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 was strong economic growth in FY22, this appears to have slowed down in the first quarter of FY23, reflecting higher international prices and continuation of import restrictions.

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 greater food security and nutrition among vulnerable communities and respond to disasters while also building resilience.

In Numbers

- **331 mt** of food distributed
- **US$ 2.87 million** six-month net funding requirements (June 2023 – Nov 2023)
- **162,596 people** assisted in May 2023

Operational Updates

- WFP has been supporting the roll out of the home-grown school feeding (HGSF) programme in Nuwakot since 2020. This month, given the advanced stage of the HGSF, coupled with the aim to support Nepal in taking forward green initiatives, WFP piloted the installation of solar power systems for a school kitchen in the same district. This will provide the school with green energy supply for the operation of their kitchen, to be used for the preparation of school meals, thus replacing the use of firewood or gas as fuel.

- Under the Local Infrastructure Support Programme (LISP), the construction of 38 out of 89 climate resilience infrastructure has been completed, with 51 ongoing. Through this, a total of 124,000 employment days have been created. The LISP was initiated with the aim of improving selected local governments’ ability to respond to the demand of rural citizens for access to local infrastructure services to create jobs and drive local economic development. In addition, a day two annual planning process training for 1,006 elected local government officials was also successfully conducted this month.

- This month, under the mother and child and health and nutrition programme, WFP supported the management of moderate acute malnourished (MAM) in children aged 6-59 months through the provision of specialized supplementary food (Super Cereal Plus) in Siraha district of Madhesh Province. The MAM pilot programme was initiated and lead by the Family Welfare Division, Nutrition Section and remains going. Screening of MAM cases started in November 2022 in Madhesh Province with more than 72,000 children under five screened so far. Of those screened, 10,876 (5,545 girls; 5,331 boys) are now enrolled in the MAM programme. Further, 7,162 (3,740 girls; 3,422 boys) have been treated with 609 (305 girls, 304 boys) defaulting (i.e., exiting the programme before recovery). To minimize the defaulter rate, WFP’s field team are following up regularly with children undergoing treatment.
WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

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<td>169.92 m</td>
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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 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 nutrition 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.

**Monthly Market Monitor:** a local food basket in Nepal costs 14 percent more than a year ago.

Every month, WFP’s market assessments combine market-related data on prices, food availability and supply chains with the analysis of macroeconomic factors and government policies. Key findings of the April market update are:

- Prices of most essential commodities monitored nationwide experienced a slight increase compared to March 2023. Prices of food staples and pulses showed a marginal increase, however, prices of some vegetables and fruits increased sharply. On average, the overall cost of the food basket was 14 percent higher in April 2023 compared with April 2022. Additionally, in April 2023, the cost of the food basket in Karnali exceeded the national average by 16 percent.
- Overall, availability of goods was sufficient across Nepal. However, stocks of food and non-food items were reported to be insufficient by traders in a few remote markets of Karnali Province.
- In line with the stabilization observed in March 2023, demand for food and non-food commodities was reported as stable or medium by more than 71 percent of traders in April 2023.
- More than seven out of ten (77 percent) of traders reported medium level of supply and transportation of goods in April 2023 compared to March 2023 (85.4 percent). Moreover, nearly 85 percent of traders reported stability in transportation costs.
- Majority of traders reported medium level of demand for labour in April 2023. However, nearly one fourth of traders reported a low level of demand for labour (62.3 percent) compared to March 2023 (81.6 percent).

Full report is available [here](#).

**Donors**

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