoods and Economic Recovery Project (LERP), WFP distributed US\$ 1.9 million to 12,037 vulnerable households affected by the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19. Current prohibitory orders have resulted in the halting of several food-assistance-for-assets schemes and capacity development activities under the LERP, Climate Change Adaptation for Food Security in Karnali (CAFS Karnali) and Women in Value Chain. Some are partially restarting under strict COVID-19 protocols.
- The Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme under the LERP, which targets pregnant and lactating women and children under two with specialised nutritious food, concluded on schedule this month despite a ten-day halt in distributions due to COVID-19.
- WFP is preparing to undertake an mVAM (WFP's mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping) household survey in coordination with the Food Security Cluster's Technical Working Group and the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development. Primary data collection is pending final approval from the Ministry.

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Country Strategic Plan 2019-2023

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Jun - Nov 2021 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
141.65 m	98.89 m	3.98 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.

Challenges

- While cases have since declined, prohibitory orders remain in most districts, including WFP's programme districts. Beneficiaries under WFP's mother and child health and nutrition programme have not been able to visit health centres to receive their nutritious food and other services due to restriction in movement. Social behaviour and change communication activities have also been affected. WFP is reviewing the current modality to ensure the continuation of the programme under the current context.

WFP's Humanitarian Staging Area



WFP's Logistics staff have been working around the clock at the Humanitarian Staging Area (HSA) in Kathmandu, receiving medical cargo sent by the international community in support to the Government of Nepal's COVID-19 response.

Funded by UK Aid, the HSA opened a month before the 2015 earthquake and helped Nepal save at least 21 days in the response time, underlining the importance of investing in preparedness. Under the current crisis, the HSA is increasing the Government's capacity to receive large shipments, preventing bottlenecks and enabling quicker transport to hospitals in need of these supplies. Since 2015, WFP has completed four provincial HSAs, currently supporting local government capacity to cope with COVID-19.

In May, Nepal received 17 flights with 300 mt of critical cargo from the Governments of Spain, France, Switzerland, Belgium, Korea, UK, US, Thailand, and the EU, among others. WFP, on behalf of the National Logistics Cluster, received and dispatched these supplies to hospitals across the country.

Donors

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

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