Operational Context

Nepal promulgated its new constitution in 2015 in a peaceful process that restructured the country as a federal democratic republic, creating an excellent opportunity to achieve economic growth, poverty reduction and pursue the 2030 Agenda. However, the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent nationwide lockdowns have pushed people back below the poverty line and reversed some of the economic and developmental gains made in the previous decades.

In mid-2021, Sher Bahadur Deuba was appointed Nepal’s Prime Minister for the fifth time, leading a coalition government. Key issues facing the Government include securing enough vaccines for Nepal’s eligible population, coordinating disaster response efforts, and strengthening the economy.

WFP Nepal is currently in its third year of the current Country Strategic Plan 2019-2023, addressing Sustainable Development Goals 2 and 17. WFP has been operating in Nepal since 1963, supporting the Government to develop greater food security, nutrition and resilience among vulnerable communities and respond to disasters while building resilience.

In Numbers

- 197 mt of food distributed
- US$ 67,329 cash-based transfers made
- US$ 5.62 million six-month (Apr - Sep 2022) net funding requirements
- 114,562 people assisted in March 2022

Operational Updates

- Due to school closures in late 2021, WFP was unable to conduct the regular onsite midday meal distributions. As a result, WFP and the Government initiated another round of take-home ration (THR) distribution in March to ensure that 1,331 mt of food stocks do not go to waste. Through this round, WFP reached 243,000 children and their families in six programme districts: Accham, Bajur, Bahjang, Darchula, Doti and Jajarkot.

- Through the Adapting to Climate Induced Threats to Food Production and Food Security in Karnali (CAFS Karnali) project, WFP distributed US$ 67,823 to 699 households in Jumla, Kalikot and Mugu districts to participants working in the food assistance for assets (FFA) activities. Eleven FFA schemes, mostly multi-use water systems, are currently ongoing.

- Working with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MoALD) and the National Planning Commission (NPC), WFP organized the National Workshop on Right to Food and Food Sovereignty Act/Bylaws (RtF Act/Bylaws) in March, with the participation from two ministers: Minister of the MoALD and Honourable Member of the NPC and other government agencies, development partners, and stakeholders. The objective of the workshop was to inform participants of the RtF Act and its aim. Key feedback from stakeholders included speeding up the approval process of the federal RtF Act Bylaws and implementing it in consultation with local governments.

- The Mother and Child Health and Nutrition programme (MCHN) resumed in Karnali province after a short pipeline break (due to the unavailability of specialised nutritious food). The MCHN programme contributes to the treatment and prevention of malnutrition among pregnant and lactating women and children aged 06-23 months in food insecure Karnali.

- WFP together with the Health Service Directorate of Province 1 officially launched the MCHN programme in March. This comes as the programme was expanded to Province 1 (Jhapa, Morong, Sunsari districts) and Madhesh Province (Saptari, Sunsari districts) in late 2021. The launch for Madhesh province is scheduled for next month.

Population: 29.8 million (Jan 2019)
Income Level: Least developed
Chronic malnutrition: 36% of children between 6-59 months
2019 Human Development Index: 147 out of 189
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WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan 2019-2023

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Strategic Result</th>
<th>Total Requirement (in USD)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
<th>Apr 2022 - Sep 2022 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strategic Outcome 1: Access to food</td>
<td>165.23 m</td>
<td>111.51 m</td>
<td>5.62 m</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strategic Outcome 2: Food-insecure people in targeted areas have improved nutrition throughout the key stages of their lives by 2025.</td>
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<td>Strategic Outcome 3: Vulnerable communities in remote food-insecure areas have improved food security and resilience to climate and other shocks by 2030.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strategic Outcome 4: The Government has strengthened capabilities to provide essential food security and nutrition services and respond to crises by 2023.</td>
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<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strategic Outcome 6: Humanitarian and development partners have access to reliable common services by the end of 2023.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Activities:
- Provide on-demand service provision to all stakeholders in the country to support effective humanitarian response.
- Provide on-demand cash-based transfer management support to all humanitarian and development partners to enable them to provide efficient cash transfer services to the affected population to meet their essential needs.
- WFP completed engineering works on two trails in Gorkha, totalling 8.5 km. Construction work on the trails provided employment opportunities for local communities, with nearly 50 percent of the participants being women. Furthermore, these trails will now create better access to services, including medical, educational and markets, thereby reducing costs of goods by at least 50 percent (as per feedback from local authorities).
- The Chief Executive Officer of the Food Management and Trading Company (FMTC), together with WFP Nepal Representative and Country Director inaugurated the 1,000 mt food warehouse in Nepalgunj on 31 March. This warehouse aims to increase the food storage capacity of FMTC during emergencies as Nepalgunj is the main supply corridor and a logistics hub for the response in western Nepal.

Strengthening Emergency Preparedness & Response in Nepal

This month, WFP inaugurated the fifth Humanitarian Staging Area (HSA) in Surkhet. The structure, built with a budget of around NPR 40 million (US$ 330,000), was funded by the United Kingdom’s Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), and falls under WFP’s Emergency Preparedness and Response programme. WFP has been supporting the Government of Nepal since 2013 to form a network of logistics hubs that will improve storage and transportation of goods to remote locations during times of crisis. Seven HSAs were planned, strategically located at the country’s major international land transit points. Once all seven planned HSAs are complete, these bases will allow provincial governments to respond effectively and rapidly to local disasters.

For more information on WFP and its operations in Nepal, please click here.

Donors

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