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.

Amid high concerns over high inflation and low foreign exchange reserves, the Government announced it would hold its parliamentary election on 20 November. The Election Commission of Nepal announced that the Code of Conduct for these elections would be activated in late September.

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

348.1 mt of food distributed

US$ 123,147 in cash-based transfers disbursed

US$ 2.03 million six-month net funding requirements (October 2022 – March 2023)

160,748 people assisted in September 2022

Operational Updates

- Under the school meals programme, WFP is supporting the construction of essential school infrastructure to encourage and improve safe food preparation and overall health and hygiene of school children. In September, WFP handed over eight school kitchens and ten handwashing stations in 14 schools of Bidur Municipality in Nuwakot District. Education infrastructure is one of the most basic elements necessary to ensure access to education.

- Construction of three community assets (two community centres and one multi-use water system) was completed in September under the Climate Change Adaptation for Food Security in Karnali Province in Jumla, Kalikot and Mugu districts, with five additional assets to be concluded in October. This is part of WFP's food assistance for assets schemes, designed to address immediate food needs of vulnerable communities and contribute to long-term food security and resilience.

- Through the Local Infrastructure Support Programme in Karnali Province, WFP is providing technical assistance to 15 local governments for inclusive planning and delivery of resilient infrastructure and green recovery job creation. The project is designed to boost the local Government's capacity to improve the quality, delivery, and sustainability of public investment in local infrastructure, which lays the foundations for local economic development.

- Under the Women in Value Chain project, WFP delivered several capacity strengthening activities to smallholder farmers in Kailali District of Sudurpashchim Province. Participants received post-harvest management trainings, nutrition and hygiene orientations, and poultry farming training. This project aimed at improving conditions for rural women and their families, and transforming their communities.

- WFP successfully delivered a four-day Operational Emergency Logistics Training to 30 participants (of which, 13 percent were women) from the Nepal Army. As the leading agency in humanitarian logistics, WFP aims to help prepare skilled staff from various government agencies and organizations to make rapid, informed decisions at the onset of an emergency or natural disaster.
WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

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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 to targeted and shock-affected people, including food and cash-based transfers (CBTs) and specialized nutritious foods and related services for the prevention and treatment 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 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, as the focal United Nations (UN) agency, supported the National Planning Commission (NPC) in convening the fourth National Food Systems Dialogues in September. The event endorsed all specific actions, developed by key thematic Action Track Groups earlier in the year. As the next step, the NPC, together with relevant stakeholders including UN agencies, is now preparing to align the Action Plan at the provincial level, especially incorporating this within their annual planning and budgeting processes, and its implementation.

Emergency Preparedness & Response

WFP successfully concluded the second phase of the Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) project in August. Since its inception in 2017, the EPR Project Phase II saw the establishment of ten emergency logistics facilities strategically located across the country, including provincial/mobile Humanitarian Staging Areas. These facilities have been used extensively by the Government of Nepal and other development partners for various emergencies, including the 2019 floods and COVID-19 responses. Furthermore, WFP enhanced skills and knowledge of government personnel and security forces through various emergency logistics and telecommunications trainings. As a result, a significant number of skilled personnel are now available to be rapidly deployed to manage emergency logistics operations in a range of scenarios.

The Phase II of the EPR project was made possible with the generous funding from the United Kingdom’s Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), and Australia’s Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). WFP is currently implementing the next phase of the project – EPR III.

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