



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Nepal Country Brief June 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 (July 2021 - Dec 2021) net funding requirements

Situational Updates

- After almost two months of lockdown, the Government announced the ease of restrictions across several of Nepal's 77 districts, including Kathmandu.
- As of 30 June, Nepal's coronavirus tally stands at 638,805 with 596,132 already recovered.

Operational Updates

- On behalf of the Logistics cluster, WFP received 794 mt of medical supplies in June at the Humanitarian Staging Area (HSA) in Kathmandu, of which 585 mt was transported to provinces in need. The supplies were sent from international governments including Bangladesh, USA, Ireland and Denmark. Furthermore, WFP transported COVID-19 related medical items for the Ministry of Home Affairs free of cost to district hospitals across the country.
- As schools remained closed, WFP started the distribution of take-home rations in all seven programme districts. Over 100,000 children have already received the ration basket containing rice, lentil, and salt. WFP plans to reach the remaining 65,000 students by mid-July.
- Food-assistance-for-assets (FFA) activities have partially resumed under the Livelihoods and Economic Recovery Project (LERP). Field level agreements for FFA projects have been extended by up to two months to cover the time lost due to restrictions. Out of 196 community assets being constructed under the LERP, 184 assets have been completed (94 percent), and only 12 assets are ongoing adopting COVID-19 safety measures.
- WFP released the first [market monitor in June](#); data collection for the second round is currently ongoing remotely. Overall, markets continued to function without major disruptions, even in rural areas. Compared to the start of COVID-19 in 2020, markets functioned better at the beginning of this second wave, in terms of availability and supply, likely due to less strict restrictions, experiences and lessons learnt from the first wave.

After being suspended for a few weeks, the mother and child health and nutrition programme (MCHN) partially resumed activities this month. WFP is also working with cooperating partners and the Health Services Directorate to include radio messaging and risk communications in addition to the food distribution. All COVID-19 health and safety protocols are strictly adhered to at all distribution sites.

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)	Jul - Dec 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.

- Construction of the provincial Humanitarian Staging Area (PHSA) at Gautam Buddha International Airport in Bhairahawa resumed this month after work was on hold for nearly four weeks due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Challenges

- While the prohibitory measures have started to loosen, WFP activities are expected to be hampered by the incoming rains in July including construction sites in remote areas.

Highlights: stories from the field



Life was already difficult for Pabitra Sunar from Dailekh – she has three young children to feed. Her husband is a season migrant labourer who works in India to support their small family. Pabitra also contributes what she can through agriculture however, it is never enough.

All three of her children are enrolled into WFP-supported schools through which they receive a hot midday meal daily. With the onset of the pandemic in 2020, her husband returned home jobless and penniless. This – combined with the closure of schools – added extra burden onto a family that had a lot of hardships. She was delighted to hear that WFP was to distributed ration baskets of fortified rice, lentils, and oil to children in their programme districts as well as their family.

Her son Binod explained "We are happy that WFP provides us food not only in school but also at home as well during lockdown – it helps us to read and concentrate better as a starving stomach can't focus on studies well".

WFP is currently distributing the fourth round of take-home rations. This is expected to reach 165,000 students and will conclude in July 2021.

Donors

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

Photo Page 1: © WFP/Bishnu SHAHI

Photo Page 2: © WFP/Bishnu SHAHI