



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

Quarterly Bulletin

UN WFP Nepal | Jan-Mar 2022

This is the first edition of the Quarterly Bulletin by the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in Nepal. This bulletin presents some key highlights from January—March 2022 in WFP's Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023), available [here](#). In this edition, we explain how WFP contributes to the Right to Food and Food Sovereignty Act, our school feeding transition plans and what's coming up in the next few months...enjoy the read!

THE RIGHT TO ADEQUATE FOOD IN NEPAL

Since the enshrinement of the **Right to Food and Food Sovereignty Act 2018** into the 2015 Constitution, the realization of the right to adequate food to reach a zero hunger Nepal has been gaining slow traction. WFP has played an instrumental role in this journey, supporting the Government of Nepal in all its tiers to develop bylaws, create concrete structures and strengthen capacity.

In the course of 2021, The Right to Food Act 2018 was recognized as a *lever of change* in the *national* and *provincial* Food Systems Summit dialogues,

the **Karnali Food Bill** and Bylaws were drafted. Further, all provincial governments have started the process for forming the required institutional structure for implementing the Act.

A Long-Standing Commitment

WFP Country Director, Robert Kasca, emphasized the importance of the Right to Food Act and its implementation—said that the Right to Food and Food Sovereignty Act is a major milestone for Nepal, and clearly demonstrates the Government's commitment to achieving the 2030 Agenda on Zero Hunger. The full Right to Food and Food Sovereignty Act 2018 is available to read [here](#).

In Numbers

January - March 2022



550,318 people reached



US\$ 225,043 transferred



1,293 MT of food distributed

In the first quarter of 2022, WFP continued working with federal and provincial governments to move this critical agenda further. The **national workshop** on the Act took place this year, **attended by the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock Development** and the **Honourable Member of the National Planning Commission**.

The workshop participants **unanimously** decided to gather key inputs from the event and to **speed up the approval process** of the federal Right to Food Act bylaws. Furthermore, consultations have also been planned with local governments who are key actors in the implementation of this Act.

Also in 2022, the first council—the Gandaki Food Council—was **approved by the Gandaki Council of Ministers—the first of its kind in Nepal and a core pillar in the Right to Food Act institutional structure**. The official launch of this Council is scheduled for late April 2022 where members will also discuss a workplan for the implementation of the Act.

WFP's role has been crucial in getting the process to where it is currently, a representation of WFP's role beyond humanitarian and into development work. Teams of experts, including those in the legal field, were recruited to support the

Government. Continuous coordination and liaising with the Government—in all three tiers—has led to good relations with government counterparts.

Over the course of 2022, **WFP will continue to support provincial governments to set up institutional structures and assist them in the preparing of procedural guidelines**. Through this, WFP envisages ultimately creating a tangible basis for the implementation of the Act.

Furthermore, **WFP will also support in the establishment of an implementation governance structure**. Finally, WFP will explore ways to expose government counterparts to international best practices in this area through experiences from other countries that have similar legislative frameworks.

Since 2015, the country has successfully established strong legal, policy and monitoring frameworks for the right to food for every citizen, now it is time to put these into practice and ensure their implementation.

A CHANCE FOR EVERY SCHOOLCHILD

WFP has been providing onsite cooked midday meals to school children in selected remote regions of the country to address food insecurity for decades. WFP's ultimate goal for the school feeding programme is to **facilitate national government ownership of these programmes—a transition that WFP in Nepal has already begun**. As of 2022, WFP has transitioned six of WFP's in-kind districts to the Government's cash-based modality, with five remaining.

Since 2021, WFP has been working on increasing capacity strengthening activities to promote continuity. For this, former Food for Education (FFEP) staff have been reallocated to local governments—a crucial strategy that will **capacitate government staff at the municipality level** who will ultimately lead the implementation of the national school meals programme (once all are transitioned).

In 2022, WFP will also collaborate with local governments to tailor its local school feeding models and guidance, including for monitoring and reporting. The **school feeding programme has proven to be flexible with its role, especially during hard times, acting as a social safety net, ensuring food quickly and directly available for communities that need help the most**. WFP aims to gradually transition all its operations to the Government in the coming years while continuing to strengthen national capacities at all levels to provide an efficient and effective school meals programme to children across the country.

Contributing to long term continuity, **the school feeding programme is now linked to local smallholder farmer's production, benefiting local economies**. In this context, this helps foster social inclusion, create stable markets, boost local agriculture and strengthen local food systems.

WFP has been working with the Government and partners to ensure that all school aged children have access to good quality meals in school, complemented by a broader integrated package of health and nutrition services. WFP's global school feeding strategy is available [here](#).

Stories on WFP's school feeding, as well as other programme, are available [here](#).

For every US\$1 invested in school feeding,
there is a return of

us\$5.20

over the lifetime of a beneficiary in Nepal.

[Click above for the cost-benefit analysis methodology](#)

Thanks to our donors: Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Nepal, United States of America, United Kingdom, United Nations, and private donors.



PREPARING FOR THE UPCOMING MONSOON

Every year, the **annual monsoon** rains causes at least one water-induced emergency in Nepal, leaving behind loss of lives, livelihoods, properties and food, among others. Monsoon in Nepal lasts anywhere from 60-100 days, usually between the months of June to September.

To **mitigate the effect** of the monsoon disasters, WFP relies on **inter-agency support** and coordination among humanitarian actors, clarifying roles and responsibilities, avoiding duplication, facilitate information sharing and joint planning.

