



World Food Programme

SAVING  
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LIVES

# WFP Nepal Country Brief October 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.

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.



Population: **30.3 million (2022)**

2021/22 Human Development Index:  
**143 out of 191 countries**

Income Level: **Least developed**

Chronic malnutrition: **36% of children between 6-59 months**

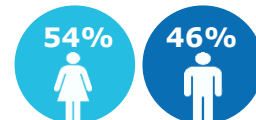
## In Numbers

**71.388 mt** of food distributed

**US\$ 1,612,170** in cash-based transfers disbursed

**US\$2.1 million** six-month net funding requirements (November 2022 – April 2023)

**103,496 people assisted** in October 2022



## Operational Updates

- WFP activated its **Forecast-based Anticipatory Action (FbAA) programme** to support 17,961 vulnerable households (89,805 people) in three districts – Kailali, Bardiya and Banke, affected by flash floods in early October. Each household, including those headed by people with disabilities, the elderly, and women received NPR 15,000 (US\$120), thanks to contributions from the Federal Foreign Office of the Government of Germany (GFFO) and the United Nation's Central Emergency Relief Fund (CERF). FbAA is an innovative mechanism that enables anticipatory actions for disaster mitigation at the community and government levels using credible seasonal and weather forecasts. This helps prevent and mitigate – to the extent possible – the effects of extreme weather on the food security, nutrition, and livelihoods of highly vulnerable people thus reducing potential loss and damages and humanitarian response costs.
- Under the **nutrition** component, an advisory group for the Scaling Up Nutrition Business Network (SBN) movement was successfully established in October, with support from WFP and the National Planning Commission. The advisory group will support the SBN to provide strategic guidance and champion the role of the private sector in scaling up nutrition amongst the business community.
- A delegation from Nepal, including representatives from the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, participated in the 23<sup>rd</sup> Global Child Nutrition Forum in Cotonou, Benin. The Forum is a learning exchange and technical assistance conference held annually to support countries in developing and implementing sustainable school feeding programmes. Around 44 countries attended the forum this year under the theme of *"Convergence of forces for resilience and sustainability of school meals programmes worldwide"*.
- The construction on a trail in Bihi – Sereng in Gorkha continued under WFP's engineering work. The trail will connect several villages to the only school of Sereng, which currently has 102 students. Once complete, more students are expected to enrol in the school given the ease of access created by the trail.

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## Country Strategic Plan( 2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)	Net Funding Requirements (in US\$)
<b>169.92 m</b>	<b>119.71 m</b>	<b>2.1 m</b>

### 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 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 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.

- A high-level Nepal delegation led by the Honourable Vice Chair a.i. of the National Planning Commission (NPC) attended a plenary session on 'Science, Innovation & Investments for Transformative Food Systems Pathways' in the World Food Forum in Rome, Italy. The UN Food Systems Coordination Hub selected Nepal as a best example for continued food systems transformation process, given the strong commitment of the Government and the progress made in implementing the national pathways to sustainable food systems. Since 2021, WFP has been collaborating with and providing technical support to NPC on food systems, as the focal agency on behalf of the United Nations agencies in Nepal.

## Market Monitoring



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WFP continued to monitor the prices of key food commodities and assess the impact of the global market and supply chain disruptions. WFP's [September](#) market monitoring found a relative stabilization in the prices of essential commodities. However, the cost of a food basket was still ten percent higher compared to April. Moreover, regional disparities were apparent: the cost of the food basket in Karnali Province was 17 percent higher than the national average.

Inflation increased by 8.64 percent year-on-year and 0.36 percent month-on-month. Overall, more traders reported that the availability of commodities was inadequate to meet the demand in September, especially for food items. Insufficient availability of commodities was observed mainly by traders in large consumer markets in Bagmati and remote areas Sudurpaschim and Karnali provinces.

Meanwhile, data collection for the seventh round of remote household surveys using mobile vulnerability analysis mapping (mVAM) method on "the impact of global crisis on agriculture and food security situation in Nepal" using telephone interview was completed in October. The report will be shared by the end of 2022.

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