



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
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WFP Nepal Country Brief February 2023

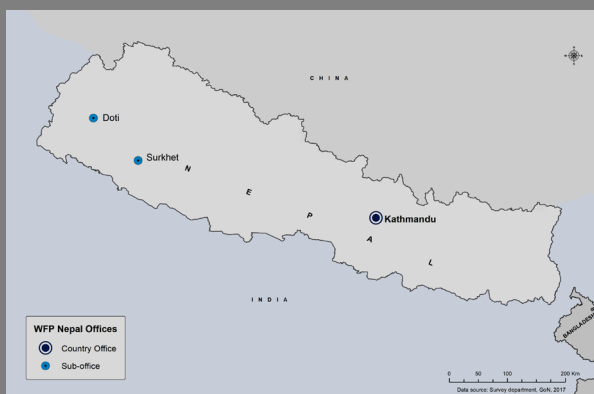


Operational Context

Nepal promulgated its new constitution restructuring the country as a federal democratic republic, creating an excellent opportunity to achieve economic growth, reduce poverty, and pursue the 2030 Agenda. With COVID-19 all but declared an endemic, Nepal has started its economic and social recovery from the secondary impacts of the pandemic. While there remain several challenges, the Nepali economy is expected to grow by 4.1 percent in the FY 2022/23, amid high COVID-19 vaccination rates.

Following the federal elections in November 2022, former Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal, also known as *Prachanda*, was once again appointed in late December 2022 for the third time. As part of the deal reached with a coalition party, Prime Minister Dahal will head the new government until 2025.

WFP has been operating in Nepal since 1963, supporting the Government to achieve 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: **25% of children between 6-59 months**

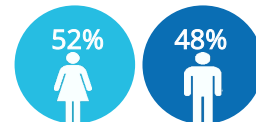
In Numbers

306.875 mt of food distributed

US\$ 1,494 in cash-based transfers disbursed

US\$ 2.65 million six-month net funding requirements (March 2023 – Aug 2023)

154,212 people assisted in February 2023



Operational Updates

- Under the **Local Infrastructure Support Programme (LISP)**, WFP provided employment opportunities to nearly 2,000 marginalized and vulnerable men and women through the construction of 45 climate resilient and environmentally friendly assets. Furthermore, the LISP enhances the capacities of 15 local governments to plan, execute, and manage resilient local infrastructure in a sustainable and effective manner.
- The **Women in Value (WiVC) project**, which started in 2020, successfully conducted a conclusion workshop this month to summarise the overall achievements, challenges, and lessons learned. A Gender Impact Assessment was also undertaken following the workshop – the final report for both will be available in March 2023. The WiVC continues to work in remote regions of Nepal to improve food security and increase income and resilience to climate change and other shocks for smallholder women farmers.
- In February, under its **school feeding programme**, WFP reached 154,100 students with on-site midday meals across four districts, through 307 mt of fortified rice, lentils, vegetable oil, and oil. Through the provision of this meal, WFP hopes to protect the health, education, and overall well-being of the targeted children. In addition to the onsite meal, WFP also supports two local governments in strengthening the home-grown school feeding programme with the objective of promoting dietary diversity by introducing fresh and locally available food into the school meals programme and creating linkages between with local smallholder production.
- With technical support from WFP, the National Planning Commission published a report on [Nepal's Food Systems Transformation: Context, Pathways and Actions](#). Based on the outcomes of the 2021 national and sub-national levels Food Systems Dialogue, the report provides reference for the transformation of Nepal's existing food systems into equitable, resilient and sustainable ones by 2030.

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Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)	Mar 2023 - Aug 2023 Net Funding Requirements (in US\$)
169.92 m	119.71 m	2.65 m

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.

- This month, WFP handed over two Emergency Medical Logistics Warehouses in Nepalgunj and Biratnagar to the World Health Organisation (WHO). Due to its extensive local presence, mechanisms, and networks in country, WFP has been supporting the Government and other humanitarian and development partners to provide on-demand services, including engineering, cash-based transfers, and logistics, at full cost recovery.

WFP supports the Government of Nepal in the dispatch of relief items to earthquake-stricken Turkey



The Government of Nepal sent over 22 mt of relief items, including clothes, medical supplies, medicines, and other essential materials to earthquake affected Turkey in February. WFP supported the storing, packaging, and dispatching of these vital items at the Humanitarian Staging Area (HSA) in Kathmandu.

Since the completion of the first HSA in Kathmandu one month before the devastating earthquakes of 2015, WFP has gone on to build a network national logistics network as part of its continued effort to strengthen Nepal's emergency preparedness and response capacity which has proven to be vital in emergency responses. Some 21 days of planning and organization was saved in the 2015 earthquake response operations. Further, the HSAs played an important role during the COVID-19 pandemic, with the Government and the wider humanitarian partners using these premises to store, pack, and dispatch much needed relief items.

In its third and final phase, the Emergency Preparedness and Response project is currently developing a transition plan for the handover of all 11 HSAs built over the course of the last eight years to the Government.

Donors

Adaptation Fund, Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Nepal, Norway, Joint SDG Fund, United Kingdom, United Nations, Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), United States of America, World Bank, and private donors.