On its own, **preparedness and response is rooted** within WFP's policies. For efficient and effective response, WFP refers to early warning systems that derive evidence-based analysis and risk assessments to inform on resource allocations and operations, including anticipatory action interventions to mitigate the loss and damage of forecasted monsoon floods.

Further, the **Humanitarian Staging Areas** (strategically placed across the country) acts as hubs that stores vital relief aid. From these hubs, the aid is quickly deployed allowing local governments to respond quickly and rapidly, **saving critical time** during a crisis.

To read about how WFP supported flood-affected families last year, click [here](#).



LOOKING AHEAD: WHAT'S COMING UP IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS?

As WFP nears the end of its current five year Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2019-2023, we continue to support the Government and the people of Nepal across the triple nexus. While reaching the most vulnerable populations through food, cash and nutrition assistance remains at the forefront of WFP's work globally, we are also working with and through the government to strengthen their capacities for increased sustainability of our operations. Below is a strategic snapshot of what's forthcoming for WFP in Nepal:

SUN Business Network: Since 2019, WFP has been supporting the Government to **establish the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Business Network (SBN)**. The SBN aims to increase the **availability and affordability of safe, nutritious foods** to consumers, especially in low-income countries like Nepal. An official launch for the SBN in Nepal is scheduled for 27 May—the event will look to build awareness within businesses, encouraging them to act, invest and innovate in responsible and **sustainable actions** in emerging markets to improve the **consumption of nutritious** and safe food in a manner that aligns with the Government's efforts in the SBN movement.

Humanitarian Staging Areas: WFP has been continuously supporting the Government of Nepal to **augment their capacity** to manage disasters, **investing in infrastructure** that will allow governments to **respond** to localized disasters. One such way WFP does this is through the **establishment** of Humanitarian Staging Areas (HSA), one in each Province, forming a network of hubs that will **improve storage** and transportation to remote locations. In the next three months, WFP will inaugurate together with the Government and the Australian Ambassador, two mobile HSAs in Bardibas and Basantapur. The HSA's have proven to be **effective in supporting national and provincial governments** as well as humanitarian actors during disasters, **reducing response time**, reaching remote areas, and serving as a hub for rapid onset disasters.

Food Security Monitoring: When food insecurity is prevalent in a country, information can save lives. Questions such as **who** are food insecure, **where** do they live and **why** are they food insecure, among others, guide WFP's [food security analysis work](#). While many countries, including Nepal, are trying to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, the crisis in Ukraine comes as another fresh blow. **World wheat prices rose sharply in March**, pushed up a further 20 percent in largely as a result of the Ukraine conflict. If global food prices continue to rise, WFP will be affected in two ways: **it will cost more to buy food for hungry people, and the number of people needing food assistance will increase**. In Nepal, the [fifth](#) mobile vulnerability assessment and mapping (mVAM) household survey, carried out in October 2021, found an overall improvement in the food security situation across the country, compared to 2020 and June 2021. However, the [2022 Global Report on Food Crisis](#) highlighted the alarming deterioration of food insecurity affecting nearly 193 million. **WFP is undertaking a Market Update as well as a new mVAM household monitoring survey after the May elections**, to be released in June-July 2022.

On 1st April, WFP published its 2021 **Annual Country Report (ACR)**. The ACR is a **key accountability document** produced by each WFP country office annually to **provide updates on the implementation of its Country Strategic Plans (CSP)**.

In Nepal, WFP completed the third year of its five-year CSP in 2021, with the aim of **helping the Government to build sustainable, resilient systems that eradicate hunger and ensure better nutrition while also responding to the humanitarian needs of the vulnerable populations**. Despite the challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, WFP continued to contribute towards **government capacity strengthening, and food security and nutrition policy development** in support of the country's goals of achieving Zero Hunger.

A key area of WFP's focus remains in **mainstreaming gender, equality and social inclusion**, recognizing that multiple deprivations affect the most vulnerable populations who are often overlooked and left behind. Last year, WFP in Nepal reached **1,245,570 people** including nearly **20,000 people living with disabilities**. Of these, **55 percent were women**.

[Click here for the full 2021 Annual Country Report](#)



Growing appetite for school lunches

But can the Nepal Government that has rolled out meals for students in 71 districts meet expect

Marty Logan
April 2, 2022



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

School Feeding Is Now the World's Largest Social Safety Net

By Marty Logan

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Students eating lunch at Shivbhawani Primary School, Deulekh, Bajhang, Nepal. Credit: Marty Logan



In the @WFP-built humanitarian staging facility in #Surkhet today, we were pleased to host reps from @USAIDNepal @AusAmbNP @UKinNepal.

With them, we discussed emergency preparedness, log cluster & the logistics support that the staging facilities provided during #COVID19. 🇺🇦 🇦🇺 🇬🇧



WFP UK and 3 others



Heroic efforts from our WFP staff in #Nepal, walking non-stop for **12** days in temperature as low as - **6** °C to reach **9** villages for site mobilisation.

In #Gorkha, @WFP is building 8.5 km of trails benefiting 1,844 ppl from improved access to markets, schools and health centres.



World Food Programme and 2 others

WFP has been working in the country since 1963, supporting the Government to develop greater food security among vulnerable communities and build resilience to disasters. WFP's work in Nepal primarily targets the most food insecure, those in the hard-to-reach districts of the mid- and far-western hills and mountains.



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