WFP Nepal
Country Brief
August 2022

Operational Context
Nepal promulgated its new constitution in 2015 in a peaceful process, restructuring 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 economic and developmental gains made in the past. Nepal experienced a first wave in March 2020, a second in April 2021, and a third in January 2022, but the ongoing vaccination drive has helped to reduce the fatality rate. As of August 2022, nearly 95 percent of Nepal’s population is fully vaccinated.

More recently, dengue infection numbers have started to overshadow that of COVID-19 with the country seeing a surge in reported cases in August. Blood banks in Kathmandu, the country’s capital, are finding it difficult to keep up with the rising demand for platelet components due to the high number of cases.

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.

Population: 29.8 million (Jan 2019)
Income Level: Least developed
2020 Human Development Index: 42 out of 189
Chronic malnutrition: 36% of children between 6-59 months

In Numbers
81,753 mt of food distributed
US$ 27,766 in cash-based transfers disbursed
US$ 4.31 million six-month net funding requirements (September 2022 – February 2023)
28,011 people assisted in August 2022

Operational Updates
- WFP successfully concluded the project – Cash Transfers to Support Improved Education Outcomes and COVID-19 Logistics Support – funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The project reached nearly 40,000 families of students who missed out on nutritious school meals due to prolonged school closures. This project aimed to encourage families to enrol their children into alternative learning methods (namely Tole Shiksyā) to improve food security and nutritional outcomes of targeted children. The project also enabled the support provided to the National Logistics Cluster which WFP co-leads with the Ministry of Home Affairs.

- Under the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition programme, WFP supported the construction of essential school infrastructure to improve and encourage safe food preparation and overall hygiene of school children. In August, WFP handed over the 20 school kitchens with improved cooking stoves, kitchen utensils and child-friendly handwashing stations to eight local governments in Achham District. Infrastructure paves the way to reaching global humanitarian objectives and ensures a better future for the people WFP serves.

- Under WFP’s Evidence, Policy and Innovation activity, the third Market Update for 2022 and the sixth in the series of the mobile Vulnerability Analysis Mapping (mVAM) household surveys focusing on assessing the food security status of Nepalese households was published in August. The latest survey found that prices of key commodities showed relative stabilisation after a period of continuous increase. Retail prices of pulses, soybean oil and some seasonal vegetables decreased while the price of rice, wheat flour and fruits continued to go up. Despite this relative stabilisation, cost of a standard WFP food basket increased by 11 percent compared to April 2022. Results also showed that the availability and demand of commodities such as edible oil, rice and wheat flour were reported to be scarce, particularly in Karnali and Madhesh provinces.

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WFP Country Strategy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategic Result</th>
<th>Total Requirement (in US$)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in US$)</th>
<th>Sep 2022 - Feb 2023 Net Funding Requirements (in US$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1: Access to food</td>
<td>165.23 m</td>
<td>118.36 m</td>
<td>4.31 m</td>
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**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 to targeted and 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 3:** 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 4:** 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 5:** 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 6:** 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 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.

**Gender equality for a world of Zero Hunger**

WFP steps up its gender mainstreaming efforts by providing assistance directly into the hands of women, as a first step in increasing women's access to resources and equal power-sharing.

**Gender equality** is a prerequisite for a world of Zero Hunger where all women, men, girls, and boys can exercise their basic rights, including the right to adequate food. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated Nepal's patriarchal system and gendered social norms, increasing the load of unpaid care for women and girls and domestic labour with little to no redistribution.

WFP works with all partners to strengthen gender parity in its operations, striving to ensure that both men and women have equitable access to WFP assistance while aiming to address structural gender-based inequality and unequal power relations.

More information on WFP's gender targeted actions is available [here](#).

**Donors:** Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Norway, Nepal, Joint SDG Fund, United Kingdom, United Nations, United States of America, and private donors.